

Background

Following the Justice Sector response to COVID-19 and impacts on the Courts, a Criminal Process Working Group was established to respond to backlog pressures.

The Criminal Process Working Group acknowledged that there are many opportunities to improve processes within the criminal jurisdiction, specifically to increase meaningful events and reduce churn.

The Criminal Process Improvement Programme was established to address these issues and implement this change.

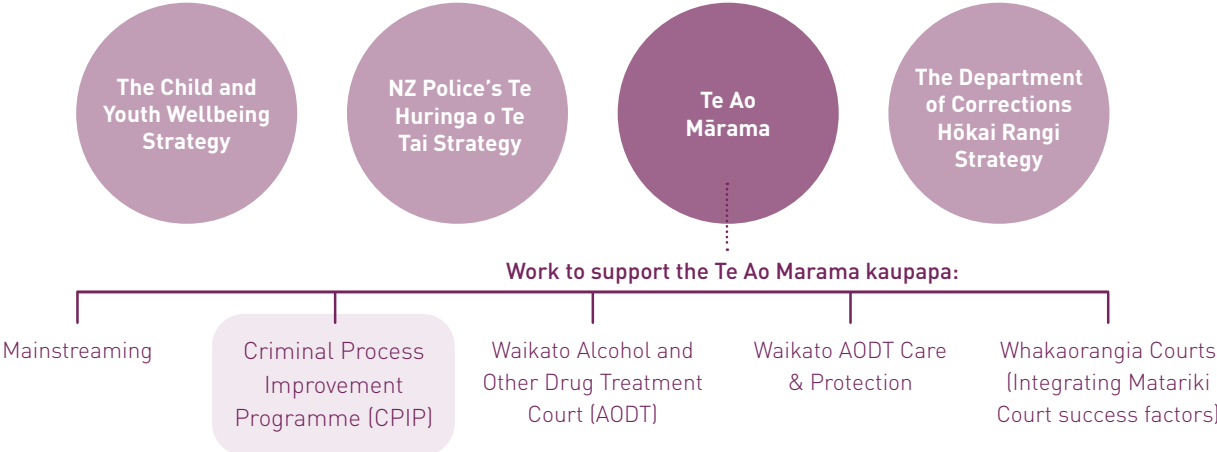
Objectives

To establish best practice in order to increase meaningful events in the Criminal Justice system in order to improve timeliness of cases.

Workstreams

The Programme has established 9 Workstreams (WS) to deliver to Project Objectives.

Criminal Process Improvement Programme (CPIP): Improving systems and processes to reduce unnecessary events and to support the realisation of Te Ao Marama



WS1 Bail Application

Lead – Louisa Carroll

Objectives

- Reduce the number of events to achieve bail
- Reduce the time spent in custody before bail is granted
- Duty Lawyers completing more applications for bail (opposed to assigned lawyer conducting the bail hearings)

WS4 Judge Alone Trial (JAT) Stage Best Practice

Lead – Letitia Parker

Objectives

- Matters that don't require a trial are resolved in the admin and review stage
- Less adjournments within this stage
- Improved usage of JAT hearing time

WS7 Outstanding Workload

Lead – Linley Caudwell

Objectives

- Definition of the problem and current state assessment
- Define strategies to address the backlog
- Define required future state and current constraints

WS2 Duty Lawyer Scope & Admin Stage

Lead – Louisa Carroll

Objectives

- Reduce the number of unnecessary events from first appearance to when a plea is entered
- Reduce the number of cases moving to the next stage
- Increase the number of same-day sentencings with stand-down/verbal reports

WS5 Jury Trial Stage Best Practice

Lead – Letitia Parker

Objectives

- Matters that don't require a trial are resolved at an early point in the trial stage
- Less adjournments within this stage
- Improved usage of Jury hearing time

WS8 Reducing Non-Appearances

Lead – Helen Aki

Objectives

- Understand barriers to non-appearance
- Identify and implement solutions to reduce non-appearance

WS3 Review Stage Best Practice

Lead – Letitia Parker

Objectives

- Reduce the number of unnecessary cases moving to the trial stage
- Reduce the number of unnecessary review events
- Increase the judicial time available to hear other work

WS6 Sentencing Stage Best Practice

Lead – Lisa Currie

Objectives

- Identify the reasons for the number of adjournments
- Reduce the number of sentencing adjournments

WS9 BAU (Business As Usual) Remote Courts

Lead – Jane Potiki

Objectives

- Provide digital alternatives to judicial handwritten records
- Enable counsel to take instructions from a defendant remotely (digital)
- Trial at least one event type as a business as usual remote court solution