



23 September 2015

C73537

Charlotte Rigby
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Dear Ms Rigby

Thank you for your email dated 26 August 2015, requesting information about the Kia Marama Unit at Rolleston Prison. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Public safety and reducing re-offending are the Department's foremost priorities. The Government has signalled its commitment to safer communities through a 25 percent reduction in re-offending by 2017. This means there will be 600 fewer re-imprisonments, 4,000 fewer people being reconvicted on community offences and 18,500 fewer victims. Through a combination of interventions such as increased alcohol and drug treatment, greater access to education, skills training, employment programmes, expanded reintegration services and innovative rehabilitation programmes, we will make a difference to people's lives.

Kia Marama was established in 1989 as New Zealand's first specialist prison treatment programme for child sex offenders. The 60-bed therapeutic community provides group-based interventions to convicted child-sex offenders. A similar unit, Te Piriti, is located at Auckland Prison.

The Child Sex Offender treatment programme is an intensive programme delivered in Special Treatment Units and aims to reduce child sex offenders' risk of re-offending.

Both units aim to reduce re-offending by:

- motivating prisoners to want to change by addressing the risks and effects of their individual offending.
- reducing the recidivism risk of men who have sexually offended against children, using intensive group treatment that targets risk factors associated with re-offending.
- increasing the safety for children in society by providing prisoners with life-long skills that will assist them to manage their risk factors.

The highly structured programme is based around nine hours of group contact per week for a total duration of 35 weeks. The entire programme takes nine months to complete and includes an intensive pre and post-treatment

assessment period. Reintegration and safety planning are included as part of the programme.

I have addressed your specific questions below.

1. The number of evictions from the Kia Marama unit at Rolleston prison for the years 2010-2015?

For the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2015 there were a total of 45 men evicted from the Kia Marama Unit. Of these:

- 16 had completed the core treatment modules and were in the maintenance phase of treatment prior to being removed.
- Seven were removed from the pre treatment starters group either due to their assessed lack of motivation and/or behaviour precluding them from commencing treatment at this time.

2. The reasons for the evictions?

Evictions can occur for a range of reasons:

- an offender's lack of motivation to address their sexually abusive behaviour or denial of their offending
- the prisoner engaging in violence, intimidatory behaviour, threatening staff or prisoners
- prisoners engagement in sexual behaviour with other prisoners
- drug use or trading

It is important to note that we take the prospect of evictions seriously and always provide an opportunity for the prisoner to attend a review of their placement. If prisoners accept personal responsibility for the behaviour that has resulted in them either incurring a misconduct, or being assessed as no longer meeting the retention criteria (and they are motivated to address this behaviour in order to ensure that it does not happen again), they are likely to retain their place in the programme.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Department. 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



Jeremy Lightfoot
National Commissioner