

12 September 2024

C184706

Reece Sullivan

fyi-request-27663-dd575b5f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Reece,

Thank you for your email of 17 July 2024 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about programmes offered to prisoners that have a Māori or Tikanga Māori focus. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Corrections is focused on reducing re-offending, keeping our communities safe, and giving those we manage every opportunity to turn their lives around. A range of programmes and services are offered both in prison and in the community, and careful planning is undertaken to provide people with the right intervention at the right time. These programmes and services help people break the cycle of their offending.

As you may be aware, Māori make up 53 percent of the total prison population. The overrepresentation of women in prison who identify as Māori is especially high, and currently sits at approximately 67% of the women's population. Corrections is committed to delivering improved outcomes with and for Māori, to reduce reoffending and address the overrepresentation of Māori in the corrections system. Through our organisational strategy, Hōkai Rangī, we have established a number of initiatives aimed at improving outcomes for Māori in the corrections system, including providing programmes that have a Māori or tikanga focus. For programmes to be effective in helping people in prison change their behaviour, they need to be relevant and address the specific needs of the individual or group they are targeted towards. Helping people in prison understand their cultural identity and connect with their whakapapa in one of the ways we aim to help people develop prosocial skills and motivate people to change their behaviour. This can also help increase a prisoner's motivation to successfully engage in further rehabilitation programmes, education, training and employment, which ultimately improves their likelihood of living crime free on release from prison.

- 1. I request all information about the programmes and services you fund or deliver in prison with a specific Maori or Tikanga Maori focus.*
- 2. What specific programmes are available that encompasses Tikanga Maori or Te Ao Maori for offenders in prison.*

A large number of Corrections' rehabilitation programmes seek to include Māori and/or a tikanga Māori focused approach where appropriate. With regard to your request for "all information" about these programmes, please note that in accordance with section 12(2) of the OIA, a request for official information must be made with due particularity. Your question is very broadly framed, and it would be extremely difficult to collate and assess for release all information potentially in scope of this part of your request, which would likely include thousands of documents. We do not believe that this part of your request provides due particularity as required under the OIA.

However, Appendix One provides a list and summary on the current programmes and/or services that are offered to people in prison that are largely influenced by a Tikanga Māori approach. Please also note that rehabilitation programmes form only part of a person's offender plan. People in prison may also be provided with health services, cultural support services, educational opportunities, vocational and employment training, wraparound whānau support, reintegration services and transitional accommodation support. We trust this satisfies this part of your request. If there is a specific programme or programmes you require more information on, please let us know.

3. How much of the Corrections budget is dedicated to funding Maori specific programmes? What percentage is that of the annual Corrections budget?

Corrections does not capture data in this way as many programmes and interventions have kaupapa Māori elements but are not categorised as such for financial reporting purposes. Therefore, this part of your request is refused in accordance with section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information that you have requested does not currently exist in a form that can be readily supplied to you and would instead require Corrections to initiate a project to extract, analyse and present the data in the form requested. Furthermore, we have no grounds for believing that it is held by another agency or more closely connected with functions of another department. Please note that the Ombudsman has advised that information is not considered to be held by an agency in instances where a request necessitates research or analysis of source data in order to generate fresh information in a form different from that in which the base data is held.

4. What MOUs or relationships are established between Corrections and Marae, Hapu, Iwi or other urban Maori authorities to strengthen these programmes?

Corrections has 19 formal partnership agreements with Hapu and/or Iwi. Of these 19 agreements, nine are Manawhenua Partnership Agreements for Corrections' 18 prison sites, three are Social Accord (Kawenata) Partnership Agreements, two are Justice Sector Relationship Agreements, three are Regional Cross Sector Collective Partnership Agreements, one is a Community Manawhenua Partnership Agreement, and one is a Kaupapa Specific Partnership Agreement.

Please find attached as Appendix Two, a list on Corrections' formal partnership agreements with Māori. Please note that this list is not exhaustive and does not encapsulate the entirety of our relationships with Marae, Hapu, Iwi, or urban Māori authorities. Corrections has a large number of programmes and or services where either Marae, Hapu, Iwi or other urban Māori authorities may be involved to some extent but are not considered to be formal relationships.

5. What specific programmes are available to Maori offenders in prison aged between 17 and 25?

Most programmes listed in the interventions catalogue provided as Appendix One are available to all people in prison however, the below programmes are specifically focused on those aged 25 and other, unless otherwise noted:

- Te Whare Hāpai Tangata, which is a rehabilitation programme specifically for those aged 18-25 and offered to those both in prison and the community nationwide.
- The Young Adults Intervention (YAI), which is a psychology programme specifically for those aged 18-25 and offered to those both in prison and the community nationwide.
- The behaviour skills programme, which is available to individuals in the Manawatu Prison Youth Unit and is offered to those 17-20 years old (or up to 25 years if assessed as vulnerable).
- Tamaua Te Koronga, which is available to individuals in Hawkes Bay Regional Prison Youth Unit and is offered to those 17-19 years old.

Corrections recognises that young people have unique requirements. We are committed to ensuring that youth in prison have access to services, support and interventions that respond to their age and stage of development. We work with young people on an individual basis in order to best assist them in addressing responsivity barriers.

In response to your question as it relates to 17-year-olds, please note that Corrections manages a small number of prisoners younger than 18 at any one time. Young people who offend are usually managed under youth justice processes, which relate to the functions of Oranga Tamariki.

6. Please provide information regarding the number of prisoners participating in tikanga Māori programmes in New Zealand prisons, as far back as such programmes have been in place. Please break this information down by month and by prison.

As we have advised elsewhere in our response, a large number of Corrections' rehabilitation programmes seek to include Māori and/or a tikanga Māori focused approach where appropriate. Consequently, assessing and collating the number of prisoners participating in each relevant programme in New Zealand prisons, as far back as such programmes have been in place, would be considered substantial collation. As such, this part of your request is refused in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA as that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

In accordance with the OIA, we have considered whether fixing a charge, extending the time limit or asking you to refine or amend your request would enable us to provide a response. However, given the scale of the request, we do not consider this would be an appropriate use of our publicly funded resources.

If you require additional information on a specific programme listed or mentioned throughout this response, please communicate so in response to this correspondence.

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 hope this information is helpful. 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



Dr Emma Gardner
Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Pae Ora