

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE READERS OF ST PETERS COLLEGE GROUP'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Auditor-General is the auditor of St Peters College and its controlled entities (collectively referred to as 'the Group'). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Michael Lee, using the staff and resources of Crowe New Zealand Audit Partnership, to carry out the audit of the financial statements of the Group on pages 3 to 19, that comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022, the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of changes in net assets/equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, and the notes to the financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, except for the matters described in the *Basis for our qualified opinion* section(s) of our report, the financial statements of the Group:

- present fairly, in all material respects:
  - its financial position as at 31 December 2022; and
  - its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand in accordance with the Public Sector – Public Benefit Entity Standards, Reduced Disclosure Regime.

Our audit was completed on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026. This is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

#### Basis for Our Qualified Opinion - School Student Revenue – Locally Raised Funds

We were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the school student revenue – Locally Raised Funds transactions totalling \$385,427 (as per Note 3), for the year ended 31 December 2022. This was due to the transition from the old Student Management System, which resulted in the loss of access to historical revenue data. The old system was not hosted on the College's servers and no backups or hard copies were maintained. As a result, we were unable to perform audit procedures over school revenue transactions for the 2022 financial year and to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to school revenue, accounts receivable or related disclosures in the financial statements.

#### Basis for Our Qualified Opinion - Hostel Qualifications

Many of the accounting records for the Hostel Trust and Company could not be accessed. Due to unavailability of the records, we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to determine that all revenue and expenses due for the year were properly recorded and whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenue, expenses, accounts receivable, liabilities and the related disclosures. In particular:

- Boarding Fees revenue, disclosed in Note 4 of the financial statements, totalled \$460,252 for the year (2021: \$391,056).
- Rental of Hostel revenue of \$86,240 for the year (2021: \$15,755), as disclosed in Note 4 Other Revenue, totalling \$156,166 of the Group financial statements.

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*Services are provided by Crowe New Zealand Audit Partnership an affiliate of Findex (Aust) Pty Ltd.*

- Salaries and Wages, as disclosed in Note 4 of the financial statements, totalled \$309,536 (2021: \$310,005).

Hostel Property, plant, and equipment had a carrying amount of \$107,010 (2021: \$105,732) as disclosed in Note 13 Property, Plant and Equipment totalling, \$466,655 of the Group financial statements. These included assets owned by the hostel that was subsequently closed in December 2024. The Group has not estimated the effect of the closure on the value of the assets. Consequently, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments were necessary to property, plant and equipment and the related disclosures.

Hostel Canteen Income, of \$48,775 for the year (2021: \$47,824) as disclosed in Note 4 Other Revenue, totalling \$156,166 of the Group financial statements. Internal controls over canteen cash revenue were weak. There were no satisfactory review procedures that we could perform to determine that all the revenue from the canteen was properly recorded.

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Responsibilities of the auditor section of our report.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

### **Emphasis of Matter – Failure to Meet Statutory Reporting Deadline**

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 30 which highlights the fact that the Board did not comply with section 137(1) of the Education and Training Act 2020, which requires the Board to provide its audited financial statements to the Ministry of Education by 31 May 2023.

### **Responsibilities of the Board for the financial statements**

The Board is responsible on behalf of the Group for preparing financial statements that are fairly presented and that comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

The Board is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable it to prepare financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board is responsible on behalf of the Group for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. The Board is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless the Board intends to close or merge the Group, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board's responsibilities arise from section 134 of the Education and Training Act 2020.

### **Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts or disclosures, and can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of readers taken on the basis of these financial statements.

For the budget information reported in the financial statements, our procedures were limited to checking that the information agreed to the Group's approved budget.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Also:

- We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board.
- We conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Board and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Our responsibilities arise from the Public Audit Act 2001.

### **Other information**

The Board is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included on pages 1 to 2, Analysis of Variance and Kiwisport report but does not include the financial statements, and our auditor's report thereon.

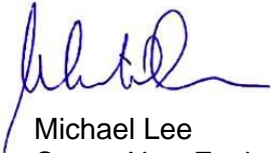
Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information. In doing so, we consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on our work, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Independence

We are independent of the Group in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the independence requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1 International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards) (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Other than in our capacity as the auditor, we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Group.



Michael Lee  
Crowe New Zealand Audit Partnership  
On behalf of the Auditor-General  
Invercargill, New Zealand