

**Update 4: Operation Turou  
Managed Return of Stranded Cook Islanders and Cook Islands  
Residents  
12 October 2021 (CKT)**

Kia Orana

Te Marae Ora (TMO) wishes to provide the following update:

Cohort 1 – the group of stranded Cook Islands residents and work permit holders – who arrived in Rarotonga on the charter flight from Christchurch in the early hours of Thursday 7 October – were released from the MIQ facility at the Edgewater this morning.

Yesterday the group was swabbed for the second time since arriving in MIQ, and all returned negative test results. Yesterday's test was the third test in 8 days this group had taken – all have returned negative test results.

Preparations are continuing for the safe return of Cohort 2, which is anticipated to number no more than 232. Today, Day 12 in New Zealand, **all** the Cohort is required to be getting their third test in 12 days.

ENDS:

For more information, please visit [www.health.gov.ck](http://www.health.gov.ck) or contact Jaewynn McKay; [jaewynn.mckay@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:jaewynn.mckay@cookislands.gov.ck) +682 55486