

STRATEGIC NARRATIVE

As part of the process leading up to Budget 2022, the Government established clusters of related public service agencies, including the Justice Cluster. The Cluster piloted a different approach to Budget. The objectives of the cluster pilots include: increasing collaboration across public service agencies, improving value for money, and strengthening delivery of the Government's wellbeing priorities.



WHAT IS THE JUSTICE SECTOR?

The justice sector is comprised of agencies who provide services within the complex and interconnected criminal and civil justice system. Broadly, these organisations and individuals make the law, apply the law and enforce the law.

The justice sector is underpinned by New Zealand's institutional and constitutional arrangements: the Treaty of Waitangi, the separation of powers, the rule of law, judicial independence, and access to justice.

It is also underpinned by the principles that govern:

- relationships between private citizens (for example, property rights), and
- relationships between citizens and the state (for example voting, enforcement powers).



THE SHARED OBJECTIVES FOR THE JUSTICE CLUSTER

Cluster Ministers decided to prioritise the following objectives for Budget 2022:

Better Outcomes for Victims

Addressing Issues with Remand

Improving Access to Justice

Better Enabled Organisations and Workforce

These objectives broadly contribute to a goal of improving the performance of the justice system, including the experiences of those who interact with it.



WHICH AGENCIES ARE IN THE JUSTICE CLUSTER?

The Justice Cluster agencies are:

Ministry of Justice - Te Tāhū o te Ture

Ara Poutama Aotearoa - Department of Corrections

New Zealand Police - Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa

Crown Law Office - Te Tari Ture o te Karauna

The Serious Fraud Office - Te Tari Hara Tāware

Justice Sector Ministers recognise that achieving the best outcomes requires justice sector agencies (including Oranga Tamariki) to work together. That is why they developed shared objectives for the Justice Cluster.



WHAT INITIATIVES WERE FUNDED?

To achieve these objectives, the Government funded a multi-year Budget Cluster package. Significant initiatives from this package are outlined in the table below. Significant initiatives are those that are anticipated to deliver improved service levels and/or outcomes in the medium to longer term.

The table also sets out the specific outcome sought under each of the significant initiatives, so you can see how each initiative contributes to one of the four objectives.

JUSTICE CLUSTER

SIGNIFICANT INITIATIVES

	Better Outcomes for Victims	Addressing Issues with Remand	Improving Access to Justice			Better Enabled Organisations and Workforce		
Initiative	Victims of Crime: Improving Outcomes (Victims Strategy and Operating Model)	Criminal Process Improvement Programme	Te Ao Mārama	Te Au Reka (Caseflow Management) ¹	Strengthening Legal Aid	Strengthening Corrections' Frontline Safety and Improvement Programmes	Improving the Safety of Frontline Police	Arms Safety & Control
Funding	\$45.7m	\$11.1m	\$47.4m	Commercially sensitive	\$148.7m	\$198.3m	\$164.6m	\$193.1m
Expected Outcomes	<p>Improved victim experiences and outcomes through better operational responses and performance, agency alignment and implementation of leading practice processes and systems.</p> <p>Over time, changes will help improve the experience of victims who interact with the criminal justice system, increasing reporting and potential for insight, analysis and continuous improvement.</p>	<p>Improve processes in the criminal jurisdiction of the District Court to ensure all participants are fully prepared to meaningfully progress or resolve a case at the scheduled hearing.</p> <p>This will reduce unnecessary adjournments and delays and will address the increasing backlog of cases in the criminal jurisdiction of the District Court.</p>	<p>Through the growth of Te Ao Mārama, it is envisaged participants, victims, and whānau, will feel seen, heard, understood and able to meaningfully participate and overtime reoffending will be reduced.</p>	<p>Digitising the case management system for Courts will assist in reducing risky, manually intensive processes, enable modern and effective case management, and make it easier for all New Zealanders to interact with the court system and know what is happening.</p>	<p>Enables more people to access the scheme and receive legal advice to resolve their legal problems, while encouraging lawyers to continue providing the service.</p> <p>Makes repayments more equitable, by reducing requirements for low-income and vulnerable New Zealanders.</p>	<p>To ensure the ongoing safety of Corrections' frontline staff, and to provide a supportive environment that facilitates healing and restoration, this initiative encompasses a number of different workstreams.</p> <p>It will support more unlock hours, greater ability of staff to engage on a human level and achieve a greater focus on the oranga and health of people in prison - both staff and people in custodial care.</p>	<p>Improvements to the safety of frontline police and communities through the national roll out of the Tactical Response Mode.</p> <p>Raise Police's ability to understand, prevent and respond to high-risk and critical incidents.</p>	<p>Seeks to protect the public from harm that could be caused by firearms and allows fit and proper people to possess firearms for legal purposes while mitigating risks.</p> <p>Improve the tracing of firearms by licence holders and enable Police to trace the origin of those recovered from crime scenes and offenders. It will also assist licence holders to meet their obligation to ensure they sell or loan their firearms to those holding a current firearms licence.</p>

¹ Initiative funded out of Budget 2022 but outside of Justice Cluster funding envelope.