Wednesday, 12 December 2018

Hon Chris Hipkins Minister of Education

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Hon Aupito William Sio Minister of Pacific Peoples

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Hon Jenny Salesa Associate Minister of Education

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Dear Ministers,

We refer to our letter of alert on 16 November 2018 and wish to record our continued dissatisfaction of health and safety risks of the property that has been offered to Rise UP Academy from 2019.

## **Atkinson Avenue**

- The property is a commercial building situated on a busy road with a speed limit of 50km. We understand that there is a 40km speed limit restriction outside a school zone;
- There is no grass area for our children to play on. The majority of our students are kinaesthetic learners and need the outdoor space to bring out the best in them;
- Drop off and pick up area will be shared with restaurant patrons on the ground floor;
- The interior of the premises is an impediment for special learning and special learning styles:
- Internal noise levels from all students and staff being on the same level;
- Diminished parent interest;
- Staff wellbeing, recruitment and retention;
- Co-locating with potentially high risk students from Pacific Advance Secondary School;
- Environmental effects;
- Lack of parking for staff, parents and visitors:
- Junk food establishments and signage in vicinity of premises;
- Area allocated for children's play area is not big enough to accommodate 101 students;
- Children have to navigate their way from the front of the building down a public driveway, past a driveway at the back of the building used by the restaurant on the ground floor to get to the play area safely;
- Our children will be confronted by cigarette butts, empty alcohol bottles and the like when they arrive at the front door of the building.

These high risk factors do not provide for a high quality learning or safe environment for our children. It portrays a picture of our students being set up to fail.