

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE READERS OF ST PETERS COLLEGE (GORE) GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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, to carry out the audit of the financial statements of the Group on his behalf.

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Group on pages 3 to 21, that comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2020, the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense, Statement of Changes in Net Assets/Equity and Cash Flow Statement for the year ended on that date, and the notes to the financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion the financial statements of the Group:

- present fairly, in all material respects:
 - its financial position as at 31 December 2020; and
 - its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand and have been prepared in accordance with Public Sector – Public Benefit Entity Standards, Reduced Disclosure Regime.

Our audit was completed on 17 April 2023. This is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis for our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Board and our responsibilities relating to the financial statements, we comment on other information, and we explain our independence.

Basis for our opinion

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 opinion.

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.

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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 of Trustees is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless there is an intention to close or merge the Group, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board's responsibilities, in terms of the requirements of the Education and Training Act 2020, arise from section 87 of the Education Act 1989¹.

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.

¹ Section 2 of the Education and Training Act 2020 states that section 134 (which sets out the content of annual reports) does not come into force until 1 January 2023. Schedule 1 clause 7(1)(h) of the new Act contains a "savings" provision, which states that Section 87 of the Education Act 1989 continues to apply until 1 January 2023.

The title 'Partner' conveys that the person is a senior member within their respective division, and is among the group of persons who hold an equity interest (shareholder) in its parent entity, Findex Group Limited. The only professional service offering which is conducted by a partnership is the Crowe Australasia external audit division. All other professional services offered by Findex Group Limited are conducted by a privately owned organisation and/or its subsidiaries.

- 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 obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial statements of the entities or business activities within the group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.
- We assess the risk of material misstatement arising from the Novopay payroll system, which may still contain errors. As a result, we carried out procedures to minimise the risk of material errors arising from the system that, in our judgement, would likely influence readers' overall understanding of the financial statements.

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 arises 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 independence requirements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the independence requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1: *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Other than the audit, 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