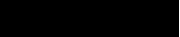


17 February 2023

C163744



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 6 January 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information regarding Hōkai Rangi Whakataetae Kapa Haka. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

Since its implementation in 2020, how many prisoners around New Zealand, per year, have taken part in Hōkai Rangi Whakataetae Kapa Haka? Organised by prison.

In 2020, Corrections inter-prison kapa haka competition was developed, with the input from the Rautaki Māori Team at Corrections' National Office. Members of the team included staff who are kapa haka exponents, with experience in managing and coordinating kapa haka teams. The first competition, which has since continued yearly, was marked by staff, Māori service providers, hapū and iwi representatives either attending as spectators or performing with the site's team.

Participants perform in front of their families, staff and local iwi and, in many cases, share the stage with Corrections staff. Those taking part said it gave them a greater sense of connection to their identity, culture and language.

As a result, the competition has strengthened the relationship between our staff and the participants, surrounded by those involved in tikanga Māori, and in many cases restored and strengthened iwi links.

People taking part have grown in confidence as a result and the intent is that whānau and iwi stay connected after release. This will lead to greater reintegration, which will in turn result in reduced re-offending and safer communities.

In 2022, for the first time, participants had the opportunity to gain NZQA credits through Te Kura. These credits count towards their educational qualifications.

Please note that despite COVID-19 and staff resourcing issues, the *Hōkai Rangi Whakataetae Kapa Haka* has been able to run for three years consecutively. However, it is important to review the figures in the context of intermittent periods of COVID-19 restrictions and staffing shortages which had an impact on the ability to deliver this initiative. Figures also include those assisting off-stage, which include people in our custody, staff & Māori service providers.

Please find the requested information in the table below, which provides the number of people in prison who participated, broken down by prison and year, between 2020 and 2022.

	Prison	Total Participants
2020	Northland Region Corrections Facility	35
	Auckland Prison	20
	Auckland South Corrections Facility	37
	Waikeria Prison	30
	Tongariro Prison	30
	Hawke's Bay Regional Prison	36
	Whanganui Prison	40
	Arohata Prison	17
	Rimutaka Prison	38
	Christchurch Women's Prison	20
	Total	303
	2021	Northland Region Corrections Facility
Auckland Prison		25
Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility		34
Auckland South Corrections Facility		35
Spring Hill Corrections Facility		35
Waikeria Prison		35
Tongariro Prison		39
Hawke's Bay Regional Prison		38
Whanganui Prison		60
Arohata Prison		22
Rimutaka Prison		36
Christchurch Men's Prison		47
Christchurch Women's Prison		26
Rolleston Prison		15
Otago Corrections Facility		28
Invercargill Prison		16
Total	537	

	Prison	Total Participants
2022	Auckland Prison	25
	Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility	39
	Auckland South Corrections Facility	47
	Waikeria Prison	49
	Tongariro Prison	39
	Hawke's Bay Regional Prison	34
	Whanganui Prison	38
	Christchurch Women's Prison	36
	Otago Corrections Facility	33
	Total	340

As noted above, it is important to review the figures provided in the context of intermittent periods of COVID-19 restrictions and staffing shortages. I can confirm that these have impacted on the number of participants in 2022, which is reflected above.

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



Topia Rameka
Deputy Chief Executive, Māori