

# Policy 2017



## Corrections

### Breaking the cycle of reoffending

National is committed to a prison system which keeps dangerous offenders locked away and communities safe. We have invested significantly to boost prison capacity to meet a rising prison population.

We are also committed to putting offenders on a better path in life and ensuring they don't reoffend. The Government is making a record investment in rehabilitation and reintegration – with a focus on education and employment.

Getting prisoners off drugs and alcohol, giving them an education and providing them with practical skills so they can find a job will reduce their chances of reoffending. This means safer communities, less crime and fewer repeat offenders clogging up our courts and prisons.

**"We will continue to invest in rehabilitation and reintegration to put offenders on a better path and reduce reoffending."**

**- Corrections spokesperson Louise Upston**

### Policy highlights

- \$190m more in rehabilitation and reintegration this year – a 60 per cent increase since 2008
- With working prisons the number of offenders in rehabilitation programmes has risen from 9,300 in 2008 to over 33,500
- Those who complete rehabilitation programmes and can prove they no longer pose a danger to society will be able to leave prison slightly earlier
- 26 per cent fewer reoffenders since 2011, meaning 38,000 fewer victims of crime
- Passed legislation to detain high-risk sexual or violent offenders until they no longer pose a threat to public safety
- Opened a new facility to hold our highest-risk offenders once their sentence has ended
- New powers to require offenders to undergo drug and alcohol testing, with positive results at an all-time low
- Introduced alcohol anklets to monitor our highest-risk offenders
- Cameras, pepper spray and body armour for Corrections staff to keep them safe

# National is...

## Investing in rehabilitation and reintegration

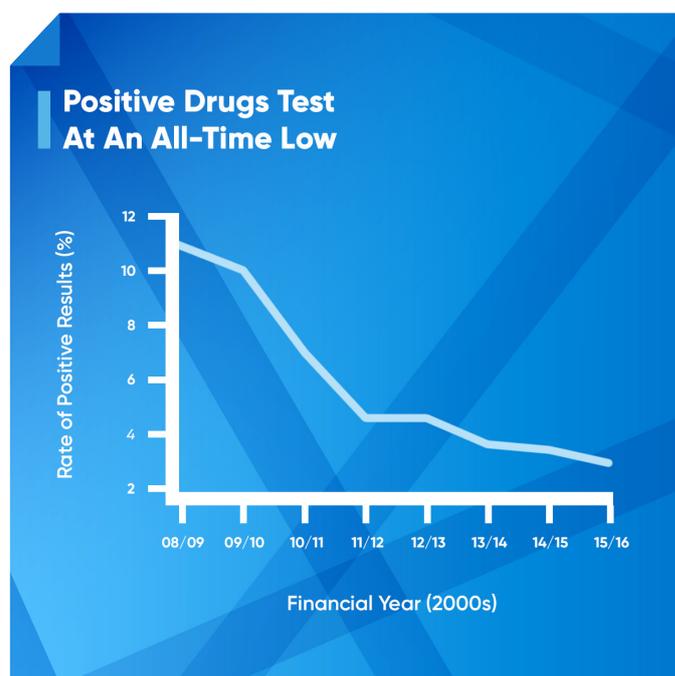
- \$64m for more rehabilitation, reintegration and staff in Budget 2017
- \$25m to support offenders when they leave prison and return to the community to increase their chances of reintegrating successfully in Budget 2016
- \$8.6m to provide ongoing support for 8,000 offenders who have completed drug and alcohol treatment programmes to ensure they stick to it in Budget 2016
- We have also invested \$19.8m in a kaupapa-Maori reintegration unit to help prisoners secure employment and accommodation in Budget 2010
- \$14m to help offenders and their families cope with mental health challenges from the Justice Sector Fund

## Supporting our staff

- We've provided better access to pepper spray for staff to ensure a safe prison environment
- They also have access to body armour and on-body cameras
- \$51.6m for Community Corrections to properly and safely manage the growing number and complexity of community-based offenders

## Investing in technology

- Greater use of GPS monitoring of offenders including investing \$8.8m for 24-hour monitoring of our highest risk offenders
- Provided audio-visual links between courts and prisons to free up more time for other court business, improve public safety and reduce the opportunities for prisoners to escape or introduce contraband
- Rolled out 1000 on-body cameras for prison staff to help reduce violence in prisons
- Introduced alcohol anklets to monitor our highest-risk offenders
- Piloting alcohol interlock devices in offenders' cars to help reduce recidivist drink driving



# Our results...

## Modern prisons

- We have a comprehensive programme to ensure our prison system is fit-for-purpose
- Completed a new 960-bed prison in South Auckland which has a rehabilitation and reintegration focus to help prisoners onto a better path after release
- Opened a new facility to hold our highest-risk offenders once their sentence has ended
- We've made greater use of double-bunking at Mt Eden, Christchurch Men's, Arohata, Hawke's Bay, Whanganui, New Plymouth and Northland prisons

**Since 2011, the rate of reoffending has fallen by 4.4 per cent and the total number of reoffenders has fallen by 26 per cent.**

This means there have been 9400 fewer reoffenders and 38,000 fewer victims of crime

**The number of offenders in a rehabilitation programme has risen from 9,300 in 2008 to over 33,500 this year – an increase of 260%.**

## Record numbers in rehabilitation

- We've increased investment in rehabilitation programmes by 60 per cent since 2008 because this helps reduce reoffending and the amount of crime
- More than 3,500 prisoners in education and over 4,600 achieved qualifications
- Almost 9,000 prisoners in employment activities, equipping offenders with practical skills for life after prison
- Drug and alcohol treatment delivered to almost 22,000 offenders in the community and over 6,400 prisoners – 50 per cent of crime is committed by those under the influence of alcohol or drugs, so treatment is critical to tackling offending

# What we will do next...

## Reduce offending through rehabilitation

### Rewarding self-improvement

- Rehabilitation programmes can have a big impact on a prisoner's chance of reoffending – programmes for violent offenders and those with drug and alcohol issues can reduce a person's chance of reoffending by up to 16 per cent
- We will allow suitable, low-risk offenders to leave prison slightly earlier if they successfully complete rehabilitation programmes
- We will also invest \$48m in more treatment and training programmes for prisoners

### Parents and children

- Having a parent in prison leads to poorer outcomes for children. They are more likely to offend, achieve no school qualifications, go on to a benefit or receive a prison sentence themselves
- We will expand a programme which allows parents who are in prison to have healthy contact with their young children, as long as it is in the best interests of the child and supports the reintegration of the parent

## Upgrading our prisons

- Complete a new 1500-bed facility at Waikeria
- Build a new wing at Mount Eden prison
- Rebuild Auckland Prison's maximum security wing to provide a secure, modern facility to improve staff safety and mental health services
- Upgrade New Zealand's oldest prisons – Invercargill, Whanganui, Tongariro and Rolleston
- Completing small-scale builds at Hawke's Bay, Arohata, Christchurch Men's, Rolleston and Tongariro prisons

### Improving outcomes for first-time remandees

- We don't want people who are on remand for the first time to return to prison – first-time remandees are often lower risk and have drug and alcohol or mental health issues
- We will expand alcohol, drug, literacy and numeracy programmes for this group to improve their outcomes and reduce their chances of returning to prison

### Extended Supervision Orders

- ESOs are used to monitor and manage high-risk violent or sexual offenders who are back in the community
- We will work to ensure there are tougher sanctions for the small number of offenders who repeatedly breach their ESO conditions