



Honest Conversations.

Law and Order.



Authorised by David Seymour MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.





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Introduction from David Seymour

You deserve to be safe in your community. You shouldn't feel unsafe being out after dark or worry that a gang's funeral procession will force you off the road as you drive across town.

ACT believes that victims should be the centre of the justice system, not the criminals who have offended against them.

Gang numbers are up 50 per cent after four years of Labour's 'kindness' approach. We've watched as patched gang members have taken over our streets like they, not law-abiding taxpayers, own the place.

Labour's soft on crime approach just fertilised the growing gang problem. This is the dangerous side of Jacinda's kindness. She likes to blame Australia, but only two percent of new gang members are '501s' sent from there. We need a Government that takes responsibility for what's happening on its watch.

ACT has been listening. You deserve better. You deserve safer. We will make New Zealand a safer and better place for you.



David Seymour,
ACT Leader



Overview

ACT has long put the focus on victims of crime, rather than coddling offenders. We introduced the Three Strikes Law, which sent a clear signal to the worst one percent of offenders: we won't tolerate repeat violent offending. ACT will fight any attempts from the Government to repeal three strikes.

We have stood up for law abiding firearms users who have been punished for doing nothing wrong.

ACT values free speech, we have been the main opponents of Hate Speech laws. Those laws would criminalise people even for insulting someone. The penalties for hate speech would send them to prison for longer than someone who assaults a child. It's cancel culture on steroids.

We have also put two constructive Member's Bills in the Ballot from Nicole McKee and Toni Severin.

One Bill would hit the gangs in their pockets, delivering a new tool for Police to seize assets connected with significant criminal activity by gangs, especially crime involving illegal firearms.

If you're a member of a gang, with an illegal gun, dealing illegal drugs, it's open season on your assets.

By toughening up the proceeds of crime act, ACT would ensure organised crime doesn't pay.

A second Bill says, no rehab, no parole. It focuses on the many barriers prisoners face to gaining employment post-release, such as poor literacy, numeracy and educational underachievement.

This results in many offenders falling back into criminal activity that sees them back within a corrections facility. Under ACT's policy, upskilling for life outside would become mandatory for getting outside early. Parole cannot be granted until rehabilitation or skills programmes are completed.

The current approach sees more New Zealanders becoming victims, more costs being incurred for taxpayers, and lost potential for those who end up in a corrections facility. ACT's policy would help to ensure people released from prison are better equipped with the skills to lead a more productive life upon release.

A good opposition proposes, not just opposes. That's why today we're releasing a raft of policies with positive solutions.



Smash the gangs

Gang numbers have exploded under the current Government's watch. In 2017 there were 5,343 gang members on the Police National Gang List. Today, that number is now 8,006. That's a 50 percent increase. This has got to stop. Gangs are responsible for harm and chaos across the country, they peddle drugs, are violent and intimidating. They cause misery in our communities.

Gang injunction orders

• ACT would introduce Gang Injunction Orders

ACT will introduce a new policy to get tough on gangs and reduce the risks they pose to New Zealanders. We would introduce 'Gang Injunction Orders' following similar models used overseas, including the United Kingdom.

Gang Injunction Orders would allow the Police to apply to the Courts for an injunction against an individual on the National Gang List to limit risks of criminal offending from that person. Police would need to have a reasonable belief that the individual posed a particular risk of committing gang related violence or drug-dealing offending.

Under a Gang Injunction Order, the Courts prohibit bad behaviours and require good ones from a person. Examples would include prohibiting someone from being in a particular place or requiring them to participate in rehabilitative activities.

A similar model has been in place in the United Kingdom since 2009 and also used in some parts of the United

States of America. A study in California found they are an effective tool which reduced gang violence by up to 10 percent.

Gang injunctions are a valuable tool in preventing gang-related violence alongside a range of other prevention, detection and enforcement measures.

Gang spending cards

• ACT would introduce electronic monitoring of how individuals on the National Gang List spend any benefit they receive from the Government

ACT would introduce electronic monitoring of how individuals on the National Gang List spend any benefit they receive from the Government.

Almost half of the serious offences committed by gang members are family violence related. According to the Ministry of Social Development a high proportion of gang members' children experience multiple incidents of abuse or neglect. This is unacceptable and we need to ensure that taxpayer money is being used to support families, not to service neglect.

Electronic Income Management has been successfully trialled in Australia. It issues an electronic card with tracked spending and restrictions on alcohol, gambling, and tobacco expenditure.

This policy puts children's welfare at the centre of social policy and limits the neglect often perpetrated by gangs.



Taking the Politics out of Policing

- *ACT would implement a standard annual increase in Police staffing budgets for new police officers*

Successive Governments have turned police numbers into a political football each election. ACT proposes to cut through this politicking and deliver an enduring solution to the public and New Zealand police Force.

ACT would implement a standard annual increase in the Police staffing budget in line with population growth. The allocation would then be provided on a standard four-year Budget cycle which could be adjusted at the start of each new cycle.

Currently New Zealand has approximately 10,000 constabulary officers, or 200 for every 100,000 New Zealanders. This puts us in an approximate equivalence with jurisdictions such as Australia, England and the United States. ACT's policy would ensure that numbers keep up with population.

This would provide a steady increase in funding for police recruitment over time to meet population needs and ensure that Police numbers increase as they are needed, instead of leaving it to hollow political promises.

Supporting Frontline officers

- *ACT would work to continue upgrading Police technology and reduce red tape that police officers face, to free them up for doing their job*
- *ACT proposes an independent review of the IPCA, including what it investigates and how long those investigations take*
- *ACT will repeal the Government's proposed hate speech laws*

The people who join the Police Force do so to help keep New Zealanders safe, and that's what we want them to be doing. The Government needs to be consistently working to improve the ability for police to get on with the job of actually policing.

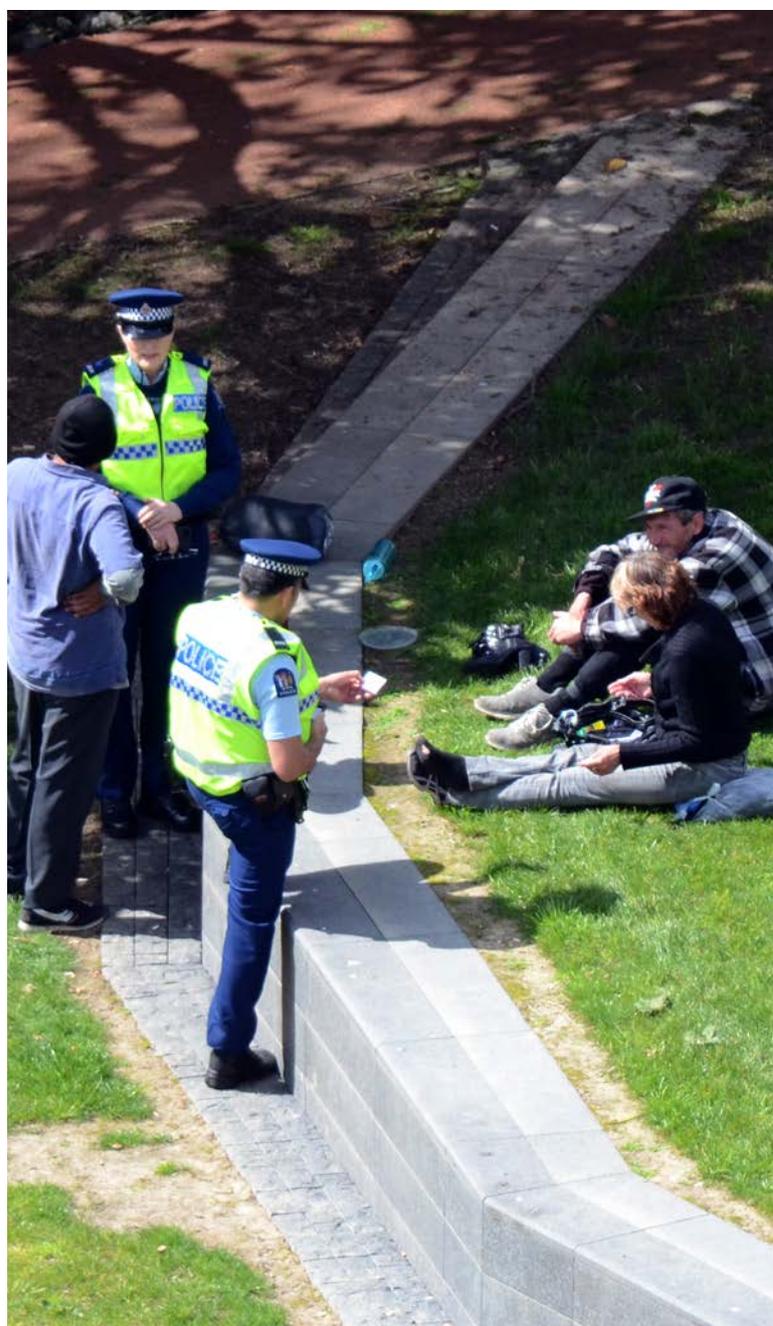
That means we need to be looking for ways to use technology to reduce compliance and paperwork, and take pressure off the administrative end of Police work.

Similarly, many frontline Police feel the IPCA takes too long with its investigations and decisions, leaving Police with a cloud hanging over them while they are investigated. ACT has heard from Police that there are concerns from officers that the IPCA investigates

too many routine incidents. We propose asking for an independent review of the IPCA, including what it investigates and how long those investigations take.

Finally, we need to ensure that the Police are working on what they are best at – engaging with the community and stopping crime. But Government policies like new hate speech laws will simply force Police into tricky and subjective situations adding more bureaucracy to their job.

The Government seems happy to allow an ill-defined proposal to be left to Police to decide how to implement it. ACT is not.



Correcting Corrections

- ACT would abolish the prison reduction target
- ACT would make rehabilitation programmes compulsory prior to an individual being granted parole

Alongside introducing sensible approaches to managing the crimes committed by gangs, we need to get smart about how we manage our prison system.

Labour has a target to reduce the prison population by 30 percent over 15 years. This is madness. The goal of corrections is not to reduce the number of people in prison, it is to keep the rest of us safe. The people who end up in New Zealand's prison system are some of the worst offenders and we do not support ideological targets leading to letting people out of prison. All that does is put more risk on the communities who have already been victimised.

ACT would abolish the target.

However, ACT does believe prison is a place where we should work to ensure that when people leave, they have more skills to pull themselves out of repeat

offending. ACT has a Member's Bill that would make rehabilitation programmes compulsory prior to an individual being granted parole to ensure that they are getting the rehabilitation and skills they need.

Questions

ACT will continue to develop policy to keep New Zealanders safe. We'd like to hear from you on the following topics to help shape our thinking.

Sentencing Settings

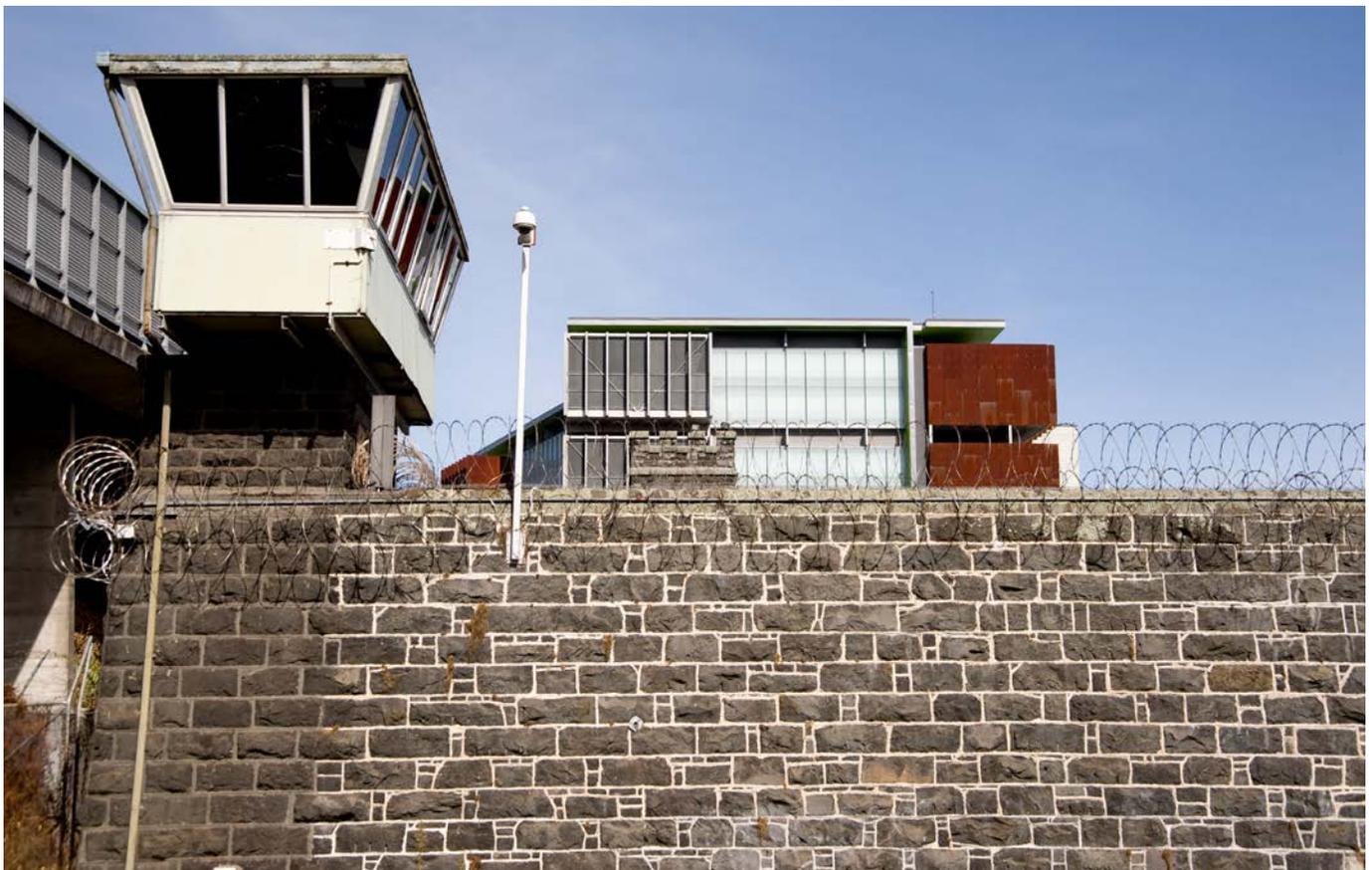
ACT is seeking feedback on whether sentences are long enough.

ACT is seeking feedback on whether concurrent sentencing should be used.

ACT is seeking feedback on what changes should be made to sentencing in New Zealand.

Guard Ratios

ACT is seeking feedback on whether prison guard to prisoner ratios right given reports guards have been unable to intervene in prison violence because of a lack of support?



Summary

How can we ensure that New Zealanders feel safe in their community?

That is the fundamental question ACT asked to focus our plan for making New Zealand a safer place.

The Government is good at passing a whole lot of new laws, but they haven't helped to create more order. We need to be working towards reducing the violent offending and drug peddling that flows from increasing gang membership. Instead, we've seen an approach that has lost focus on what matters – New Zealanders.

ACT's plan would take back control from gangs by introducing new tools to curb violence, drug peddling and neglect. Our plan would deliver support for our frontline police officers and we would get smart about how we use our corrections system.

We believe we can make New Zealand a safer place and that's what our plan sets out to do.

If you would like to provide feedback on any of the ideas contained in this document, please email us at honestconversations@act.org.nz.





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