



# Justice Matters

December 2019 | Issue 17

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Manukau District Court holds Community Day; Te Uepū Hāpai i te Ora and the Chief Victims Advisor release new reports; family violence work highlighted in Royal visit; Ministry and community service recognised with Public Service Medal and we introduce the Whenua Māori programme.

*Photo: Hāpaitia te Oranga Tangata – Safe and Effective Justice engagement team members at the Christchurch A&P show.*



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# Justice Matters

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**Andrew Little**

Minister of Justice and Courts

## A greater sense of wellbeing

This Government has chosen to take on some challenging tasks within an overarching framework of wellbeing. The goal looks simple – a greater sense of wellbeing for everyone in society – but the steps to get there are ambitious and require significant investment and buy-in from across the justice

sector. I would like to thank all those in the Ministry of Justice and the wider sector who have worked so hard this year to improve the wellbeing of our people. Your efforts will pay dividends now and in the future.

Justice is fundamental to wellbeing: we need to see and know that justice is being done and justice is being served. Our current justice system does not always live up to those basic aspirations.

In December this Government announced its response to the release of two significant reports. Turuki! Turuki! from Te Uepū Hāpai i te Ora, and Te Tangi o te Manawanui: Recommendations for Reform from the Chief Victims Advisor, along with the reports released earlier this year - Inaia Tonu Nei and He Waka Roimata - tell us there is much we need to do if we want our criminal justice system to be safe and effective and if we want to change what it does for the better.

These reports are not a blueprint. But they draw on community input and the message is clear: we need a different approach. We need humanity for victims and

greater effectiveness for offenders.

We cannot undo the mistakes of the past, but we can put in place safeguards to ensure mistakes do not happen again. The newly established Criminal Cases Review Commission, with its ability to investigate claimed miscarriages of justice, adds an additional layer of safety to our justice system.

2020 is shaping up to be a significant year in New Zealand's history with two referendums taking place alongside the General Election. New Zealanders will have the opportunity to steer the Government on the possible implementation of euthanasia and personal use of cannabis. These are emotive topics that have the potential to divide families and communities, but it's important that our people and our nation have their say.

Thank you again for your hard work that directly supports the wellbeing of all New Zealanders and fundamental New Zealand institutions and systems. I wish you a happy and restful summer break. ■



**Andrew Kibblewhite**

Secretary for Justice and Chief Executive

## Thank you for a fantastic 2019

Kia ora tatou friends,

This is the last "Justice Matters" of the decade. Readers, I know you are ready for a well-earned rest!

I thought I would mainly use this column to talk about Turuki! Turiki! the report of Te Uepu Hapai i te Ora, the Government's Advisory Group on Criminal Justice Reform. It is a powerful and at times confronting read, but worth spending time on as

it sets out recommendations that are both challenging and inspiring for the criminal justice sector. I won't summarise the report for you – there is much more in it than I could do justice to in this short column, and I really think you should read it yourselves! – but I will reflect on how I think it speaks to me as Secretary for Justice and as Chair of the Justice Sector Leadership Board.

Like Te Uepū's first report, He Waka Roimata, this is a report about people – those who are harmed by crime in Aotearoa New Zealand today and those who do harm to others. The report critiques the way our system works, even as it acknowledges the commitment and effort of the staff, volunteers and whānau who work within it. It speaks with a powerful voice, driven by the need to improve New Zealanders' lives.

The report lays down a direct challenge to those of us who work in Government agencies in the justice system to look beyond ourselves, to own the truth that we won't be able to fix things on our own. We need to acknowledge the important role the community has to play in rehabilitating offenders and get better at working with the community, including where this requires us to change the way we do things. And in particular, we need to partner more effectively with Māori, recognising both our responsibilities under the Treaty, but also the inescapable need for the criminal justice system to fix the disproportionate

representation of Māori in all the negative statistics.

As well as working with the community, Turuki! Turiki! sets out an unambiguous expectation that justice sector agencies need to work more effectively together. The clear delineations of role that we might see between Police, the Ministry, Corrections or Oranga Tamariki make little sense to a victim, a witness, an offender or a struggling community.

The report sets out a demanding prescription, but when I look at what is happening across the justice sector, there is much that tells me we are up for the challenge. Corrections is showing the way with Hōkai Rangī, Police with Te Huringa o Te Tai and Oranga Tamariki with the launch of National Care Standards and the cross-Government work on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. In Justice, we have rolled out Family Violence legislation, are supporting the judiciary with Matariki and Rangatahi courts and are delighted with the announcement that the Tauranga Court will be rebuilt to give physical form to a transforming court experience. I am excited about where we take this collective effort in 2020 and beyond.

So thank you colleagues and friends for a fantastic 2019. I feel privileged every day to see the great work you do as we put our shoulders to the plough together.

Rest well. ■





**Hon Aupito William Sio**

Associate Minister of Justice and Courts

Tēnā koutou katoa, Talofa lava, and warm Pacific greetings to you all.

It has been a busy year for the Ministry of Justice and I would like to thank each of you who have worked hard this year to either bring about change in the justice sector, or worked to continue the fundamental functions of Aotearoa New Zealand's court system.

Throughout the year, I have managed to visit various providers and people working within the justice system, and I am always impressed with their dedication and passion towards helping some of our most vulnerable people in society.

Although there is always more that can be done to improve the justice system and help change people's lives for the better, it feels like there is a generational shift in our communities that continues to gain momentum. In particular, our young people are determined not to repeat the faults of the past. They pursue the promise of a better future, and their actions and determination give me hope and confidence in our collective future. We must encourage their ambition to ensure they realise their fullest potential and the potential of all in our communities.

la soifua ma ia manuia. Stay safe everyone. May you have a restful and enjoyable summer break. ■



**Jan Logie**

Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Justice (Domestic and Sexual Violence issues)

As we head into the holiday period, I want to thank everyone working towards a violence-free Aotearoa New Zealand. In the public service agencies who make up the Joint Venture on Family Violence and Sexual Violence; the advisory groups that inform government's work; the community organisations at the front lines; the workplaces, schools, health services, prisons, courts and Police; and in families and whānau, there are people all across the country working to respond to, and prevent, violence.

Thank you for all that you do and for giving so much of yourselves to this critical work.

This year, Budget 2019 delivered a historic increase to family violence and sexual violence funding, the Family Violence Act took effect and the Sexual Violence Legislation Bill has had its first reading.

That Bill makes changes to ensure fair court processes that don't retraumatise complainants. It responds to recommendations from the Law Commission and the growing literature illustrating that some elements of our standard trial process are in direct opposition to the needs of sexual violence victims and survivors.

As we improve our response to family violence and sexual violence right across government and community, we must also ensure that the criminal justice system and the people working in it can manage complaints safely and appropriately, while maintaining fair and robust processes and outcomes.

Family violence and sexual violence cause trauma that impacts on every part of wellbeing: physical and mental health, education, employment, parenting and many other aspects of a survivor's life. Through good law, an integrated system focused on the needs of people affected by violence, supporting and developing our workforce, and building effective partnerships, we are making the difference now. We will keep making progress in 2020, together.

I wish everyone a safe and happy festive season. ■



A Pasifika dance performance at the Community Day.

# Manukau District Court Community Day

The Manukau District Court held its first Community Day in late November. The objective of the day was to showcase how the Court, wider justice sector, and community providers work together for a safe and fair Aotearoa.

The day began with an opening karakia by kaumātua Brownie and Pare Rauwhero, followed by a mihi from Ministry of Justice Chief Executive Andrew Kibblewhite. Visitors had the opportunity to take a tour of the court, find out more about the jury empanelling process, and take part in interactive mock trials involving the Judiciary and prosecutors. Local service providers set up stalls in the main courtyard, which were well attended.

The Hāpaitia te Oranga Tangata – Safe and Effective Justice team were on site for the day, using a digital engagement platform to encourage the public to share their opinions on criminal justice reform.

“The Manukau District Court open day provided an amazing opportunity for community engagement with the justice sector,” said Justine Johansson, Engagement Advisor with the Hāpaitia te Oranga Tangata – Safe and Effective Justice team.

Other activities included a kids' corner with face painting and a colouring table. In between the scheduled tours and mock trials, there was a sausage sizzle, Zumba session, and Pasifika dance performances. The day ended with a spectacular performance by the Manukau District Court waiata group, who got everybody singing and dancing along to Christmas carols.

“Our court is a very special place brought to life and held together by amazing people who choose to serve this community,” said District Court Judge Ida Malosi. “What stood out was the way people engaged with one another and were genuinely interested in what each other had to offer.” ■



Our thanks to the following service providers who had stalls at the Community Day:

- Victim Support
- Public Defence Service/Legal Aid
- Shakti
- Dress for Success
- Salvation Army
- FDR Centre (Family Disputes Resolution)
- Police Family Harm Team
- Friendship House
- MUMA – Manukau Urban Māori Authority



# Course set for safe and effective justice



He also signalled the Government's intention to make Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment (AODT) Courts permanent, by extending their operation in Auckland and Waitākere by two years and announcing plans for an additional AODT Court in Waikato.

Te Uepū Chair Chester Borrows said that Turuki! Turuki! sets a clear direction for change.

"We are not advocating for minor measures, but rather we are laying out a pathway to transformation. Our recommendations will make all New Zealanders safer, and the justice system more effective.

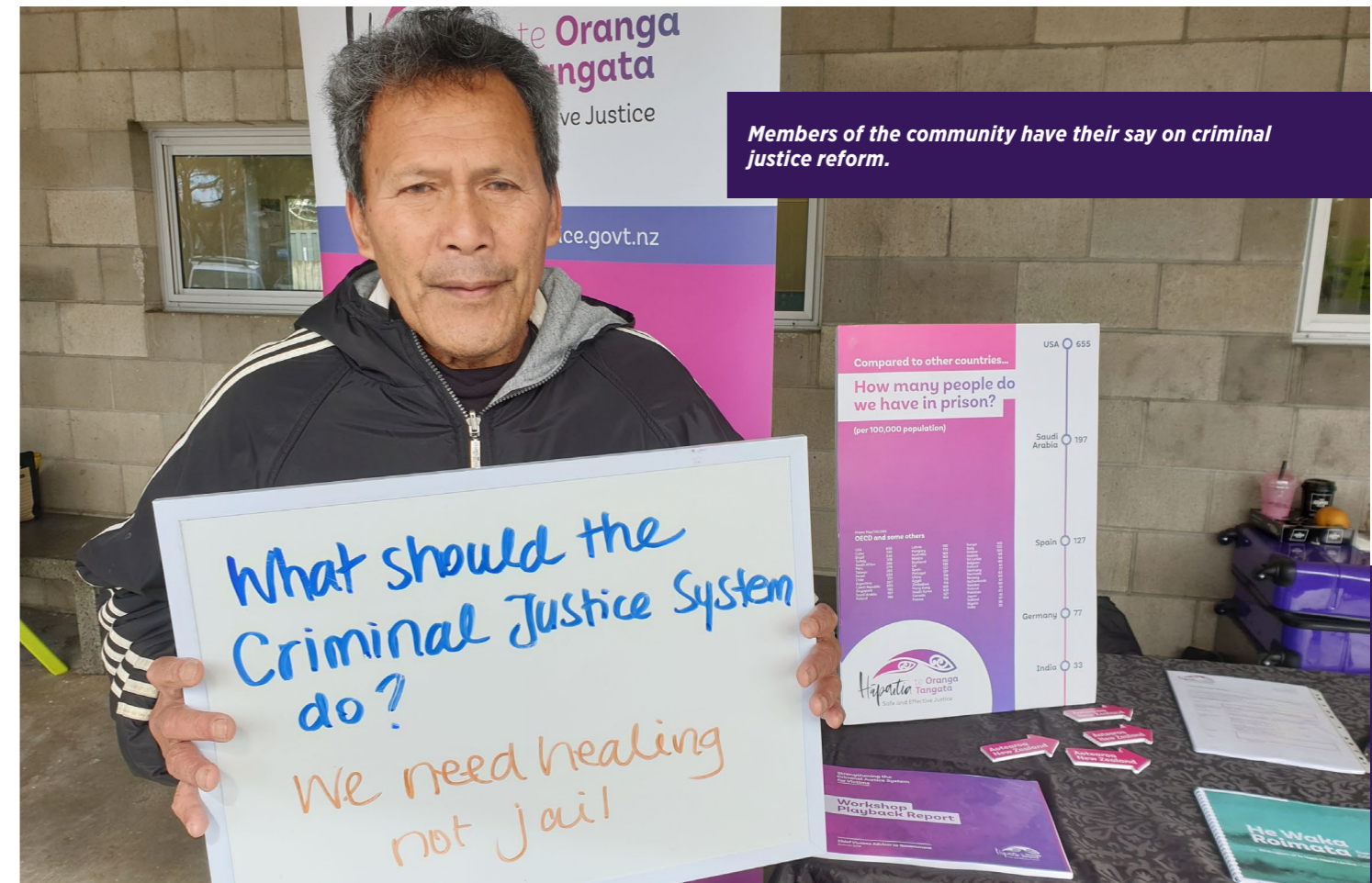
"The time for transformative justice is now. We present this challenge to those in government, to others in Parliament, to the media, to everyone involved with the criminal justice system, and to all New Zealanders. Achieving real, sustainable change will require all of us. It will require courage, clarity of purpose, investment in people and communities, and a willingness to share power.

The Government has announced its initial response to recent reports on the criminal justice system.

Justice Minister Andrew Little welcomed the reports delivered by Te Uepū Hāpai i te Ora (Turuki! Turuki!), the Chief Victims Advisor to Government (Te Tangi o te Manawanui: Recommendations for Reform), and the organisers of the Hui Māori for justice (Ināia Tonu Nei – Now is the Time).



From left; Te Uepū Hāpai i te Ora – Safe and Effective Justice Advisory group members Julia Whaipooti, Tracey McIntosh, Shila Nair, Quentin Hix, Chester Borrows (Chair), Carwyn Jones and Ruth Money.



Members of the community have their say on criminal justice reform.

"It will also require a change in culture and mindset, from one that prioritises punishment to one that prioritises solutions; from a system which meets the needs of those working within it to one which meets the needs of all the people they work with," he said.

"Turuki! Turuki! is a traditional call to the crew of a waka or canoe being portaged or anyone trying to 'MOVE!' a large inert object or create a forward motion with urgency. It is a call for collective action," he added.

Te Tangi o te Manawanui, which means "the heart that says 'no more' in order to protect our taonga: future generations", sets out Chief Victims Advisor to Government Dr Kim McGregor's recommendations for how to improve the criminal justice system for victims.

"Many victims say their overall experiences in the justice system are negative, and some victims are recommending that others who are victimised shouldn't report the crime because their treatment is so poor. I believe this amounts to a growing crisis of confidence in our justice system from a victim's perspective.

"This should make everyone stand up and take notice. We must listen to victims of crime, especially within the justice reform programme," said Dr McGregor.

"I see the Hāpaitia programme as a 'once in a generation' opportunity to improve justice for victims.

Currently, victims do not have their own representation nor sufficient information, voice, support or advocacy to ensure their rights are implemented.

"Now is the time to create meaningful and lasting change to ensure victims experience a fairer justice system," she added.

Ināia Tonu Nei – Now is the Time captures the kōrero at a national Māori hui held in Rotorua in April 2019 to discuss Māori experiences with the justice system. The report, which was published in July 2019, calls for Māori to have a genuine leadership role in creating a future justice system for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Further work on a long-term Government response will be detailed in 2020. ■

Read Turuki! Turuki! and Te Tangi o te Manawanui online:

<https://www.safeandeffectivejustice.govt.nz/about-this-work/te-uepu-report/>

Ināia Tonu Nei – Now is the Time can also be downloaded from:

<https://www.safeandeffectivejustice.govt.nz/about-this-work/reports/>



# Family violence work highlighted in Royal visit

HRH The Duchess of Cornwall met Shine and Ministry staff on her recent visit to New Zealand.

Chief Operating Officer Carl Crafar, senior sponsor of our Workplace Family Violence awareness module and White Ribbon Ambassador, and Helana Taylor from the Ministry's People and Performance team, had the opportunity to meet with HRH The Duchess of Cornwall during a Royal visit in Auckland.

Reducing family violence and sexual violence is one of the transformational opportunities identified in the Ministry's recently refreshed strategy.

"It was an honour to meet Her Royal Highness and have the opportunity to highlight, alongside our colleagues in New Zealand Police, the positive work being done to combat family violence and sexual violence in New Zealand. Her Royal Highness was clearly impressed by the efforts New Zealand government agencies - with the support of agencies such as Shine - are making in this area," said Carl Crafar.

The Ministry was asked to share information with the Duchess about our workplace programme. The Ministry was the first public sector organisation to receive the DVFREE Tick from Shine, New Zealand's specialist family violence prevention charity.

The DVFREE Tick is a mark of confidence that an employer has taken meaningful steps to create a family violence-free workplace that is safe and supportive for staff experiencing family violence. The accreditation requires the development of comprehensive policy and procedures, as well as targeted training for key staff and awareness-raising for all staff.

The Ministry's family violence programme began in November 2017, with the knowledge that due to the high prevalence of family violence in New Zealand, Ministry people may be personally affected, both as victims and as perpetrators.

"The Ministry of Justice is committed to making our organisation a place where our staff can be healthy and safe at work. Since receiving the DVFREE Tick, 79% of our managers have undergone training on how to support staff who disclose family violence, and hundreds of frontline staff have participated in awareness sessions that provide them with pathways to support for themselves or others," said Helana Taylor, Manager Organisational Development. ■

More information about family violence can be found on the Ministry's website:

<https://www.justice.govt.nz/family/family-violence/>



Criminal Court Services Manager Maree Hayes with the Ministry's Chief Operating Officer Carl Crafar.

The full list of award winners can be found at: <https://ssc.govt.nz/resources/public-service-day-honours-2019/>

# Ministry and community service recognised

Criminal Court Services Manager Maree Hayes, of Invercargill, was recently awarded a New Zealand Public Service Medal in recognition of her dedication to providing exemplary service to the Ministry of Justice and the Southland community. Maree was one of only six recipients of the Public Service Medal in 2019.

Maree's career at the Ministry began as a Court Registrar in 1976. Over 43 years in the public service, she has always aimed to ensure that justice is accessible to everyone, and that all court participants are treated with dignity and respect. "I never judge anyone. I treat everyone how I would want my family to be treated," said Maree.

Maree's experience and technical expertise has led to the successful rollout of many local initiatives, including The Right Track - Te Ara Tutuki Pai, an educational programme for repeat offenders with serious driving offences. She also donates her time to several community groups in evenings and weekends.

"Every day she comes to work ready to do the very best for the public, and to see the Ministry deliver the best service possible," said Chief Executive Andrew Kibblewhite. "Maree has both led and participated in many programmes and projects that have not only served the Ministry, but also the wider Southland community." ■



## Around the Ministry



- The Judiciary produced a multi-lingual video explaining the role of the Courts and the key principles on which New Zealand's legal system is based, making the courts and law more accessible.
- The Ministry updated its 'Talking about family violence' video series, replacing an outdated DVD. The new videos feature several real-life stories of overcoming family violence and practical advice. They're available to watch on the Ministry's YouTube channel; <https://www.youtube.com/nzministryofjustice>
- Frederic Joyet, Technical Product Lead, ICT, was recognised as the Supreme Winner at the Ministry's 2019 Chief Executive's Awards. Frederic was honoured for four years' work on a public website for the Government Women's Network (GWN). Originally a six-month commitment, his technical support and

collaborative approach was instrumental in the long-term success of this cross-government initiative.

- Vai Tuipulotu, Court Services Manager (Criminal) was the overall Leadership Award winner at the Ministry's 2019 Chief Executive's Awards. During his time as a team leader of Court Security Officers, Vai was recognised for his efforts to develop and upskill his team to improve customer service and communication at the Auckland District Court.
- Waitangi Tribunal Unit staff, along with colleagues from the Ministry's Business Support and Chief Judges' Chambers, focused on whakawhanaungatanga (relationship building and connection) and mahi tahi (collaboration) during a two-day noho marae at Maraeroa Marae in Porirua.



The Duchess of Cornwall with sector representatives. Credit: Arthur Edwards



Whenua Māori programme staff with National Office colleagues.



# Ko te kaupapa Whenua Māori

## Introducing the Whenua Māori programme

The Whenua Māori programme aims to support Māori to realise the full potential of their land by improving access to justice and providing more choices for Māori landowners to realise their whenua (land) aspirations.

The Government's 2019 Wellbeing Budget invested \$56.1 million over four years for the programme. At the core is the belief that whenua is fundamental to the wellbeing of Māori. By making it easier for whānau to engage with, develop and look after their land, social and economic opportunities for Māori will be opened up, increasing wellbeing for generations to come.

The programme is a joint venture between the Ministry of Justice and Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry for Māori Development) who are working together to deliver in five key areas by 2023:

- Amendments to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993
- New and improved Māori Land Court services
- New and enhanced Māori Land Court technology
- Regional whenua advisory services
- A knowledge hub and website.

Te Ture Whenua Māori (Succession, Dispute Resolution, and Related Matters) Amendment Bill was introduced into Parliament in September 2019. The amendment bill proposes changes to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 that will hold the protection of Māori land paramount, while making it easier for landowners to manage their land. Navigating the law and going to court can be

**“This investment gives us an opportunity to take advantage of modern technologies and services to provide landowners with a better experience.”**

daunting, so the focus is on making justice services more accessible by reducing complexity and compliance.

Justice Minister Andrew Little said he wants people who come to the Māori Land Court to feel they have more choices and control. “This investment gives us an opportunity to take advantage of modern technologies and services to provide landowners with a better experience.”

The Bill will:

- establish a tikanga-based dispute resolution process to help whānau to resolve disputes about their land
- extend the jurisdiction of the Māori Land Court to include matters relating to Māori land under five Acts

- make it easier for Māori land owners to engage with the Māori Land Court
- strengthen the remedies available to the Māori Land Court.

In particular, the introduction of a tikanga-focused dispute resolution service will offer Māori landowners a way to settle matters outside of a formal court hearing.

The new regional advisory service will provide for dedicated staff across Te Tai Tokerau (Northland) Waiariki (Bay of Plenty) and Te Tairāwhiti (East Coast) to provide specialised and customised support that empowers Māori landowners to move forward on their development journey. The knowledge hub will link whānau to whenua, providing real-time information to all owners wherever they live.

Māori Development Minister Nanaia Mahuta said the programme recognises the challenges facing Māori freehold landowners, and the value of pursuing opportunities that will lead to the sustainable and intergenerational development of the land and its people.

The Whenua Māori programme is an exciting opportunity to build the capability of Māori land and Māori landowners. The Ministry of Justice is heavily invested in the success of the programme for our customers, our staff and the Ministry. ■

Find out more about the Whenua Māori programme online: [tpk.govt.nz/en/whakamahia/whenua-maori](https://tpk.govt.nz/en/whakamahia/whenua-maori)

Further information about the Maori Land Court is available online: <https://maorilandcourt.govt.nz/>

## Spotlight on the Māori Land Court

The Māori Land Court is a uniquely New Zealand institution. Its role is fundamental in upholding the principles of retention and utilisation of land in the hands of its owners. Taonga tuku iho, the land, connects Māori to their history, their tūpuna, their whānau, hapū and iwi. It is at the core of being Māori. Recognising this relationship runs through everything the Court does.

The Māori Land Court record is a taonga and has been registered on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register, alongside Te Tiriti/the Treaty of Waitangi and the Women's Suffrage Petition. The supply of technology to better care for and protect this taonga – whilst improving its accessibility to landowners – is a key component of the programme.

The current aged technology in the Māori Land Court will be replaced to improve access to information and better engagement for landowners with their whānau and whenua. It will also help our staff to do their jobs more efficiently. The new technology will be more reliable and ensure that landowners have access to Māori Land Court services across the country. Working in the Māori Land Court is a real vocation, with many long-serving staff devoting their entire working careers to it.

“Ma te whenua tātou e ora ai. Ma tātou te whenua e ora ai,” said Pirihira Cribb, Principal Liaison Officer, Aotea Māori Land Court. “The land will take care of us. We must take care of the land.”



Stock image of New Zealand coastline





## Whole-of-family approach paying dividends in the Waikato and Christchurch

An evaluation of the Integrated Safety Response programme (ISR) has shown tangible progress in improving family violence outcomes, three years after the programme was started.

ISR was established in 2016 in the Waikato and Christchurch. It takes a whole-of-family and whānau approach to consider the safety of adults and children experiencing violence, and to work with people that use violence to prevent further harm. By combining dedicated staff, funded specialist services, and an intensive case management approach, ISR seeks to create better outcomes for high-risk families and whānau.

Leanne McSkimming, Director of the Canterbury District ISR, said, “The ISR evaluation reflects a journey of continuous improvement and innovation. Having an infrastructure and the mandate that supports all agencies in achieving collaboration and collective working at every layer, from governance to the frontline services that work alongside whānau, has meant that the voice of families and whānau is at the centre of everything we do.”

The evaluations of years two and three of the programme build on the foundations laid by the evaluation of the original pilot scheme, and showed that families and whānau:

- felt safer, especially those in high-risk environments
- were better connected to support networks including hapū, wider family networks and support agencies
- were more likely to report low-level family violence to the Police, showing they were engaging with their agreed safety plans.

It’s also clear from the research that a tangible difference is being made to Māori victims of family violence, with an 18% reduction in revictimisation compared to a matched control group elsewhere in Aotearoa New Zealand.

One of the central pillars of the ISR programme is the focus on a Kaupapa Māori approach. Whānau interviewed as part of the research said that they drew strength from the culturally safe environment created, including the use of karakia and the acknowledgement of wairua (spirituality).

Other encouraging results include a 48% relative reduction in children witnessing, or being exposed to, family violence (based on analysis of Support Service data).

The evaluation report also highlighted areas for continued improvement, including better responses for children and youth, greater efficiencies in managing referrals and data, and increasing access to support services.

Funding of the ISR programme for another two years was secured in Budget 2019 as part of the Government’s \$45.818 million investment in delivering safe, consistent and effective responses in every community.

“I love the passion, integrity and mana of the people I work with. Having open communication and information sharing between government departments and community partners is the start of the healing process for our whānau and community,” said Di Walters, ISR Co-ordinator in the Waikato region.

“We have a close, committed, and skilful multi-agency ISR team. No two days are the same. Representing the Ministry in this collaboration means that I am able to bring learnings back to the local court which improve our services to people experiencing family harm. I act as a conduit and connector, and the role is highly valued by our agency partners,” said Linda Creed, ISR Co-ordinator in the Canterbury region. ■

**“Having open communication and information sharing between government departments and community partners is the start of the healing process for our whānau and community.”**





# Criminal Cases Review Commission established

A bill to establish an independent Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) was granted Royal assent in November 2019. The Commission has been set up to review convictions and sentences where a miscarriage of justice is claimed. Prior to the Commission being established, a claimed miscarriage of justice could only be investigated as part of the Royal prerogative of mercy process.

The Commission will be established as a new independent Crown Entity with between three and seven commissioners, supported by specialist staff. It is hoped that the Commission will see more applications from Māori, who have historically made very few applications for the Royal prerogative of mercy. At least one of the Commissioners is required to have knowledge or understanding of te ao Māori and tikanga Māori.

Justice Minister Andrew Little views the Commission as an important mechanism that will enable investigations into miscarriages of justice to be completed in an independent, timely and fair way. "We've seen how our justice system can very occasionally get things

spectacularly wrong, even with rights of appeals, and there needs to be a chance for the innocent on the right grounds to seek a final review of their case."

The Commission will have important information-gathering powers, including the ability to apply for a court order to access privileged information in a limited range of circumstances. This allows for the Commission to perform its function in investigating and reviewing convictions and sentences.

"It is anticipated that the Commission will be able to access most of the information it needs through consent and cooperation, but it is important to have this power to ensure the Commission has access to all relevant information required to investigate and review convictions and sentences," said Minister Little.

Several other countries already have similar independent commissions, including England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Norway. The Commission will be operational from 1 July 2020. ■



Stock image photo

## A minority of people experience the majority of crime incidents, says Ministry report

Four percent of New Zealand adults interviewed in 2018 experienced 47% of all crime incidents that occurred within the last 12 months. These people are defined as 'highly victimised', as they experienced four or more criminal incidents within a 12-month period.

This was the key finding from a report titled Highly Victimised People produced by the Ministry of Justice. The report was generated from the 2018 New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey, where 8,000 New Zealanders over the age of 15 were interviewed about their experience of crime.

"Māori are significantly over-represented in the highly-victimised four percent compared to other ethnic groups," said James Swindells, Manager of Research and Evaluation.

"New Zealand Europeans are evenly represented across victim groups, whereas those who identify as Pasifika, Asian and other ethnicities are significantly under-represented.

The report also found that young people aged 15–29 make up a large part of the highly-victimised group, whereas there are few people aged 60 years and over.

"Interestingly, we found that people who have never been married or in a civil union are significantly more likely to experience more crime than those who are committed to a partner," said James Swindells. The report revealed there was no difference in the level of highly-victimised people in the North or South Islands,

or in the four main centres of Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch.

Highly-victimised people experience higher proportions of almost all types of violence compared to other victims, including sexual assault, harassment and threatening behaviour, and robbery. This violence doesn't often come from family or whānau members because most violent incidents are committed by people in the wider community, and in almost 50% of cases, by strangers.

"It's no surprise that we found people who were highly victimised had high levels of psychological distress and were less satisfied with life," said James Swindells. "This means that highly-victimised people will require higher levels of mental health support to cope with their situation."

Personal income and in particular a person's overall levels of financial stress are clear indicators. This suggests that identifying the causal relationship between income, financial stress and high victimisation could be key to understanding and reducing high victimisation. ■

The report is available on the Ministry's website:  
<https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcvs/resources-and-results/>





# Justice Matters

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