

Tackling the long term challenges in our law and order system

Labour will:

- **Roll out the Te Ara Oranga meth treatment programme to 4000 more people**
- **Establish an Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court in Hawke's Bay**
- **Expand Māori Pathways prison rehabilitation programme to Wāhine**
- **Strengthen the Māori, Pacific and Ethnic Services Group within Police**

Labour is working harder and smarter to keep our communities safe, break the cycle of offending and tackle the root causes of crime to better support victims and their families.

We are focused on tackling long term challenges to make intergenerational change. Thirty years of locking more people up for longer has not made communities safer and has resulted in a reoffending rate of 61 percent. Labour is committed to breaking this cycle. We know this requires a different way of working, using evidence based approaches in all areas of our law and order system.

We saw that the previous National Government's approach to law and order did not work and was marked by failure. The prison population increased to 10,000 in 2017 and was on track to increase by over 4,000 in a decade, plans were developed for a billion-dollar US-style mega prison, and more Māori were incarcerated. Under Judith Collins as Minister, the ratio of Police per head of population worsened from 1:501 in 2009 to 1:541 in mid-2017 and Family Court reforms resulted in lengthy delays. The reforms also saw a massive increase in 'without notice' applications - from 30 percent of all applications in 2014 to 70 percent.

Labour has starting implementing an approach for our law and order system that is oriented around improving the wellbeing of people and communities by keeping them safe, healthy and crime-free. We will continue to improve our law and order system by targeting initiatives towards enduring issues affecting our communities: use of methamphetamine and other drugs, persistent rates of incarcerated women, and disproportionately high rates of Māori prosecutions and convictions.

This will build on Labour's history of creating safer communities

Already in our first term:

- Our rollout of record numbers of new Police has seen the ratio of Police per head of population come down to 1 Police officer per 496 people as at February 2020. Total Police numbers have increased by 14.8 percent in three years, after attrition. Almost half of the growth in the Police workforce is made up of female officers.
- We have changed the face of modern Police to ensure it better reflects the communities it serves. There are 22 percent more Māori officers, 41 percent more Pasifika officers, and 85 percent more Asian officers than at mid-2017.
- We have started tackling demand for methamphetamine and gone hard against those who supply and profit from it. Extra Police enables specialist investigative teams to disrupt organised drug distribution networks like white collar criminals and gangs. Record methamphetamine seizures by Police and Customs in 2019 amounted to 1.8 tonnes of meth. More than 60 clandestine methamphetamine labs have been busted by Police this

year. On top of that our \$1.9 billion investment in mental health and addiction services will also make a difference in treating those dealing with drug abuse.

- We have also started targeting other drug use in New Zealand. We changed the Misuse of Drugs Act to reclassify two main synthetic drugs as Class A, which gave Police new powers to go after dealers. We also gave Police explicit discretion to determine whether a health-centred or therapeutic approach would be in the public interest when deciding whether or not to prosecute for possession and use of all drugs. This has already resulted in 562 people having a health referral, rather than just a warning, so they can get real support.
- We moved swiftly in the wake of the March 15 terrorist attacks to reform our gun laws. Successive Governments failed to act despite multiple reviews since 1997. In Government, we banned assault rifles and military style semi-automatics, toughened penalties for gun crime, tightened licensing rules and passed legislation for a firearms register to ensure guns do not fall into the wrong hands.
- After years of a rapidly rising prison population, we have safely reduced the prison population and just yesterday we saw the population drop below 9,000 for the first time since 2016.
- Labour has started improving the Family Court system to respond to the Te Korowai Ture ā-Whānau report and roll-back National's failed reforms. We have invested an additional \$62 million so far and started by restoring the right to legal representation in early stages of the Court process to cut down on delays, and establishing new Family Justice Liaison Officers to help families navigate the system.

Labour will roll out the Te Ara Oranga methamphetamine treatment programme to 4000 more people

Methamphetamine is a devastating drug and it is ruining lives. It can have a horrific impact, especially on our youth and most vulnerable people. It affects not only the person using it, but their families, friends and their wider community.

Supporting communities ravaged by methamphetamine use is critical for New Zealand to thrive.

We will continue to tackle this issue using a twin track approach of targeting both supply and demand by getting methamphetamine off our streets, while boosting wrap-around support to address addiction, to improve wellbeing for people and families, and build resilience.

Labour will expand the Te Ara Oranga methamphetamine harm reduction pilot to support other communities around New Zealand harmed by high methamphetamine use.

Te Ara Oranga is a methamphetamine harm reduction pilot in Northland led by Northland District Health Board (DHB) and Police. Te Ara Oranga is about engaging the community and agencies, focusing on delivering a holistic approach to health and policing to produce better outcomes for all. The initiative links evidence-based health services with Police prevention and enforcement activity.

Te Ara Oranga aligns the resources of Police and the DHB to reduce supply through targeted enforcement, and reduce demand by identifying users and engaging them in a recovery-based treatment approach before they become involved in the Court process. It supports long-term change in methamphetamine users by providing intensive clinical interventions, employment

support, and a range of psychosocial supports, leading to better outcomes for them, their families and their community.

Through Te Ara Oranga in Northland we have already seen:

- referrals to treatment rose from 24 to 611 between December 2017 and June 2020
- arrests rose from 9 to 195 between December 2017 and June 2020
- 1,899 treatment cases managed by methamphetamine focused clinicians
- 95 people supported into new jobs

This evidence reflects an effective programme that we want rolled out to other communities dealing with the impacts of methamphetamine use.

Labour will invest an additional \$38 million over four years to provide support for around 4,000 people addicted to methamphetamine, and their families.

Our expansion will start with communities where evidence such as wastewater testing indicates high use of methamphetamine, including East Coast and Bay of Plenty.

Labour will establish an Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court in Hawke's Bay

As part of our new direction for criminal justice reform, Labour has already begun the expansion of Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment (AODT) Courts with a new Court being established in Hamilton, while also making the AODT Court trials in Auckland and Waitakere permanent.

Drugs and alcohol cause significant harm to our communities and can often be the cause of repeat and persistent offending. That's why Labour will establish an AODT Court in Hawke's Bay at a cost of \$11 million over four years.

AODT Courts aim to tackle the drivers of crime such as alcohol, drug use, and addiction. Through these Courts, people with an alcohol and/or drug addiction that may be contributing to a pattern of offending can have access to treatment under the close supervision of the Court, instead of going to prison. This decreases the likelihood of reoffending. Within two years, AODT Court participants are 23 percent less likely to reoffend for any offence, 35 percent less likely to re-offend for a serious offence, and 25 percent less likely to be imprisoned.

We know there is high prevalence of drug use in Hawke's Bay and there is significant community support for an AODT Court in the region. We will work with the judiciary, health services, local iwi, and the Hawke's Bay community to establish a Hawke's Bay AODT Court project, to scope and set up the Court. Further funding will be made available if additional treatment facilities are required in order to support the Court. We will move quickly to establish the AODT Court project and aim to have the Court up and running within a year.

In addition to this commitment, in the medium to longer term, Labour will continue improving access to therapeutic and specialist courts such as the Sexual Violence Courts, Matariki Court, Special Circumstances Court, New Beginnings Court, and Rangatahi Courts and Pasifika Courts.

Labour will expand the Māori Pathways prison rehabilitation programme to Wāhine

Māori women have high rates of incarceration and the numbers are climbing. Māori women make up 68 percent of the women's prison population.

However, our corrections system has largely been built around the needs of male offenders. Research has shown that women respond differently to treatment and management.

We know that a high proportion of women offenders can have complex and entwined histories of severe trauma, mental health issues, substance abuse, family violence situations and poverty that have contributed to their offending.

More needs to be done to ensure women in prison have access to the treatment, encouragement, counselling, skills and support they need to shape better futures for themselves, their children and families.

That's why Labour will introduce Wāhine Māori Pathways.

In our first term we introduced the Māori Pathways programme - a kaupapa Māori and whānau-centred approach for offenders, from pre-sentence through to reintegration and transition into the community. It includes Māori trauma and mental health support, expanded rehabilitation services for those in high security, housing transition support, dedicated employment services and increased whānau, hapū and iwi engagement.

Labour has already invested \$98 million in two Māori Pathways programmes which are being implemented in men's prisons, and involve Corrections, Te Puni Kōkiri, and the Ministry of Social Development. Māori pathways in Ngāti Kahungunu, Hawke's Bay is currently operating and they are already seeing real change in the behaviour of some of our toughest prisoners, in the culture of the people inside, and the determination by many of the men to make real change – some after over a decade behind bars. Work is underway to co-design the second Māori Pathway programme at Ngawha, Northland.

Labour wants to ensure our women in prison have access to this new type of support. Although the underlying values of a kaupapa Māori pathway through prison will continue to underpin the new women's pathway, Wāhine Māori Pathways will be developed to better suit the rehabilitation and reintegration needs of women in corrections care.

We will work with Māori to develop the kaupapa Māori-based pathway for wāhine to improve rehabilitation and reintegration starting at Christchurch Women's Prison. This programme will reflect a focus on creating better outcomes by helping women rebuild and maintain relationships, or extricating themselves from violent or dysfunctional relationships. This is estimated to cost \$10 million in capital and operating expenditure over four years.

Labour will strengthen the Māori, Pacific and Ethnic Services group within Police

In Government, we have focused on increasing the number of Police on our streets and creating a workforce that reflects our communities. Already we have deployed 2,255 new Police with total Police numbers increasing by 14.8 percent in three years, after attrition. As part of this there are 219 more Māori officers, 176 more Pacific officers and 213 more Asian officers since mid-2017. This is important as we know that policing New Zealand's diverse population requires officers with

strong cultural competency to interact effectively with people from different backgrounds and experiences.

Police have made a substantial effort over the past 20 years to improve responsiveness to Māori victims and offenders, and grow its network of iwi liaison officers. New Police recruits are trained to respect the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and value diversity. There are also now formal relationships with iwi, Pacific and ethnic community organisations and independent external advisory boards. Police continue to develop new ways of working to find solutions by Māori for Māori. Labour supports this process of continual improvement.

We know that we still have steps to take to ensure our Police force is more culturally responsive and New Zealanders have trust in our Police. Māori and Pacific people are overrepresented in victimisations, arrests and convictions. Māori in particular often have lower trust and confidence in the Police, which tends to be shaped by personal or whānau experience and can cross generations.

Labour will work with the Police Commissioner to strengthen Māori, Pacific and Ethnic Services within Police as the workforce continues to grow. This group within Police is focused on improving relationships on the ground and navigating strategic and localised cultural issues. We will strengthen this group by:

- Ensuring the Commissioner and his senior executive team have capacity to continue the momentum of growth in Iwi Liaison Officers (ILOs) and Ethnic Liaison Officers (ELOs) in line with increased Police numbers
- Maximise opportunities for the wider Police workforce to adopt and learn from successful policing initiatives and strategies developed by ILOs and ELOs
- Continue the ongoing mahi of the Te Pae Oranga iwi community panels which offer alternative resolution options for low-level offending, keep first time offenders out of the criminal justice pipeline, and offer meaningful resolution for victims

There are currently 102 dedicated officers in Māori, Pacific and Ethnic Services, an increase of 44 percent under Labour in our first term. We are already seeing the impacts of this work.

- ELOs played an important part in the aftermath of the Christchurch Terrorist attacks. Specialist ELOs were amongst the 1,072 extra Police deployed to Christchurch after March 15 to increase the visibility of Police and provide reassurance to communities who felt vulnerable. The ability to draw on specialist staff allowed people to feel protected, supported, and able to go about their daily lives in safety
- Te Pae Oranga panels have resulted in a 22.5 percent drop in harm from reoffending already. These panels provide an alternative way to hold people to account for their offending, work together to repair the damage caused and support the individual in making better decisions for an improved future

On top of this commitment, Labour will also continue to ensure growth in the Police workforce to reflect population growth. We will strive to maintain a ratio of officers to per head of population of around 1:500, while equipping these officers with the tools and experience they need to protect and support our diverse nation.

Labour will continue our work to fix our law and order system

A better justice system

Labour will continue the reform of our criminal justice system. To do this we need to both address immediate issues with the current system and also deliver a long-term plan for changing the system.

Labour will:

- Implement our criminal justice reforms and respond to the recommendations from *Hāpaitia te Oranga Tangata - Safe and Effective Justice* in order to make communities safer and address the root causes of crime
- Reform the Family Court by implementing the recommendations of Te Korowai Ture ā-Whānau family justice reforms to ensure that children affected by family violence and disputes receive appropriate support, representation, and protection in the justice system
- Pass legislation that will help reduce the trauma that sexual violence victims may experience when they attend court and give evidence
- Repeal the three strikes law which is leading to absurd results and instead focus on building a criminal justice system that ensures less crime, less offending and fewer victims of crime who are better supported
- Continue to make improvements so everyone has appropriate access to justice, including through legal aid and Community Law Centres
- Continue to roll out our additional investment of \$111.5 million to address backlogs in the court system

A modern and effective Corrections system

Labour is also committed to delivering our new approach for prisons in New Zealand by putting public safety first while delivering real rehabilitation and mental health support to reduce reoffending.

Labour will:

- Continue to safely reduce the prison population through a strategy of prevention, rehabilitation, whānau and victim support, targeting a safe 30 percent reduction over 15 years
- Implement Corrections' new operational strategy, Hōkai Rangi, which underpins major transformational system and culture change within Corrections

More Police and evidence based initiatives to tackle crime

We will keep up the momentum to improve community safety, enhance the wellbeing of New Zealanders, and grow a more diverse and inclusive Police organisation.

Labour will:

- Keep up the pressure on tackling organised crime, gangs and harmful drug use by ensuring Police and other enforcement agencies have the resources and powers to disrupt and

prosecute this offending, seize the proceeds of crime, and hold to account the ringleaders of organised crime networks

- Support proactive, evidence-based policing to keep our communities safe, with a continued focus on family harm, the road toll, and firearms offending
- Combat cyber-crime and serious financial crime through effective partnerships between agencies including the Serious Fraud Office and Inland Revenue Department.