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C141864

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Tēnā koe M Taylor

Thank you for your email dated 27 September 2021, to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa (Corrections), requesting information about Kia Marama and Te Piriti Special Treatment Units (STUs) and the Te Korowai unit in Wellington. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Safety and wellbeing are Corrections' top priorities and substantial effort goes into the safe management and rehabilitation of people convicted of child sex offences. Corrections does not determine who is in prison and who is in the community. Corrections also does not determine whether a person receives a sentence of imprisonment or a community-based sentence following a conviction, such as Home Detention. These decisions are made by the courts or New Zealand Parole Board.

The STUs for child sex offending are delivered by Psychological Services and are located at two prisons for men: Kia Marama at Rolleston Prison and Te Piriti at Auckland Prison. The programme is an intensive group-based intervention. The first phase of the programme involves the development of insight into offence related patterns of thinking and behaviour that contributed to offending, while the second phase focuses on skill development to manage future risk of reoffending.

In addition to the two STUs, there is also a Short Intervention Programme (SIP) for child sex offenders. SIP is a 12-week intervention for low risk child sex offenders and is based in the prison. Corrections also has contracts with three external community providers to deliver assessment and treatment for individuals who have been convicted of a sexual offence against a child (victim aged under 16 years). This service is funded for those at low or moderate-low risk of sexually re-offending and serving a community-based sentence.

Te Korowai is an 11-bed residence on the grounds of Rimutaka Prison in Upper Hutt. Its purpose is to provide transitional accommodation for high-risk child sex offenders subject to Extended Supervision Orders (ESOs) who have been residing in the community but have no accommodation and have exhausted all previous accommodation options. Men can be supported at Te Korowai for the short to medium term whilst they are working towards finding accommodation elsewhere in the community. Te Korowai provides 24 hour a day staffing and oversight of the residents.

In cases where someone transfers to Te Korowai from another district, it is expected that the sending district will continue actively working on transitioning them back to their community.

For ease of response, I will respond to each of your questions individually.

1 : How many people are wait listed to attend each program?

As at 5 November 2021, nationally there are 393 people who have been identified to be assessed for the high-intensity child sex offending programmes available at Kia Marama and Te Piriti STUs.

People can be assessed but later found not suitable to attend a STU programme. This may be due to their type or frequency of offending, assessed level of risk, or attitude to treatment. It may also be due to practical issues such as security classification not allowing them to transfer to the prison that offers the programme, or they are attending other programmes or treatment prior to engagement in these programmes. This can cause temporary delays to acceptance into treatment.

2 : What is the criteria that decides which unit an offender attends and when?

The eligibility criteria for the STU for men with sexual offending against children is as follows:

- aged 20 years or older (those aged 18 – 19 can be assessed on a case-by-case basis);
- male (or in a Men's Prison);
- at least one conviction for a child sex offence or offences related to child sexual abuse images (index or prior history);
- assessed as at least moderate-high risk of reoffending or as requiring high intensity treatment (e.g., ASRS-R score of 2 or higher or through psychological assessment/over-ride);
- all men with relevant convictions on indeterminate sentences (i.e. life or preventive detention) should be automatically waitlisted regardless of their RoC*RoI or ASRS-R;
- their security classification is Minimum to Low-Medium; and
- their prison sentence is more than two years.

Generally, the decision on which unit a person will attend is determined by their geographical location at the time of sentencing, as this is usually reflective of a person's home region and where they will return on release from prison. A person may be placed at a different STU, to allow for reintegration planning better suited to them, and a more appropriate location for whānau support. Irrespective of where men are throughout New Zealand, reintegration coordinators manage their reintegration planning based on their home region.

3 :How many people are currently attending these treatment programs and please provide a breakdown by ethnicity

The below table provides the number of people, as at 8 October 2021, attending the two specific STUs, broken down by programme, ethnicity, and prison. All ethnicity information is self-reported by people upon their arrival in prison and this is not validated by Corrections. People in prison can identify with multiple ethnicities. The information provided is based on their primary ethnicity.

	AUCKLAND PRISON	ROLLESTON PRISON	TOTAL
STU- Child Sexual Offending			
Māori	6	13	19
European	16	31	47
Pacific	3	4	7
Other (incl. Asian)	1	0	1
Grand Total	26	48	74

4 :How many people have been involuntarily exited from these programs for years 2019 to 2021 and for what reasons. Please also provide a breakdown of ethnicity of failed participants.

The below table provides the number of individuals involuntarily exited from Kia Marama and Te Piriti, broken down by reason and financial year.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Behaviour	3	3	3
Changed groups	1	0	2
Lack of progress	0	1	0
Not suitable / Criteria	6	2	1
Grand Total	10	6	6

The below table provides a breakdown of ethnicity and financial year of people that involuntarily exited Kia Marama and Te Piriti.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Māori	6	3	0
European	4	2	4
Pacific	0	1	2
Grand Total	10	6	6

5 : How many people have voluntarily exited from these programs for years 2019 to 2021

The below table provides the number of people who self-exited from the programme.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Self-exit	1	1	3

6 : How many people are currently attending post programme treatment “graduates”?

As at 5 November 2021, in Kia Marama there are 28 people who have completed the core treatment programme and are in what is known as the treatment maintenance phase. Te Piriti has had 22 graduates from the programme in the unit.

During the treatment maintenance phase, the men are continuing to work on their outstanding treatment goals, ensuring that they are prepared for release. This includes attending reintegration meetings and they are often employed in the prison employment industries, such as the construction yard and nursery where they may complete relevant qualifications to assist in skill development for future employment.

7 : How often are these programmes audited and when was the last one undertaken?

Integrity monitoring is part of the ongoing process of formal monitoring and a second line of assurance process to the clinical governance of the STUs. Kia Marama was last audited in July 2021 and Te Piriti was in April 2021.

8 : How much more effective are these programmes compared to 1 on 1 psychological services?

No specific research has been conducted comparing the effectiveness of these programmes compared to one-on-one psychological services. Therefore, this request is declined under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held by Corrections and we have no grounds for believing that the information is either held by or connected more closely with the functions of another department.

The impact of STUs on reducing re-offending through the Rehabilitation Quotient is also reported each year in our Annual Report. These reports are available on our website here: https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/strategic_reports/annual-reports

Overall, the results show that Special Treatment Units are worthwhile investments to protect the potential victims of sexual offending and to reduce the social and economic costs associated with reoffending.

9 : What percentage of offenders are transferred away from their region to attend?

Corrections recognises the value of ensuring people in prison are able to access support from their whānau and wider support networks in their home regions. When people are transferred away from their home region to complete an STU, they are strongly encouraged to maintain contact with their families. Adult members of whānau are also invited to attend family days and group welcomes at the start of treatment to learn more about the programmes and how best they can provide support. A critical component of the STU programmes involves the development of robust release plans. To that end, reintegration coordinators facilitate whānau hui with family, professionals,

and relevant external agencies to ensure a smooth transition from prison to the community. It is important that men who have completed high intensity treatment are returned to the areas where they have natural systems of support.

In order to identify how many people were transferred away from their region to attend Kia Marama or Te Piriti, Corrections' staff would be required to manually review every person's file since Kia Marama opened in 1989 and since Te Piriti opened in 1994. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation. Under section 18(A)(1) of the OIA, we have also considered whether fixing a charge or extending the time limit would allow us to respond, however, we do not believe it to be a good use of our publicly funded resources.

10 : How many offenders complete the programme and are then subject to an Extended Supervision Order?

The table below shows the number of people who completed either Kia Marama or Te Piriti programme during a prison sentence directly before starting an ESO. The year provided is the year the ESO started.

	STU - Child Sex Offending
2018-2019	7
2019-2020	12
2020-2021	14

11 : How many complaints were made against staff at Kia Marama and Te Piriti in the years 2019 to 2021?

We have identified two complaints against staff during 2019 to 2021.

Note that people can make complaints related to the Corrections systems through many channels. As such, the question has been addressed to the best of our ability using information from our centrally collated records.

Questions regarding post incarceration ;

12: What is the current occupancy of 'Te Korowai' unit in Wellington?

As at 8 December 2021, there are 11 beds at Te Korowai, and ten of those beds have been occupied. The remaining three beds have been allocated to individuals currently in custody.

13 : Is there are wait list for placement at Te Korowai? If so, how many people are wait listed

As at 8 December 2021, there are five people whose referrals have been accepted into Te Korowai but are still in custody. One further referral is pending.

14 : What is the criteria that determines whether an ex-prisoner can be housed at Te Korowai?

The current eligibility criteria are that the person must:

- be male;
- be subject to an ESO for child sex offending;
- have exhausted all other available accommodation options and have been assessed as able to live in a setting where they will interact with several other residents.

15 : What is the average length of time of residency at Te Korowai?

As at 4 October 2021, the average time for current residents at Te Korowai is 454 nights.

As above, men can be supported at Te Korowai for the short to medium term whilst they are working towards finding accommodation elsewhere in the community.

16 : Give the current housing crisis in Aotearoa, does Corrections have a plan going forward to address the shortage of housing for child sex offenders?

Finding stable accommodation for people who have committed sexual offences against children is one of our biggest challenges. We acknowledge the location of these people can be a concern for communities. We work hard to balance this concern with our obligation to safely manage people who can no longer lawfully be detained in prison.

We carry out an extensive and robust process to assess the suitability of every address proposed, and a range of factors are considered. This includes the location of victims, proximity to places designed for children, physical factors such as shared access, location of support services, and the ability to ensure a clear GPS signal at all times.

Corrections currently provides 143 beds in the community and on prison land for people who have offended against children. Corrections actively works with Kāinga Ora, other Government agencies, Iwi, and other Non-Government Organisations to provide support, find suitable properties for the people Corrections' manages, and to deliver services. Corrections is looking for additional suitable properties to expand its services in communities.

In addition to accommodation, Corrections provides 24/7 wrap-around support to people who have offending against children and remain on a sentence or order that we administer.

As noted above, there are two STUs in New Zealand, specialising in treating men who have been convicted of harmful sexual behaviour against children. They are assisted by reintegration co-ordinators who work with participants in the programme to develop robust reintegration plans, including securing accommodation for when they are released back into the community. The reintegration coordinators work alongside the psychologists who deliver the treatment programme, as well as with individuals' families, whānau or friends. The work of a reintegration coordinator includes working

with a wide variety of agencies across the country. It also requires a sound knowledge around the treatment and community management of men who have committed sex offences against children.

Typically, when forming a release plan for a person convicted of offending against children, reintegration coordinators will check whether they have any whānau or community support already in the community. If they do, and their supports are also able to help provide accommodation or assist in finding accommodation, this is followed up to assess for suitability. If support people are offering to assist in locating a potential address on release, the reintegration coordinators will support and educate them around what to look for when they are looking for suitable accommodation for the person concerned. Once an address is found, they will advise colleagues in the specific region's community engagement and reintegration area as well as probation so that they can canvass the suitability of the address in a timely manner.

Alternatively, if support people are unable to provide or help with accommodation, or a person does not have any support in the community, and/or unable to return to the region they came from, the reintegration coordinator will liaise with the community engagement and reintegration teams across the country to determine the most appropriate supported accommodation services that may be suitable for them. These services (e.g Salvation Army Supported Accommodation or Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Societies) often provide a set period of accommodation (three to six months) and reintegration support for a further nine months. Any accommodation for men after their time with the supported accommodation will be overseen by their probation officer as all addresses for men with these types of convictions need to be approved.

Not all people who have a conviction for child sex offences will have a reintegration co-ordinator or psychologist. Those people have a case manager who completes their release planning and holds Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings.

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.

I trust the information provided is of assistance.

Ngā mihi



Topia Rameka
Deputy Chief Executive Maori