

19 July 2017

C86833

Ti Lamusse
fyi-request-6071-c58badd2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ti Lamusse

Thank you for your email of 26 June 2017, requesting documentation produced by the Department on Māori in the Justice Sector. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Reducing re-offending by Māori offenders is an important priority for the Department. Māori represent approximately 50 percent of the prisoner population (ranging from 50-52 percent for men and 55-57 percent for women) and represent approximately 45 percent of those offenders serving a community-based sentence or order. It is important to note, however, that on any given days approximately 97 percent of all people in New Zealand of Māori descent are not serving a Corrections-managed sentence. Over-representation of Māori is more closely related to socioeconomic factors than ethnicity.

However, as the largest ethnic group in prison, Māori also make up the largest sub-group participating in all forms of rehabilitation. For example, in recent years 60 percent of those commencing the Special Treatment Unit Rehabilitation Programme (STURP) are Māori, as are approximately 55 percent of those commencing Drug Treatment Units (DTU) programmes. Māori participants in programmes are no less likely than non-Māori to successfully complete the programmes that they are placed on.

Our rehabilitation programmes work. We assess the effectiveness of our programmes and interventions using the Rehabilitation Quotient (RQ). This measures the extent to which re-offending is reduced in participants in a rehabilitative intervention when compared to similar offenders (matched according to a range of risk-related factors) who do not participate in intervention.

RQ analysis indicates that Māori do as well, and sometimes better, than non-Māori, in terms of reduced rates of re-offending as a result of mainstream programme participation. This has been demonstrated for the Medium Intensity Rehabilitation Programmes (MIRP), DTUs, STURPs, employment training, and reintegration services like Out of Gate.

In addition to standard rehabilitation opportunities, the Department also offers a range of rehabilitative and reintegrative services specifically for Māori. These include:

- Te Tirohanga (a Māori tikanga based therapeutic community environment running out of Whare in five prisons; Waikeria, Tongariro, Whanganui and Rimutaka Prisons and Hawke's Bay Regional Prison; approximately 200 starts per year);
- Mauri tu Pai (Māori Therapeutic Programme; approximately 210 starts per year);
- A range of Tikanga Māori courses and placements (nearly 900 starts per year);
- Te Whare Oranga Ake reintegrative units.

The Department has many mainstream and tikanga-based programmes available to offenders. Results show mainstream programmes are at least equally effective for Māori as non-Māori participants. The Waitangi Tribunal in its Tū Mai te Rangi report of 11 April 2017, lauded Te Tirohanga and Whare Oranga Ake as very promising initiatives. In the last financial year (2015/16) 59 percent of all those starting rehabilitation programmes in prison were Māori, and with respect to community based rehabilitation programmes, 55 percent were Māori.

Research has proven that programmes, activities and therapy are most effective when matched with a person's rehabilitative need and background, including ethnicity. The Department recognises that Māori are an offender group which requires more intensive rehabilitation and reintegration to support them to lead crime free lives. A range of initiatives have been developed aimed at reducing re-offending. These include some Māori specific initiatives which incorporate tikanga and reflect the Māori worldview.

The Department has established a Māori Advisory Board with representatives from seven iwi organisations, operating at an executive level to provide strategic advice to our Executive Leadership Team on the design of policy and services impacting Māori offenders. The Board provides advice and input on policy development and the design of services aimed at reducing re-offending by Māori. A work plan for reducing re-offending by Māori has been developed and has been endorsed by the Māori Advisory Board.

The Department's position at the end of the justice sector pipeline means the solution to high rates of re-offending among Māori requires a sector wide response and engagement with iwi, which is why we are working closely with our justice sector partners. A strategy to align, integrate and initiate work across the justice sector to improve Māori justice outcomes was established in late 2015 with iwi/Māori alongside the Department, Police and the Ministry of Justice. This plan has set a target of reducing Māori re-offending by 25 percent by 2025. Progress on this target is given to Cabinet on a six monthly basis.

As you may also be aware, the Department and the Kiingitanga signed an Accord on 16 March 2017, to formalise our ongoing, mutually beneficial relationship and to identify areas of future co-operation. As you will appreciate, the Department and the Kiingitanga have important areas of common interest. These are set out in the Accord and include: the health and wellbeing of Māori offenders in custody, the rehabilitation of Māori offenders in custody, the reintegration of Māori prisoners into the community, and reducing Māori re-offending.

Since the signing of the Accord, the Department has worked with the Kiingitanga to identify opportunities to improve outcomes for Māori. Potential areas under discussion include a community-based reintegration centre for female prisoners, a Waka Taua cultural intervention for Māori male prisoners in the greater Waikato District, and the facilitation of iwi collaboration for the Waikeria Prison expansion project. Please find more information related to the Department's relationship with the Kiingitanga on our website: www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/strategic_reports/accord_between_the_kiingitanga_and_corrections.html

The Department will continue its substantial work programme improving outcomes for Māori. In 2016 the Department launched the Change Lives Shape Futures strategic plan, including a dedicated Reducing Re-offending among Māori branch. This sets out the extensive work the Department is undertaking in the areas of employment and education, mental health and drug use support, modern infrastructure, whānau, and community engagement. The plan for reducing Māori re-offending is publicly available on our website: http://www.corrections.govt.nz/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/882245/COR-AoG_171081_Reducing_Maori_re-offending_v7.pdf

You have requested the following:

- 1. Has the Department of Corrections produced or commissioned any reports, studies or research papers on Māori over-representation in the justice system, since the 2007 report was released?*
- 2. If yes, please provide me with the names of those reports/studies/research papers and their date of publication. Please release those documents to me.*

The Department has not produced or commissioned any reports, studies or research papers specifically on Māori over-representation such as the 'Over-representation of Māori in the criminal justice system: An exploratory report', since 2007. In regards to your request if there are any more reports, studies or research papers, please refer to our current Change Lives Shape Futures strategic plan regarding reducing Māori re-offending.

Therefore, your request is declined under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or cannot be found.

3. *Has the Policy, Strategy and Research Group produced any more reports/studies/research papers about Māori in the justice system?*
4. *If yes, please provide me with the names of those reports/studies/research papers and their date of publication. Please release those documents to me.*

The Department did not release any reports, studies or research papers specifically on Māori in the justice system. Your request is declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or cannot be found.

However, we have identified related documents you may find interesting.

In 2007/08, the Department released 'The Māori Focus Unit and Māori Therapeutic Programme evaluation' report. The report can be found online at http://www.corrections.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/854675/MFU_MTP_evaluation_final_report.pdf.

The Department produced the 'What works for Māori' research paper in 2010/11, which is publicly available on our website: http://www.corrections.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/700314/What_Works_for_Maori_final.pdf.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Department. 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.

Yours sincerely



Vincent Arbuckle
Deputy Chief Executive
Corporate Services