



## Fiji Higher Education Commission

Level 1 Red Cross Building | 22 Gorrie Street | Suva | Postal: P. O. Box 2583, Government Buildings, Suva  
Phone: 3100031/7730084/8358165 | Email: fhcc@fhcc.org.fj | Website: www.fhcc.org.fj

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16 March 2018

The Chairperson  
Public Accounts Committee  
Parliament of Fiji  
Government Buildings  
SUVA.

Dear Sir,

**RE: Response: Clarification of Issues – Audit Report on Social Services 2016**

This letter is a response to your correspondence dated 09 March 2018 relating to the abovementioned project.

The Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC) would like to give its assurance that the audit issue has been resolved. For the period in question, there is only one Higher Education Institution (HEI) with outstanding audited financials. The HEI has been audited by the FHEC Review Committee and is currently preparing its audited reports for submission according to an agreed timeframe with the FHEC. As a result of this and factors, the annual grant disbursement this HEI has been reduced. The FHEC has written to the Ministry of Economy providing advice on these issues.

As per Section 48 – (1) of the *Higher Education Act 2008*, the FHEC requires all HEIs to provide an annual report of the previous year including audited financial reports when required. However, the submission of audited financial reports by HEIs receiving government grant is mandatory as stipulated in Part 6.3 (a) of the signed agreement. Find attached a copy of the agreement.

To ensure that audited reports are submitted, the FHEC has the following mechanisms in place:

- i. It is a requirement in the Funding Memorandum of Agreement (as explained above);
- ii. The FHEC can withhold funding from HEIs for non-compliance; and
- iii. The FHEC has a monitoring system in place.

We hope that the Committee's concerns have been sufficiently addressed.



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Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Linda Aumua', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Linda Aumua (Mrs)

**DIRECTOR**

**FIJI HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**

cc: Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Education, Heritage & Arts