

21 October 2021

C123053

S 9(2)(a)

Dear S 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 23 September 2021, requesting information about Corrections' alcohol and other drug treatment programmes. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Public safety is our top priority and we are committed to helping people in prison prepare for their safe return to the community. Corrections has a wide range of programmes available to individuals to address their specific rehabilitative and reintegration needs. Each year we deliver programmes and interventions to thousands of people in prison and on community-based sentences.

Our research shows that people in prison have much higher rates of personality disorder, mental health and substance use disorders than the general population. Sixty-two percent of people in prison had some form of mental health or substance abuse disorder over a period of 12 months, and 91 percent meet the criteria for a lifetime diagnosis, meaning they are experiencing, or have experienced, an episode at some point in their lifetime. These disorders often go undetected and untreated prior to prison. For women in prison, two-thirds have suffered family violence, rape and/or sexual assault, more than 50 percent have post-traumatic stress disorder, and three-quarters have diagnosed mental health problems.

The programmes and interventions each individual in prison or on a community-based sentence or order undertakes, and when, will depend on their assessed risk, needs, readiness, the nature of their offending, and programme availability. The availability of some programmes and services is dependent on location. If a programme is identified as being beneficial to a person in prison but is not offered at the prison where they are located, they may be transferred to a prison where this programme is available.

A total of \$128.3 million over four years has also been invested through Budget 2019 for mental health and Alcohol and Other Drug Intervention (AOD) services for people in prison and on community-based sentences. This funding will allow us to support up to 2,310 additional offenders with mild to moderate mental health needs per year. A total of \$66.7 million is allocated over four years for AOD testing and treatment. This will be invested in strengthening and expanding Corrections' core AOD

treatment programmes, including the Drug Treatment Programmes and eight-week Intensive AOD Treatment Programmes delivered in prisons. These programmes have been found to have significant impact on reducing re-offending and reimprisonment.

You requested, for both prisons and the community in 2020:

*Number of people who attended alcohol and other drug treatment programmes, by Total; Age; Gender (for people in prison); Ethnicity; Type of programme;.*

Please find the requested information in the spreadsheet attached.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with Corrections. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Brydie Raethel  
Principal Adviser Ministerial Services  
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