

18 June 2019

C108108

Dolly Inspire
fyi-request-10307-d0d7b15c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Ms Inspire

Thank you for your email of 13 May 2019, requesting information about what assistance is provided to offenders when released from prison. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

While someone is in prison, we do as much as we can to reduce the likelihood of them coming back. This includes supporting them to address their offending, their alcohol or drug issues, and working with psychologists to address mental health concerns. It also means encouraging offenders to engage in education and training, and to prepare for employment and life in the community.

Examples include our Release to Work programme which allows minimum security prisoners who are assessed as suitable to engage in paid employment prior to release from prison and the Out of Gate service which assists short-serving prisoners with the tangible things they need most when they are released from prison, such as a place to live, a job, identification and a bank account. We also have memorandums of understanding with 165 employers who have provided more than 1,500 job placements for newly released offenders in the last two years.

Information about how we help offenders reintegrate into the community can be found on our website via the following link:

[www.corrections.govt.nz/working_with_offenders/
prison_sentences/employment_and_support_programmes.html](http://www.corrections.govt.nz/working_with_offenders/prison_sentences/employment_and_support_programmes.html).

Some offenders require assistance with finding a place to live. We contract more than 1,000 supported and emergency accommodation places each year for offenders, delivered by contracted providers across New Zealand. Further information about supported accommodation can be found on our website via the following link:

[www.corrections.govt.nz/working_with_offenders/
community_sentences/being_on_probation/supported_accommodation.html](http://www.corrections.govt.nz/working_with_offenders/community_sentences/being_on_probation/supported_accommodation.html).

If an offender has been imprisoned for 31 days or more they may also be eligible for a Steps to Freedom grant which is administered by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). For further information you may wish to contact MSD directly via email to OIA_requests@msd.govt.nz.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with Corrections. Alternatively you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop on the left that extends into a long, horizontal line on the right.

Rachel Leota
National Commissioner