



DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS
ARA POUTAMA AOTEAROA

Our approach to *reintegration*

REDUCE RE-OFFENDING BY 25% BY 2017 **JUNE 2014**

*One of the keys to reducing
re-offending is helping
people live crime free after
they have served their
sentence or order.*

*Around **15,000** people are released from our prisons each year.
And thousands more complete community sentences.*

Research shows that people are less likely to re-offend if they have the right support around them – and that helps to keep everyone safer. The key areas are employment, accommodation, education & training, skills for life, oranga, and family/whānau/community relationships. Support can come from many people including family/whānau, community groups, counsellors, employers, and Corrections staff.

Reintegration is not just for people leaving prison. People who have served sentences and orders in the community also need help to make a fresh start and play a positive role in their communities and families.

Our reintegration efforts go hand-in-hand with rehabilitation; every interaction is an opportunity to encourage a crime-free future.

Reintegration and ...

... employment

Each year, around 600 offenders on our Release to Work programme travel outside the prison each day to a regular job.

Research shows that having sustainable work can reduce the risk of re-offending. We aim to get offenders 'work ready' with the right skills and attitudes so they can find work and provide for themselves and their families. We put them in touch with industry trainers and employers who are willing to look beyond a person's offending past and give them a chance.

... public safety

Few people stay in prison forever.

Even people who have caused serious harm to others may complete their sentences and be released. When a person is released on parole or on conditions, Corrections is responsible for managing the risk they might pose. We work with other government agencies to share relevant information and take action to keep the community safe. A probation officer will continue to work with an offender to make sure they comply with the conditions of their release. If things go wrong, the probation officer will take action to hold the offender to account.

Targeted *Support*

We aim to provide the right level of reintegration support to each individual so that those with the greatest need get the most help.

Younger people (up to 24 years) warrant our special effort. The earlier we can get them on a pathway out of offending, the greater our success in reducing re-offending. Some long-serving offenders may be eligible to move into special reintegration units where they have increased responsibility and some independence before they are released. With support from skilled community providers, these prisoners learn how to care for themselves and practise the skills they have learned in prison to change their behaviour. We also support people who have spent a short time in custody to ease their return to the community. Community providers work with individuals to help arrange the support they need before and immediately after they leave prison.

... family/whānau

Where appropriate we engage family/whānau in an offender's reintegration.

They often have the most to gain from successful reintegration, and can have the greatest influence over the offender's future behaviour. We take care to support the wider family/whānau in their efforts so that everyone remains safe.

Planning to stay *crime-free*

Helping to plan for their own reintegration gives offenders confidence and self-reliance.

Successful reintegration requires careful planning. Some offenders need more support than others, and many will be subject to conditions designed to keep them and the community safe.

Corrections staff work together to help offenders plan for their reintegration.

They look at:

- > key relationships
- > accommodation
- > finances
- > work or training options
- > health needs
- > victim issues
- > managing risk.

It's all about teamwork: The more positive relationships an offender has in their life, the better their chances of settling back into their community.

Our reintegration partners range from dedicated volunteers to contracted service providers. Some provide practical support like clothing and advocacy, while others offer ongoing motivation and moral support. We also work with:

- > families/whānau*
- > community groups and community agencies*
- > churches and prison chaplains, faith-based groups*
- > Quitline and drug and alcohol treatment providers*
- > district health boards and primary health organisations*
- > iwi/marae based groups and organisations*
- > sports groups*
- > counselling and mental health providers.*

We are constantly developing our reintegration services to make sure they remain effective and meet the needs of offenders and their communities. For more information visit **www.corrections.govt.nz**