LESS CRIME, SAFER STREETS

National is protecting our communities with a relentless focus on crime prevention, a speedier Justice system, and by putting victims first.

New Zealanders are benefiting from the lowest crime rate in 35 years. Violent and youth crime levels have fallen dramatically and public confidence in Police officers is at a record high.

National has shifted the focus of Police from just reacting to crime to preventing it occurring in the first place. With 600 extra officers on the frontline and a huge surge in the number of foot patrols, Police are now more visible in our communities and have the resources so they are better placed to prevent crime before it occurs.

We have disrupted organised crime and the illegal methamphetamine trade. We’ve toughened prison sentences for gang members, stopped the worst repeat violent criminals being released on parole and have nearly halved the number of street-racing offences since new laws took effect in 2009.

National has also reformed alcohol law to give communities a say on alcohol in their neighbourhoods, and tightened laws around the supply of alcohol to minors and the display and promotion of alcohol. Serious and repeat drink drivers now face tougher penalties, and the courts have the ability to order offenders to use alcohol interlocks.

National has strengthened safeguards for our most vulnerable, with more intensive support for victims of crime, and stronger child protection measures.

We will continue to confront violent and sexual abuse of children, family violence, and the dysfunctional cycle of misery and deprivation caused by gangs, in order to build on our strong record of crime reduction and the safety of New Zealanders in their homes and communities.

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

→ Achieved the lowest crime rate in 35 years.
→ 600 extra Police officers on the frontline.
→ Introduced 34 Neighbourhood Policing Teams to ensure a dedicated and strong Police presence in New Zealand’s most vulnerable communities.
→ Overseen a 155 per cent increase in the number of Police foot patrols in the two years to 2013.
→ Rolled out smartphones and tablets to 6,500 officers to save more than 500,000 Police hours every year – equivalent to about 354 extra Police officers.
→ Opened 16 new Police stations since 2009.
→ Introduced Police Safety Orders to prevent domestic violence and protect families. Nearly 40,000 of these orders have been issued since July 2010.
→ Continued to make life tough for those involved in the P trade, and distributed over $10 million to fund anti-P initiatives through the Criminal Proceeds Recovery Act.
→ Passed laws making it harder for illegal street racers to disrupt neighbourhoods.
National is...

Putting More Police on the Frontline

✓ Funded the recruitment of 600 extra Police officers and placed 300 on the beat in Counties-Manukau.
✓ Freed frontline officers from paperwork by providing smartphones and tablets, allowing more time on the beat and delivering over 500,000 extra frontline hours a year – equivalent to 354 extra officers.

Giving Police More Crime-Fighting Tools

✓ Used money and assets seized from criminals to fund crime-fighting initiatives, like 10 extra investigators to work on organised crime syndicates and drugs cases, and software to help Police extract and recover data from devices held under warrant.
✓ Funded the placement of a Police attaché in China so they can work with Chinese enforcement agencies to identify criminals responsible for trafficking illicit drug and precursor chemicals into New Zealand.
✓ Given Police a wide range of options, like pre-charge warnings, so they can deal more effectively with low-level offending while still holding offenders to account.

Making Sentences and Parole Tougher

✓ Introduced maximum jail sentence with no parole for the worst serious violent offenders under the Three Strikes Law.
✓ Toughened sentences for crimes against children. It’s now a crime to stay silent if you know a child or vulnerable adult is at risk.
✓ Toughened sentences for involvement in gangs.
✓ Brought in 24-hour GPS monitoring for highest-risk and child sex offenders out on release in the community.

Reforming Alcohol Law; Tackling P & Other Drugs

✓ Passed and implemented the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. This restricts the sale and supply of alcohol to curb alcohol harm. Police report a drop in alcohol-related offences since the changes.
✓ Criminal proceeds have been confiscated and used through the Methamphetamine Action Plan to hit the drug trade and reduce harm from drugs.
✓ Alcohol and Other Drug Courts are being piloted in Auckland, offering defendants with severe substance abuse issues an opportunity for treatment before they are sentenced.
✓ Brought in tougher penalties for serious and repeat drink drivers, and the ability for courts to order offenders to use alcohol interlocks.
OUR RESULTS SO FAR…

MORE POLICE ON THE BEAT

The number of Police foot patrols has increased from by 155 per cent from 2011 to 2013.

LESS REOFFENDING

Since 2008, there has been:
- 3,700 prisoners having access to treatment for their addictions in 2013/14, up from just 234 in 2007/08
- A 155 per cent increase in the number of prisoners starting literacy and numeracy programmes.
- An 830 per cent jump in the number of prisoners gaining qualifications.

Re-offending has reduced by 12 per cent in the past three years, meaning every year there are now around 2,300 fewer offenders, about 9,000 fewer victims and over 80 fewer offenders returning to prison.

THE CRIME RATE IS DOWN

From June 2011 to March 2014:
- Total crime fell 16 per cent, surpassing our 2017 target of 15 per cent.
- Reoffending is down 12 per cent against a 2017 target of 25 per cent.
- Violent crime is down 11 per cent against a 2017 target of 20 per cent.

The crime rate is now at a 35-year low.
FEWER YOUNG PEOPLE BECOMING INVOLVED IN CRIME

The new Youth Crime Action Plan was released in October 2013.
Youth crime is down by 30 per cent, surpassing a 2017 target of 25 per cent.
The number of children and young people being charged in court is the lowest in 20 years – down 45 per cent since the peak in 2007/08.

CRIME PROCEEDS ARE BEING SEIZED AND USED FOR GOOD

Since the Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act came into force in December 2009, the Police have obtained forfeiture orders for assets worth around $49 million, 60 per cent of which are related to methamphetamine offences.

Over $10 million in criminal proceeds have been used to target the drug trade and help those affected by it get treatment.

Initiatives funded include $1.8 million to double existing support for mothers of young children, and pregnant women, who have alcohol and drug issues; $300,000 to help offenders with alcohol or drug issues re-integrate into their communities; and $490,000 to help Police crackdown on cannabis growers.

LESS BOY-RACING

The number of illegal street-racing offences has reduced by nearly 50 per cent since introducing new laws in 2009.
WHAT WE WILL DO NEXT...

1. CRACK DOWN ON GANGS

→ Create a multi-agency Gang Intelligence Centre to combine intelligence on real-time gang activity and support investigation, prevention, and enforcement.
→ Support families and members to turn away from the gang lifestyle.
→ Establish two multi-agency Dedicated Enforcement Taskforces to target drug trafficking networks and disrupt new gangs trying to enter New Zealand, and to strengthen asset recovery efforts.
→ Allow courts to require 24-hour GPS monitoring of high-risk gang members out of prison.
→ Explore measures such as Firearm Prohibition Orders and drug detector dogs at domestic ports and terminals.

2. ADDRESS FAMILY VIOLENCE

→ Establish a Chief Victims Advisor to advise the government on the needs and views of victims.
→ Test intensive case management to provide specialist support for family violence victims at high risk of serious harm or death.
→ Establish a nationwide home safety service to help victims who want to leave a violent relationship.
→ Review the Domestic Violence Act to ensure the system keeps victims safe and holds offenders to account.
→ Explore the possibility of conviction disclosure which could allow people to ask whether their partner has a history of violence.

3. CONTINUE TO PUT VICTIMS FIRST

→ Introduce ‘non-contact orders’ to reduce the risk of unwanted contact between offenders and victims.
→ Support more victims with the Victims’ Offender Levy.
→ Modernise courts to speed up trial processes and reduce unnecessary parole hearings to minimise stress for victims and witnesses.
→ Develop a Victims Code.
4. TARGET HIGH-RISK OFFENDERS

→ Continue 24-hour GPS monitoring for the highest risk offenders out on release in the community.

→ Allow the High Court to order that the highest-risk offenders stay behind bars with Public Protection Orders.

→ Introduce a Child Protection Offender Register to help Police and Corrections reduce the risk of harm to children.

5. CONFRONT CYBER-BULLIES

→ Tackle cyber bullying and its devastating impact with new measures including a civil enforcement regime, a new agency, and new offences.

DON’T PUT IT ALL AT RISK

Under the previous Labour government, crime was rising, public confidence in Police was falling and staff engagement had hit rock bottom.

Labour and the Greens would:

✖ Tie Police up in paperwork and bureaucracy and prevent them being out on the streets stopping crime.

✖ Not back our Police. They think talking about crime prevents it and make excuses for offenders, believing their rights are more important than the rights of genuine victims.