

YOUTH STRATEGY - REDUCING RE-OFFENDING BY YOUNG PEOPLE

Our Goal:
REDUCING RE-OFFENDING
by 25% by 2017

Kaua e whakapaetia te he o te rawa kore. Kaua hoki e tautokotia, engari whaia ko te maramatanga

Seek not to blame the wrong doer. Seek neither to condone their behaviour. Seek instead to understand.

VISION: The potential of young people is unlocked and realised. They leave us educated or employed, and with a strong sense of identity

Ka pu te ruha – the old net is cast aside Ka hao te rangatahi – A new net goes fishing

CONTEXT

In the community:

- There are approximately 2150 young people on community sentences and orders, representing 8% of the total offender population
- 84% are male, 42% are Māori, 9% have high RoC*RoI scores
- 56% are serving community work sentences
- 5.9% are imprisoned within 12 months of receiving a community sentence (compared to 4.8% of the total population)
- 41.5% are reconvicted within 12 months of receiving a community sentence (compared to 28.4% of the total population)

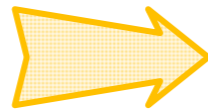
In prison:

- There are approximately 350 young people in prison under 20 years of age, representing 4% of prisoners
- 94% are male, 61% are Māori, around 37% have high RoC*RoI scores
- Over 60% are on remand or serving a sentence of less than 1 year
- 42.5% re-imprisoned within 12 months (compared to 27% for all prison releases)
- 62.6% reconvicted within 12 months (compared to 43.3% for all prison releases)

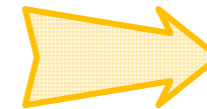
YOUTH STRATEGY

Our strategy for reducing re-offending by young people (under the age of 20 years old) has three interrelated components:

1. Whakapiri – engagement and identifying goals



2. Whakamārama – knowledge and progressing goals



3. Whakamana – empowerment and achieving goals

The key to any successful interaction is to engagement. We will make sure all young people are accessing support available to them in their communities; from their whānau, NGOs, other public sector agencies, local iwi and hapu, church groups, community providers and local employers. To support this we will:

Once we have a strong engagement we will ensure we know what we need to achieve in order to make progress. Across all our interactions with young people we will work together to achieve a cohesive approach. To support this, we will:

The final stage in the process is ensuring that staff and young people are empowered to achieve their goals. We will ensure interventions target young people as a high priority population group. We acknowledge that to be effective with young people we need to ensure that interventions are child centric and based on an awareness of developmental principles. To do this we will focus on:

WHAT	TO ACHIEVE THIS
Engage our key partner agencies by sharing our vision and working to achieve collective impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will share the right information with the right people at the right time • We will share research to improve outcomes for young people
Engage with community organisations to ensure that young people are well supported through transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will contract effective providers to deliver services at a local level • We will ensure staff are aware of and make use of the services available for young people locally
Engage with and listen to young people to inform service provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will support young people to have a say in their own experiences of engagement with the Department • We will empower young people to take responsibility for themselves

WHAT	OUTCOME
Improve outcomes for young people in the community	Frontline staff (who work with young people) are equipped with the skills to create effective relationships with young people through training, forums and professional development sessions.
Improve outcomes for young people in custody	We will have a clear picture of the specific need, risk, and potential profiles of young people in custody; so we can provide programmes and transitions, to reduce-offending.
Remove barriers to participation	Young people will be able to access education, training and therapeutic programmes that support them to make good pro-social choices and reduce their rates of re-offending.
Help young people to achieve their full potential	We will use a mixture of strength based and targeted approaches across all of our interactions with young people to unlock their potential and reduce re-offending.

WHAT	WHY
Thinking, decision making and behaviour	The risk to others of young people in custody often includes violent offending; while young people in the community pose a higher risk of dishonesty offences. Interventions for young people must address unhelpful thinking, decision making and behaviour
Alcohol and other drug misuse	Any interventions with young people must be multi-modal to be effective in the long term. This includes ensuring that any transitions for young people are well planned and supported.
Education, training and employment	We will ensure that interventions target risks associated with the young person's most serious offence by reviewing current programmes and working to fill identified gaps. We also need to address issues that relate to young people's substance misuse. To support young people we need to address their high levels of educational need. Education has been shown to be a strong protective factor in reducing the likelihood of re-offending. The Department's Education and Training Strategy highlights areas where improvements can be made to address young people's educational needs.

TE AO MĀORI VALUES

- Manaakitanga
- Whanaungatanga
- Whānau
- Aroha
- Tika
- Pono

PRACTICE PRINCIPLES

- Re-offending can be reduced
- Young people are a high priority population
- A strong relationship between the young person and the practitioner is critical to success
- Supportive whānau and significant others are critical
- The right intervention is vital to success
- Support is essential through changes in their circumstances
- We need to work in partnership