



18 July 2024

C182809

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request of 31 May 2024 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Rehabilitation programmes are one of a number of activities prisoners take part in during their sentence. Corrections provides a wide range of services to assist with the reintegration of people in prison. These include health services, mental health and addiction programmes, cultural support services, educational opportunities, vocational and employment training, motivational sessions, offence-focused programmes, wrap-around whānau support, reintegration services, intensive residential programmes, and transitional accommodation support.

In prisons, case managers work with people one-on-one to identify their rehabilitation needs and match these with available programmes to be completed throughout their sentence. Each person's rehabilitative and reintegrative pathway is unique and based on many considerations including the nature of their offending, their risk of re-offending, their motivation to change, their physical and mental wellbeing, and the support they have around them.

There are a variety of reasons why people may not be engaging with rehabilitation programmes at a particular point in time, including unwillingness to engage or the length of their sentence being too short to participate in a specific programme. In addition, prisoners may have recently completed a rehabilitation programme and not yet commenced another programme.

You requested the following information. Please note that for ease of response, your questions have been reordered and some questions are answered together.

Reports and evaluations on the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs at public prisons in New Zealand.

Similar reports and evaluations for private prisons, particularly focusing on the Wiri facility.

Comparative data on recidivism rates for participants in rehabilitation programs versus those who did not participate.

Success metrics used to evaluate the rehabilitation programs, such as employment rates post-release, reduced reoffending rates, and participant feedback.

Corrections uses the Rehabilitation Quotient (RQ) to measure the impact that our interventions have on reoffending. Reoffending is measured in terms of reimprisonment rates and rates of resentencing to a Corrections' managed sentence. The RQ compares the reimprisonment and resentencing rates of people who have participated in an intervention, with the reoffending rates of similar people (matched through a range of factors) who have not participated in either that specific intervention or a similar type of intervention.

Auckland South Corrections Facility (ASCF) is managed under a Public Private Partnership with Serco and is New Zealand's only privately run prison. ASCF provides a number of rehabilitation programmes from the suite of programmes provided in prisons managed by Corrections, including the Medium Intensity Rehabilitation Programme (MIRP), Short Rehabilitation Programme (SRP), Alcohol and Other Drugs Intermediate (AOD-I) and Alcohol and Other Drugs Brief (AOD-B) programmes. These programmes were designed by Corrections and published RQ statistics include these programmes' participants at ASCF. It is expected that ASCF will run their rehabilitation programmes exactly the way they are designed, so performances are directly comparable.

Corrections publishes information on our RQ measures and scores in our Annual Reports, which are available to view on our website here:

https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/strategic_reports/annual-reports.

Therefore, your request for information on reports and evaluations on the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes in private and public run prisons, and the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes on participants versus people who have not engaged in rehabilitation, and the metrics used to evaluate these rates, is refused in accordance with 18(d) of the OIA, on the grounds that it is publicly available information.

The 2022/23 Annual Report, pages 201 to 202, contains information on how we measure the RQ as well as the latest RQ scores:

https://www.corrections.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/50578/Annual_Report_2023_v20.pdf.

Corrections' 2023/24 Annual Report will be published in due course.

Please note that not all rehabilitation programmes run in prisons are able to be assessed by the RQ, for example, due to the participation size being too low to accurately measure the RQ. If you are interested in reports or evaluations on a specific programme, not already listed in Annual Reports, please let us know as we may hold alternative evaluations on record for certain programmes.

Details on the types of rehabilitation programs offered, including educational, vocational, mental health, and substance abuse programs.

Please see attached as Appendix One, Corrections' Rehabilitation Programmes catalogue, current as of July 2024, which contains information on offence focussed rehabilitative programmes we offer. Please note that some administrative information in the catalogue has been withheld as it is not considered within scope of your request.

As noted above, each person's rehabilitative and reintegrative pathway is unique and based on many considerations. Corrections' aim is for people to participate in the right programme or intervention to suit their specific needs, at the right time.

Further information on the types of rehabilitation programs offered, including educational, vocational, and substance abuse programmes is publicly available on our website here: https://www.corrections.govt.nz/our_work/in_prison/employment_and_support_programmes.

Additionally, information on our mental health services is also publicly available in Annual Reports. For example, we direct you to pages 56 to 57 of the 2022/23 Annual Report.

Furthermore, specific information on programmes and interventions offered at ASCF are available on their website here; <https://www.serco.com/aspac/our-work/justice/information-for-friends-and-family/auckland-south-corrections-facility>.

Information on the funding and resource allocation for rehabilitation programs in both public and private prisons.

For financial reporting purposes, Corrections defines rehabilitation-related services as offence-based programmes, mental health and addictions support and other rehabilitation programmes designed to address the cause of offending. This excludes training and education, offender employment or other reintegration services such as housing support services.

Rehabilitation related services, including rehabilitation programmes, are delivered to both community-based offenders and people in prison. A number of Corrections workforce groups and contracted service providers deliver rehabilitation services to both cohorts. Costs are aggregated at total rehabilitation spend level. Attributing costs to prisoner and

offender cohorts is not easily determined because of these workforce and service delivery cross overs.

The below table provides the Department of Corrections' total spend on rehabilitation related services for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years:

Rehabilitation Spend per Financial Year	2021/22	2022/23
Rehabilitation-related services actual spend (\$ millions)	140	152
Vote Corrections operating baseline per the Supplementary Estimates (\$ millions)	1,942	2,079
Percentage of baseline	7.2%	7.3%

The rehabilitation spend figures above are inclusive of Auckland South Corrections Facility.

Further information on Corrections' revenue and expenses can be found in the Annual Reports, published in the 2022-23 Annual Report from page 143 here;

https://www.corrections.govt.nz/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/50578/Annual_Report_2023_v20.pdf.

Case studies or examples of successful rehabilitation outcomes in both public and private prisons.

Case studies on examples of successful rehabilitation outcomes in prisons have been published in the 2022-23 Annual Report available here;

https://www.corrections.govt.nz/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/50578/Annual_Report_2023_v20.pdf.

Please refer to *Case study: Tēnei Au, Tēnei Au one year on*, which starts from page 78, *Case study: Te Tirohanga celebrates 25 years* from page 81, and *Case study: Laying the foundations for participation*, which begins from page 92.

Serco has advised that there have been no case studies published on rehabilitation outcomes, specifically for programmes run from ASCF. Therefore, this part of your request as it relates to private prisons is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

As per section 18B of the OIA, we have considered whether consulting with you would enable the request to be made in a form that would remove the reason for the refusal. However, as ASCF is the only privately run prison in New Zealand, we do not consider that the request can be refined in this instance.

Please note that this response may be published on Corrections' website. Typically, responses are published quarterly or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

I hope this information is helpful. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response with Corrections. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leigh March', written in a cursive style.

Leigh March
Commissioner Custodial Services