

The information you've received is not correct. The vast majority of people released from prison nationally return to their previous address or to an area with familial links or support structures.

Corrections provides support to people subject to community-based sentences and who have been released from prison in a range of ways, including accommodation. The level of support and accommodation placement is dependent on the level of risk and the order/sentence that the person is subject to.

Emergency accommodation is provided to people who have an immediate accommodation need and all other accommodation options have been exhausted. A nationwide agreement is in place between the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and Corrections which governs the placement of people into emergency accommodation. For further information, you will need to discuss with MSD.

It's not possible to provide you with numbers of people released to the Rotorua area from prisons outside of the Central Region in the timeframe you've provided as this requires manually checking the individual files of recently released prisoners to note which prison they were released from. However, we are working on this and will come back to you as soon as this information is available.

Please see our further statement below.

Please attribute to Caroline Palmer, General Manager Probation (Acting):

Public safety is our top priority, and no person would be permitted to reside at an address if it was considered that the risk could not be safely managed and public safety upheld. Emergency accommodation at motels is used as a last option, and is a temporary measure. The alternative is that these people would otherwise be homeless, which would present an unacceptable safety risk to communities.

Around 15,000 people are released from prison every year and finding suitable accommodation for people who are lawfully required to be released from prison is one of our most significant challenges. The vast majority of people return home to family or make their own arrangements about where to live. Most people released from prison can choose where to live, or have provided the New Zealand Parole Board with a release plan (including a proposed address) for consideration, prior to leaving prison. On some occasions, including for high risk people or those subject to electronic monitoring, a person's address must be deemed suitable by Community Corrections.

Some people require assistance with finding a place to live. We contract almost 1,000 supported and emergency accommodation places each year for people, delivered by contracted providers across New Zealand such as PARS, the Salvation Army and other social service agencies.

Community Corrections staff assist people to identify suitable addresses when they are released from prison or are required to move from their current address. We work with contracted service providers across the country to deliver supported accommodation for

people we are managing in the community who may require wraparound support or services to help them reintegrate into society. As above, emergency accommodation at motels is used as a last option, and is only ever a temporary measure. If this is required for a person subject to release conditions, we work closely with MSD, who are responsible for sourcing and funding the emergency accommodation.

Corrections is responsible for providing information to MSD to ensure we can safely manage the person, approving the temporary alternative address, and maintaining a relationship with the accommodation provider as appropriate. If we do approve a person to move to emergency accommodation, we then regularly review and reassess what the person's longer term options are. If we are unable to identify a suitable long-term address, we may consider returning the matter to Court for an application to vary their sentence.

As at 21 July 2022, there were 45 people in emergency accommodation in Rotorua who were in the management of Corrections. These people had been placed in emergency accommodation through our nationwide agreement with MSD.

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