

14 October 2022

C158224

John Walter

[fyi-request-20597-e54261f9@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-20597-e54261f9@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe John

Thank you for your request of 18 September 2022 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about remand prisoners. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

We provide rehabilitation and reintegration services to help people address the causes of their offending. By helping people break the cycle of re-offending we also improve the safety of our communities.

We actively engage with people in prison by referring them to services that address their specific needs. Our interventions range in intensity and length to meet a variety of needs and include education, employment and rehabilitation initiatives.

You requested:

*In your OIA response on 13/09/2022 you stated:*

*"Each person on remand is allocated a Case Manager once they have been on remand for more than ten working days. Their Case Manager works directly with them to assess and identify specific areas to learn new skills and ensure their time in prison is used to their benefit. These plans could include learning skills such as parenting, managing money and basic living skills, as well as planning for a safe release to community. Remand prisoners also receive help with addiction, education and finding employment."*

See

<https://fyi.org.nz/request/20296/response/77341/attach/13/C156607%20I%20Brown%20response.PDF.pdf>

1. *Please indicate where the 10-working day figure came from for allocating a case manager and whether that is an automatic process?*

Corrections' Standards of Practice state that a Principal Case Manager must take no more than ten working days to allocate a person's case to a Case Manager. The Case Manager

must then contact a newly assigned person within 10 days. The purpose of this timeframe is to provide a minimum expectation for our practitioners, however, allocations will often be made sooner than this based on a range of factors such as a person's age and their perceived risk.

2. *I assume that the second line is referring to generating a management plan, in which case, are there protocols in place to follow up on such plans? For example, if a prisoner identified education as something which would be a beneficial use of their time in prison and help with their rehabilitation (in the management plan), would the plan be passed onto the education department to follow up with appropriate resources?*

Case Managers work directly with people to undertake an initial reintegration screening, and assess and identify specific areas of need and ensure their time in prison is used to their benefit. When a Case Manager refers a person to a programme, activity, or service provider, that site's scheduler adds them to the next available programme. If all current programmes are full, the person is placed on a service list. The service list helps to inform Corrections of existing needs, and where additional resources could be best allocated.

3. *Please provide substantive information and examples of the addiction help, education and employment assistance received by remand prisoners.*

There are challenges in delivering interventions to people on remand, including the unknown length of time that the individual will spend in prison. Some people only stay on remand for a few days or weeks, while others stay on remand for lengthier periods of time. Many remandees are also not yet convicted of an offence and will, therefore, be ineligible for certain interventions, such as offence focused rehabilitation.

Many interventions for people on remand are delivered locally and vary site by site to help them with their overall health and wellbeing, including addiction. Corrections does not centrally record an exhaustive list of all interventions or supports available to people on remand as some of these are provided through local community organisations and other volunteers. Examples of interventions for people on remand are outlined below:

**Remand Reintegration Programme** – This is a prison-based rolling reintegration programme designed and delivered by local Out of Gate providers. The programme provides practical skills to address participants reintegration needs. The programme is available for all people on remand at participating remand prison sites. The Remand Reintegration Programme is available for people who are remand convicted and remand accused.

**Tēnei Au, Tēnei Au** – This is a Kaupapa Māori evidence-based model of healing and treatment for people on remand, both convicted, and accused, this programme is made up of three components: tikanga, wānanga, and ngākau ora. The programme works to heal the ngākau and support people to achieve oranga. This has been available since November 2021 in the Te Ara Tika unit at Hawkes Bay Regional Prison, with the Ngākau Ora component of the programme available in Northern Regional Correctional Facility since July 2022.

**Kia Rite** – this is a culturally responsive information and skills training programme designed for women who are new to prison, either on remand, both convicted and accused, or newly sentenced. The programme is designed and delivered by internal Kia Rite facilitators to help women learn the skills and coping strategies they need during their time in prison. These are skills they can also use when they are in the community. The programme consists of 11 sessions and can be delivered in a closed or open/rolling format.

**Te Pikinga** – This is a three-week skills-based programme delivered by external providers and available to men on remand at Mount Eden Corrections Facility, Waikeria Prison, and Christchurch Men’s Prison. Given the nature of remand, it has been designed as a rolling programme supporting participants to complete the modules in any order and repeating modules if necessary. Te Pikinga is available to remand convicted and accused.

**Intensive Literacy and Numeracy Support** – This programme provides English literacy and numeracy support to learners assessed at Step 1, 2 or 3 on the Tertiary Education Commission Literacy and Numeracy Progressions. The programme is delivered by Te Wananga O Aotearoa and supports learners who speak English as a second language. The programme length varies according to the individual’s need – learners may attend up to 100 hours, or until they have reached Step 3 or 4 on the progressions. Delivery schedules vary at each site. The programme runs with small groups of learners, so depending on the number of learners who need support on a particular site, more than one programme may be running at a time.

**Alcohol and Other Drugs Programmes** – These provide people with the knowledge, attitudes and skills to address their substance use. Intensive Treatment Programmes (8 weeks), Tamaua te Koronga (8 weeks) and Te Ira Wahine (8 weeks) are all available to people who are remand-convicted (people who have been convicted and remanded in custody, but not yet sentenced) on a case-by-case basis. Currently, these programmes are not available to people who are remand-accused (people who are remanded in custody but have not yet been convicted).

**Mental Health** – People in prison who are on remand generally have access to the same range of mental health services as people who are sentenced. The Improving Mental Health Service (IMHS) supports people in prison (both remanded and sentenced) who are experiencing mild to moderate mental health issues. IMHS clinicians are currently based at all prisons nationwide (with the exception of Auckland South Corrections Facility). Intervention and Support Practice Teams (ISPT) are multi-disciplinary teams who provide mental health treatment to people in prison (both remanded and sentenced) who are experiencing moderate to severe mental health problems. ISP Teams currently operate at seven prison sites. Clinical nurse specialist (mental health) positions have been created at nine prison sites nationally (that do not have ISPT) and provide additional treatment to individuals (both remand and sentenced) requiring mental health interventions. Trauma counsellors and social workers are also employed at the three women’s prison sites nationally.

The Regional Forensic Psychiatric Service is funded by the Ministry of Health and responsible for the psychiatric assessment and treatment of people in prison who are suspected of

suffering from severe mental illness. These services are available at all prison sites nationally and are available to individuals who are both remanded and sentenced.

Please note that this response may be published on Corrections' website. Typically, responses are published quarterly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response 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



Ben Clark  
National Commissioner