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ON THE COVER: Working together: Area Adviser Māori Barney Tihema from the Corrections Māori Services Team (on right) and Service Provider Don Hutana at Hawke’s Bay Regional Prison Te Tirohanga.

Let us know if you have any ideas about stories that you’d like to see in upcoming issues. You can email commdesk@corrections.govt.nz.
Welcome to this special edition of Corrections Works, which focuses on our work with Māori offenders, whānau, and providers to achieve positive, lasting change.

For the last three decades people who identify as Māori have been disproportionately represented among the offender population; 43.9 percent of offenders in the community and 50.7 percent of those in prison.

We know that reducing the likelihood of someone re-offending can have far-reaching benefits for them and their family. At the same time, failing to address the causes of offending can have dire consequences for those around them for many years to come.

Every time we steer someone away from offending, we spare their partners, their children, and their communities more harm. That’s why our work is so important.

In this issue you will read about some of the many ways we make a difference.

We’ve launched Te Tirohanga – a national kaupapa Māori based rehabilitation programme for prisoners in five whare. There is a clear benefit gained by having interventions designed, developed and delivered with Māori to maximise their impact. We’ve strengthened our Māori Services Team across the regions to drive engagement with local iwi and service providers. It’s these relationships that will keep our efforts grounded. Within our districts we’ve launched initiatives tailored to address offending by young Māori in their communities.

All of this mahi (work) represents a significant investment in funding and resources, especially by our people and our partners. There is much work still to be done but as you can see, our journey is well underway.

Our goal to reduce re-offending by 25 percent by 2017 is an ambitious one, but like the industrious grub gnawing through the kahikatea, if we persist we can achieve it.

He iti hoki te mokoroa, nana i kakati te kahikatea.

Although the grub is only little, it still gnaws through the big white pine tree.

Mauri ora!
Ray Smith
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
In October 2013 we launched the programme at the first of five prisons in the North Island with a mission to reinvigorate and unify our five former Māori Focus Units – now known as Te Tirohanga (The Focus).

The programme is running in Hawke’s Bay, Rimutaka, Waikeria, Tongariro/Rangipō and Whanganui Prisons where the whare or units provide a strong kaupapa Māori environment using the five values of wairua, whānau, kaitiaki, manaaki and rangatira.

Corrections developed Te Tirohanga in collaboration with iwi and contracted providers from each site to ensure the programme’s cultural integrity and rehabilitative effectiveness. The whare have a goal to reduce re-offending by 30 percent among men who complete the programme.

‘EXCEPTIONALLY WELL’

Area Adviser Māori Barney Tihema from the Māori Services Team is overseeing the ongoing implementation of Te Tirohanga. “We’ve done exceptionally well given the scope of what we’re trying to do. We have a 77 percent retention rate across all sites – and that would be higher if our tāne were not being released part way through.”

Barney says that’s a tribute to the providers, the staff, and the tāne themselves. “This programme has made such a difference that when our tāne become eligible for parole, they can demonstrate they’ve made real progress and gained valuable insight to help them stay offence free in the community.”

The whare staff are also proud of the 83 percent completion rate for Te Tirohanga’s core intervention, Mauri Tu Pae, the revised therapeutic programme equivalent to the medium intensity rehabilitation programme.

WHĀNAU-CENTRIC

Whānau have a strong role to play in supporting their tāne during their time in Te Tirohanga and as they prepare to return to the community. “We’ve had some encouraging feedback from whānau who have experienced Te Tirohanga and seen the work their tāne are doing. This relationship building is one of the keys to successful reintegration for our men.”

Barney says that’s where the pou arataki, or specialist liaison staff, at each site have had a huge impact. They’re helping men see a new role for themselves in their families that’s about making a positive contribution.

With a rolling intake of new tāne beginning the programme, Te Tirohanga is firmly fixed in the Corrections landscape. “We’ve taken the best of both worlds – a western treatment model and kaupapa Māori values and making a real difference,” says Barney.

He’s looking forward to seeing the first tāne complete the 18-month programme early next year.

Te Tirohanga Project team in Whanganui in September 2013. The team includes Corrections staff from National Office and Te Tirohanga whare, and programme providers.

Te Tirohanga: Focused on Māori rehabilitation

It’s been a momentous year for everyone involved in Te Tirohanga – Corrections’ national kaupapa Māori rehabilitation programme.
TE TIROHANGA KEEPS PARTICIPANTS BUSY AT LEAST EIGHT HOURS A DAY WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO:

- work towards a qualification
- take part in rehabilitation programmes
- strengthen connections with whānau and other supports before release
- connect with reintegration and employment services.

A PHASED APPROACH:

**Phase one** aims to lock in wellbeing within each man using tikanga programmes and activities such as kapa haka, carving, weaving and te reo Māori.

**Phase two** focuses on rehabilitation through the delivery of the Mauri Tu Pae programme, a core rehabilitation programme addressing the causes of their offending.

**Phase three** provides drug and alcohol treatment. Tāne who don’t need it make an early start on phase four.

**Phase four** aims to get tāne work-ready with employment-related education and qualifications.

**Phase five** moves tāne into Release to Work spaces.

**Phase six** prepares their transition from Te Tirohanga to self-care units, and reintegration with families, employers and support people.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

KUA HINGA TE TOTARA O TE WAO-NUI-A-TĀNE

Corrections acknowledges the sudden passing of Reuben Hahipene on 19 September 2014. He and his wife Te Mare were among the key Māori providers instrumental in the design and development of Te Tirohanga at Tongariro/Rangipō Prison. Reuben and Te Mare became key motivators supporting and embedding Te Tirohanga at Te Hikoinga whare. Reuben will be missed by whare staff, prison management and the tāne whose lives he sought to change for the better.

Kāore ā te rākau whakāro
Kei te tohunga te whakāro
The material that one works with does not dictate what it will become
It is the craftsman’s skill which informs the task.
When Corrections revamped its Māori Therapeutic Programme, we worked collaboratively with Māori service providers every step of the way. The renamed Mauri Tu Pae is a core rehabilitation programme which enables prisoners to reflect upon and change the thoughts, attitudes and behaviours that led to their offending. Whānau are involved and the programme helps prisoners develop strategies for maintaining positive change. Mauri Tu Pae is offered at the five Te Tirohanga and at Northland Regional Corrections Facility.

The previous Māori Therapeutic Programme delivered good results – offenders who completed it had reconviction rates 15 percentage points lower than those who had not, says Corrections Director Māori Neil Campbell, but wasn’t being run consistently around the country. “We got the providers in and looked at all the good things they were doing, plus what we could do to enhance the programme. We need to know that what is being delivered to offenders is effective,” says Neil. “The Department has been courageous trusting the track record of our Māori service providers. It’s a sound programme, delivering effective results with our support.”

The same approach was used with the redesign of the Tikanga Māori Programme, now known as Te Ihu Waka. Te Ihu Waka (the bow of the waka) is a framework developed in partnership with contracted tikanga providers and aimed at offenders in prison and the community.

The framework is based on four kaupapa (principles):
> Manaakitanga (caring for each other)
> Whānaungatanga (relationships)
> Rangatiratanga (leadership and responsibility)
> Wairuatanga (spirituality)

Te Ihu Waka is designed for Māori offenders and those who identify as Māori. However, many non-Māori (for example those with Māori children or partners) benefit from attending.

The framework is being piloted over a year with selected providers with different approaches for male, female and youth offenders in prison and the community.

Around 20 – 30 Māori service providers are contracted to Corrections at any one time. Many have worked with offenders for decades. The feedback now, says Neil, is that as an organisation we are becoming a more inclusive partner. The new approach is paying off and Corrections is building stronger relationships with iwi.

“If you’re not involving and including the right people, it’s an inefficient way of running a project. We’ve become more deliberate in what we do. We look more to empirical evidence and take a robust approach. We start with the end in mind.”
FOCUS ON: DON HUTANA

Contractor Don Hutana (Ngati Kahungunu, Rangitane and Ngai Tahu) was involved with developing the Mauri Tu Pae (MTP) programme and Te Ihu Waka framework and is based at Hawkes Bay Regional Prison’s Te Tirohanga. Don has worked with Māori prisoners for the last decade.

MTP is a combination of Western models of therapy, such as cognitive behavioural therapy, alongside Māori models, such as Te Wheke.

“The programme incorporates a lot of the wisdom of the old ways, and is permeated with whakatauki (proverbs),” says Don.

MTP has been running since the start of last year. First the prisoners go through an introductory phase at Te Tirohanga. “By the time they get to us they are interested in addressing their offending,” Don says. “The attitude and commitment of the guys is a lot better than it was. They love the Māori content.”

Despite being highly qualified, Don says his main skills were gained from life experience and sitting alongside some really knowledgeable kaumātua.

“I have a passion for having as many Māori as possible not go back to prison. I know the pain parents and grandparents go through when a child is in prison.”

FOCUS ON: MAHI TAHI

2015 marks the 20th year that Mahi Tahi Akoranga Trust (Mahi Tahi) has been delivering tikanga programmes in prisons. The Trust’s work centres on the four day, sleep-in New Life Akoranga wānanga which helps offenders change their hearts and minds by discovering and recovering traditional Māori principles, values and disciplines.

The programme also involves support from whānau, hapū and iwi. A key feature is using ex-prisoners who have turned away from a life of crime to deliver the wānanga.

Trust Pou Whakahaere Vince Copeland says, “The wānanga is successful in achieving change because it brings offenders to acceptance of three key kaupapa: that their cultural inheritance has value, that their offending offends against tikanga Māori as well as against the laws of the land, and that their Māori heritage has the power to motivate and sustain them in making profound changes in their outlook and behaviour.”

The benefits include prisoners improving interpersonal relationships (with whānau, other prisoners and staff), adopting a genuine approach to therapeutic programmes, and increasing their sense of identity and belonging as Māori (particularly for gang members).

Wānanga are delivered in mainstream units to prepare prisoners for Te Tirohanga. The Trust currently delivers around 17 programmes in prisons across New Zealand.
Reintegration – focusing on the people

Research shows offenders are less likely to re-offend if they have the right support around to help them reintegrate. The key areas are employment, accommodation, education and training, and skills for life.

 Corrections Director Māori Neil Campbell says people sometimes hear that ‘around 50 percent of offenders are Māori’ and feel hopeless. “However, when I point out that 95 percent of Māori are law-abiding citizens, that re-frames the whole issue for them. There are plenty of Māori out there who are helping offenders reintegrate and supporting them to live crime-free – and Corrections is working with many of them.”

Using reintegration partners, from dedicated volunteers like our kaiwhakamana (kuia and kaumatua who visit prisons to support Māori prisoners) to contracted service providers, the focus is on the people.
WHARE ORANGA AKE – A KAUPAPA MĀORI ENVIRONMENT

The Department’s two Whare Oranga Ake reintegration units, at Spring Hill Corrections Facility and Hawkes Bay Regional Prison, provide a kaupapa Māori environment for selected prisoners nearing the end of their sentence.

Māori practices, language and values are woven through all activities and interactions of the units. The programme and the day-to-day running of the units are provided by skilled Māori community service providers.

At Spring Hill the services are provided by Raukura Waikato Social Services and at Hawke’s Bay, by Choices Kahungunu Health Services.

Prisoners are supported to look for and obtain employment and/or to develop a new career path through training. The programme also works to ensure there is community support for prisoners on release by linking them to community support networks.

“We work alongside offenders to create an individual reintegration plan that supports the transition from prison to living in the community,” says Sam Christie.

The key cultural focus is to support prisoners to reconnect with their culture, identity, hapū/iwi and community and to restore whānau relationships.

Choices Reintegration Co-ordinator Sam Christie says 13 of the 15 offenders based in the Hawke’s Bay Whare Oranga Ake are in full time work. “We work alongside offenders to create an individual reintegration plan that supports the transition from prison to living in the community,” says Sam. “An important part of that transition is maintenance programmes. We ensure that relapse prevention plans are robust and keep the offenders and the community safe.”

The two whare, which are located on prison land outside the secure perimeter fence, opened in July 2011. Prisoners live communally in the whare and take on all the responsibilities of daily life such as cooking and cleaning.

Whare Oranga Ake target Māori offenders but are open to all prisoners who meet the criteria and who agree to abide by the kaupapa of the whare.

OUT OF GATE IN GOOD HANDS AT NGA WHARE WATEA MARAE

Corrections' reintegration service for short-serving prisoners and remandees, Out of Gate, targets offenders sentenced to two years’ imprisonment or less, or those in custody on remand for 60 days or more.

Statistics show that 64 percent of offenders referred to Out Of Gate are Māori. One of the five providers throughout the country is the National Urban Māori Authority (NUMA) which has a strong cultural approach to their work with offenders.

Based at Nga Whare Watea Marae in South Auckland, they offer a hands-on approach where Out of Gate kaiarahi (guides) travel to Spring Hill and Mt Eden Corrections Facilities in a van and bring newly released prisoners back to the marae.

Deirdre Nehua, Manukau Urban Māori Authority’s (MUMA) Out of Gate Services Manager, says “We welcome them with a quick mihi and karakia to clear the space for a new start. Staff make sure there are fresh scones and a cup of tea. We let them know this is their place, they can come here anytime. Then we take them off to the bank and to get IDs, and to look for somewhere to live. It’s so nice to be able to take the time to do this our way.”

Many of the released prisoners attend a new interactive tikanga programme which started in November, called Waka Hauora. Deirdre explains; “We take them onto the harbour to learn waka ama and how to paddle together. It teaches a lot about teamwork, and that you can have a good time without drugs, alcohol and gangs.”

“We are operating in a way that’s more naturally holistic, and we are Māori working for Māori. I am so delighted that Out of Gate is at this marae,” says Deirdre.

An independent evaluation of how well Out of Gate is contributing to reducing re-offending was completed in November 2014. The evaluation is very positive about all the providers and their efforts over the past 12 months.
Marama and the Māori Wardens

Marama*, 18, was sentenced to 80 hours community work, but struggled to carry it out and was breached for non-compliance. She moved to Hamilton where Corrections placed her with Kirikiriroa Māori Wardens to complete her sentence. The Māori Wardens focus on tikanga and Mauri Ora to help offenders engage with both their sentence and culture.

Kirikiriroa Māori Wardens Project Manager Gloria Dornan takes the time to talk to every offender: “You will get better outcomes if you listen to their story. They come with a history of criminal behaviour. If you’re not judgemental, you can work with that person.”

Marama was placed at Hui te Rangiora Marae to carry out her community work sentence. She did jobs such as cleaning, gardening, and kitchen work when there was a hui or tangi. She also interacted with positive people and learned about marae protocols. In this supportive environment, Marama has now successfully finished her sentence.

Home Detention Enables Chef Training

Josh*, a 50-year old gang member, has been in and out of prison for decades. He grew up in an abusive household and spent time in borstal as a youth. His long list of convictions include unlawful sexual connection, kidnapping, domestic violence, assaulting police and other serious offences.

He has just completed a term of home detention and is training to be a chef at Whanganui’s UCOL. He plans to leave the gang and wants to teach young people how to avoid the gang life.

He credits Corrections for helping him turn his life around when we recommended he get home detention for his latest offending (for a drugs charge) which allowed him to continue with his training. He also acknowledges a Corrections rehabilitation course which gave him the mental tools to start dealing with his violent upbringing.

Robust Partnerships Reduce Re-Offending

Nineteen-year-old Tama*, from a family entrenched in gang culture, notched up 33 convictions in just over a year for offences including theft, drunk driving and assault. He was released from prison, re-arrested within two weeks and sent back. When released the next time, he was identified as someone who might benefit from the Integrated Offending Prevention and Support (IOPS) programme.

IOPS is a joint Corrections and Police-led initiative run in Hamilton, aimed at prolific and problematic offenders (who take up more than half of Police time and have numerous victims). IOPS aims to establish a closer and more robust partnership of agencies working together to reduce re-offending.

Tama was at high risk of re-imprisonment, but, in the last six months, his offending rate has dropped substantially. He’s now choosing to make good decisions on a daily basis and has surrounded himself with positive people.

* All names have been changed

Corrections works with offenders in many varied ways – there’s no ‘one size fits all’ approach, as these examples show. We also work with many external organisations to provide reintegration and rehabilitation opportunities.
Tēnā koutou katoa

As the new Minister of Corrections, I am pleased my first column for Corrections Works is appearing in an issue with a special focus on how Corrections works with Māori. Culturally appropriate services are vital in any business and especially in Corrections. As we know, Māori offenders are over-represented in our prisons and on community sentences. For this reason, Corrections must succeed with Māori to reach our goal of reducing re-offending by 25 percent by 2017.

Corrections is working hard to establish and maintain close relationships with iwi, hapu and cultural groups. As a result of this we want to run rehabilitation programmes for Māori offenders that are effective because they are based on tikanga as well as western treatment models. As Minister, I will be ensuring that these initiatives are based on evidence and translate to practical help to break the cycle of re-offending.

The most important thing in life is people. We must work towards a society where all New Zealanders have the ability to take advantage of opportunities that present themselves. The fact is that most people in prison will be released one day. Along with the rest of society, I want them to become more capable of coping with the demands of modern life and continue to develop the vital connections to whānau and iwi that will help them flourish on the outside.

Over the next few months I will be travelling around the country meeting people in the wider corrections arena and getting fully up to speed with your issues, challenges and aspirations.

I hope to meet some of you while I am out and about. ■

NEW PROGRAMME CONNECTS WITH YOUNG MĀORI

Southern Region Corrections’ staff have taken an innovative approach to addressing the needs of young Māori offenders in the Otago district with the new Tau Kē programme.

Staff worked with Public Health South to develop and run a series of six day-long courses over six weeks, with up to ten community work offenders.

Based around the principles of Te Whare Tapa Wha (the four pillars of Māori health), Tau Kē combines cultural activities and life skills to help participants to identify their needs and make links to kaupapa Māori based support in the community.

Each session involves a visit to or from a community agency, including A3 Kaitiaki, Te Roopu Tautoko Ki Te Tonga, Kokiri Training Centre and Otago Polytechnic, lessons and activities such as goal setting and work and training advice, and developing an understanding of Te Ao Māori and the challenges that face young Māori.

District Manager Raymond Clark says that the programme looks to have achieved its goals of increasing engagement between offenders and staff and empowering participants to take control of their lives and seek the help of service providers for themselves, rather than being mandated to attend.

“Staff report that participants are showing initiative when it comes to engaging with the agencies they were introduced to through the course, for example asking for contact phone numbers for those services. They are also noting better communication between participants and their probation officers.”

Feedback from the young people has also been positive, with one offender saying how grateful he was for the support of the others involved in Tau Kē, who all face similar challenges when trying to make changes within their lives.

Following the success of the first Tau Kē course, staff are keen to expand on the programme in the future. ■
AUCKLAND/WAITEMATA DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD KAUMĀTU%C2%A4 COUNCIL

Long term support for prisoners at Auckland Prison is at the heart of a new collaboration between Corrections Northern Region and the joint Auckland and Waitemata District Health Board Kaumātua Council.

On the council are representatives from iwi across the country, including Ngati Whataua, Ngati Porou and Tuhoe. Corrections Kaumātua Des Ripi says the relationship is an important step for Corrections.

"The idea is to have an ongoing relationship and kōrero between the Kaunihera Kaumātua and the regional commissioner and prison manager that provides support in terms of cultural protocol and guidance," he says.

"It’s wonderful to have a commitment from mana whenua in the Northern Region to undertake iwi engagement with Corrections to this extent. It’s vital they are part of the decision-making process as it will help us, and also our Māori offenders who they will support."

Kaumātua Council representative Pita Pou says the relationship has been excellent. "It makes it easy for us to share our knowledge in an impartial way. The more information we can share the better we can support each other," he says.

The relationship has seen the Board opening its own marae at the Waitemata.

WĀNANGA A WINNER FOR NORTHERN REGION

An initiative between the Open Wānanga of Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, Auckland Prison, Northland Region Corrections Facility (NRCF) and the Serco-run Mt Eden Corrections Facility (MECF) is bearing fruit with 40 prisoners graduating in the first year.

The Papa Ako (learning to learn) programme targets those who are looking at tertiary training for the first time or who have not studied for a long time. Mauri Ora and He Papa Tikanga provide a foundation for cultural identity. The programmes, which run for 36 weeks, are all NZQA accredited and offer the support of a kaitiaki (assessor) from the Open Wānanga.

Currently about 140 prisoners are enrolled, nearly 95 percent of whom are Māori, says Auckland Prison Cultural Consultant Mate Webb.

“We’ve had strong interest for these programmes since they started. It’s also significant that the completion rate has been near perfect,” he says.

Regional Manager of the Open Wānanga for the Tamaki and Taitokerau region, Dean Martin, says the engagement with Corrections has been a valuable learning experience.

“This initiative started in July 2013 with NRCF Chaplain Rev Wimu Te Whiu, MECF Chaplain Rev Amiria Te Whiu, and Mate Webb,” says Mr Martin. "We rate our prison tauira the best students and their work is of a very high standard. I believe education is a major aspect to rehabilitation and I hope our programmes and delivery mode help this."
Regional Highlights

Central

TE WHARE O MANAAKI GIVES ‘WRAP-AROUND’ REINTEGRATION

Prisoners in Te Hikoinga unit (Te Tirohanga at Tongariro/ Rangipō Prison) are benefiting from the services of Te Whare o Manaaki Trust.

The Trust was awarded a contract with Corrections in late 2013 to provide a ‘wrap-around’ programme giving prisoners assistance on release.

The aim is to ease the transition from prison to community by operating within a Te Ao Māori framework which is respectful of mana whānau, hapū, and iwi, and is consistent with the whānau-centric framework of Te Tirohanga.

The programme has two phases. Phase one offers recently released prisoners short-term (three-month) supported accommodation. This intensive phase equips tāne with the skills and support necessary for smooth reintegration into their communities. Constant support from whānau reduces the chance of re-offending.

This support can be in areas such as:
> discussions about behaviour, openness and honesty
> help with domestic skills
> mentoring, emotional support, problem solving and goal setting
> advice and support services for budgeting and financial management
> assistance with employment pathways
> access to programmes such as drug and alcohol treatment, mental health services, stopping domestic violence, and anger management.

The second phase focuses on independent community living. It involves regular follow-up from Te Whare o Manaaki, and helps to build the capacity of the whānau to access services and resources that can assist in building offence-free lives.

Prison Manager Dennis Goodin has seen the positive outcomes of the partnership with Te Whare O Manaaki.

"With intensive and integrated support like this, these men have a real opportunity to turn their lives around. It’s not just about taking one man on this journey, but bringing his entire whānau and support network along for the ride. It’s about knocking down those barriers to success and ensuring they don’t have to take the path by themselves."

MAU RĀKAU AT WAIKERIA

Eighteen prisoners at Waikeria Prison took part in a four-day mau rākau wānanga recently. The mau rākau programme aims to develop an offender’s awareness of and responsibility for his behaviour and its impact on themselves, their whānau, hapū and iwi. Working on the regeneration of Māori identity and practices, the programme equips the men with a willingness and motivation to address their rehabilitation needs, specifically focusing on their offending.

Principal Case Manager Mark Gulliver was impressed with the level of motivation amongst the participants. “The wānanga really promoted positive interactions between prisoners and staff. The men were challenged to look at their motivations and relationships which is a great start to making positive changes.”

Prison Manager Dennis Goodin has seen the positive outcomes of the partnership with Te Whare O Manaaki.

"With intensive and integrated support like this, these men have a real opportunity to turn their lives around. It’s not just about taking one man on this journey, but bringing his entire whānau and support network along for the ride. It’s about knocking down those barriers to success and ensuring they don’t have to take the path by themselves."
AWARD TO TIKANGA PROVIDER

Tikanga provider Wiki Turner (Tuwharetoa, Ngati Hine), who works at Hawkes Bay Regional Prison, recently received the inaugural Te Kakau o te Hoe Award in recognition of her dedication, commitment and contribution to working with Māori prisoners.

Te kakau o te hoe is taken from the whakataukī “Kimihia te matauranga, te kakau o te hoe” (‘seek knowledge and greater understanding as this is the handle of the canoe paddle that will drive you forward’). Recipients of this award are considered to be the handle of the paddle – the strongest part of the implement that drives the kaupapa forward.

Known to the men as Whaea Wiki, she has been teaching weaving for more than 35 years to help prisoners learn about family bonds and human relationships. They also learn about the environment and kaitiaki tanga (guardianship and protection).

She says the process of weaving makes the prisoners very aware that this is a way forward.

“We see a huge movement in the men who have participated in weaving. Our visitors are in awe when they see the energy that greets them.”

This year Wiki also received a Highly Commended certificate at the Arts Access Awards. The judges commented: “We commend Wiki’s outstanding vision, commitment and passion in using tikanga, harakeke and te reo Māori to support the healing and rehabilitation of prisoners at Hawkes Bay Regional Prison.”

DRIVER LICENCE SUCCESS FOR YOUNG MĀORI OFFENDERS

Since January, 59 young Māori offenders in the Lower North region have gained their learner driver licences, thanks to an intensive one-day learning session.

The session is part of the Driver Licence and Pathway Assistance Course for community-based Māori offenders aged under 25. The aim is to strengthen their reintegration and help them lead an offence-free life.

“Not only is an offender able to drive legally, their confidence is boosted and they have a real sense of achievement,” says Corrections Programme Co-ordinator Natalie Hazelwood.

Offenders are taught by professional tutors from iHow using a mixture of ‘hands-on’ learning and story-telling techniques.

“The tutoring style we use encourages participation. This is important for people who haven’t had success in a traditional classroom-based setting,” says iHow Tutor Suzanne Carpenter.

Offenders who are still on sentence in six months’ time may be able to gain their restricted or full licence through the programme. So far, three young people have gained their restricted licences and four their full licences.

On passing his learner’s test in Wellington recently, Logan (Te Atihaunui a Paparangi), said of the course “it’s really good how they teach it”. Skye (Ngati Tuwharetoa) said she should have sat the licence test “ages ago”, adding “I don’t think I would’ve passed it if it wasn’t for these [iHow] ladies.”
Otago service provider A3 Kaitiaki runs intensive programmes for Māori offenders both in prison and in the community. Tiaki Tangata is aimed at reducing re-offending by helping offenders reintegrate. A3 Kaitiaki also works with Otago Corrections Facility (OCF) and Dunedin Community Corrections to deliver a tikaka programme. The programme is grounded in whakapapa, and includes arts such as kapa haka (performance), mau rākau (martial arts) and painting kōhatu (stones).

A3 Kaitiaki, a subsidiary of Otakou Runaka, has been dedicated to its kaupapa of working in the criminal justice arena since 2007, says Kaihautu Michelle McDonald. “Our mahi in OCF has been focused on cultural therapy and tikaka programmes for Māori prisoners. We have successfully achieved an unbroken link from pre-release to post-release with the same team,” she says. “This ensures the line of trust is not jeopardised and continues to build.”

On release, offenders take part in Project Kete, led by A3 Kaitiaki in partnership with Corrections, Police, Work and Income and Housing NZ. Project Kete works intensively with high risk offenders who have high recidivism rates. These offenders are usually hard to reach and respond to a kaupapa Māori approach.

Offenders learn traditional Māori gardening skills and work towards recognised qualifications.

The Canterbury Community Corrections team hopes to supply produce to Te Matatini national kapa haka festival in Christchurch (March 2015) where 30,000 people are expected to attend. Corrections sees this as a way to support the event and the mana whenua of Canterbury.

This year A3 Kaitiaki was Highly Commended at the Arts Access Awards. The judges commented: “A3 Kaitiaki is making an impressive contribution to reducing re-offending through the use of tikaka and Māori cultural arts.”

Artist and mentor Antony Deaker says: “It’s not just about making art. The men coming through A3 Kaitiaki’s programmes are grounded in tikaka. They have built real connections with their whānau and therefore have the foundations for a lasting artistic career.”

TIKANGA GARDENS CHRISTCHURCH

Offenders in Canterbury are learning about traditional Māori gardening skills and practices at three gardens at local marae. As well as learning practical skills at the gardens at Taumutu, Koukourarata and Tuahiwi Marae, offenders gain unit standards in horticulture which can help with employment.

Between four and ten offenders work in the gardens at any one time, completing their community work sentences. They grow potatoes, corn and other vegetables, which are donated to the City Mission foodbank and local hapū.

The project started when offenders came to Taumutu Marae to clean up and Senior Community Work Supervisor Tom Piahana approached mana whenua about establishing a tikanga garden.

"By working on the gardens we are nourishing te whare tapa whā (the four cornerstones of Māori health),” says Community Work Supervisor Rueben Gent. “We learn about the local people and share the stories of the land.”

Offenders say working in the gardens feels meaningful, has purpose and is rewarding.

Offenders learn traditional Māori gardening skills and work towards recognised qualifications.

The Canterbury Community Corrections team hopes to supply produce to Te Matatini national kapa haka festival in Christchurch (March 2015) where 30,000 people are expected to attend. Corrections sees this as a way to support the event and the mana whenua of Canterbury.

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This year A3 Kaitiaki was Highly Commended at the Arts Access Awards. The judges commented: “A3 Kaitiaki is making an impressive contribution to reducing re-offending through the use of tikaka and Māori cultural arts.”

Artist and mentor Antony Deaker says: “It’s not just about making art. The men coming through A3 Kaitiaki’s programmes are grounded in tikaka. They have built real connections with their whānau and therefore have the foundations for a lasting artistic career.”

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Kaiwhakamana ‘clinics’

Down south we’re piloting kaiwhakamana ‘clinics’ at the three Christchurch prisons where prisoners can meet with kaiwhakamana for advice on topics such as whakawairua (spirituality) and whakapapa.

Kaiwhakamana are kaumātua and kuia who are approved prison visitors. They have access to any prison in the country during normal visiting hours, and may also visit at any reasonable time outside these hours by arrangement with prison management, for example during tangihana (bereavements).

The ‘clinic’ approach is different from the usual way of doing things in that the kaiwhakamana are available at set times for anyone to come and see them, rather than coming in especially to see one prisoner. The prisoners prepare by applying to visit the clinic and identifying one or two things they wish to discuss.

The clinics started in July 2013 and since then 56 prisoners have used the service. The clinics operate once a month and kaiwhakamana see three to six prisoners each month. Staff attempt to pair prisoners and kaiwhakamana so they match iwi with iwi.

The goal for the clinics is to be an important step in helping Corrections reduce re-offending. The clinics are producing positive results such as helping prisoners to identify why they have offended, and breaking down barriers for prisoners to get assistance in the community.

“The clinics offer an offender-centric approach”, says Manager Māori Services Southern Region Nikki Schwass. “Instead of telling these men and women what they need to do, the kaiwhakamana help them to identify areas of interest and areas for improvement so that we can work smarter. The clinics are building strong relationships and prisoners give instant respect to the kaiwhakamana.”

Canterbury Kaiwhakamana (left to right) Chair of Kaiwhakamana Henare Edwards (Nga Puhi), Margaret Jones (Ngai Tahu – Taumutu), Pat Nutira (Ngai Tahu – Taumutu), Daphne O’Connell (Ngai Tahu – Taumutu), and John Panirau (Te Atiawa – Ngati Mutunga).