



Better Public Services Result 8 - Case Study: Release to Work [archived]

1 May 2018: The Government announced in January 2018 that the Better Public Services programme would not continue in this form. These pages have been archived.



Corrections is expanding the use of GPS monitoring technology to allow more prisoners to take part in Release to Work (RtW), a successful programme that allows offenders to be temporarily released from prison during the day to work in jobs in the community.

The use of GPS offers an additional risk management tool by monitoring the whereabouts of prisoners on Release to Work.

Regular employment is considered to be one of the key factors in helping people who have been convicted of an offence turn their lives around. People who go to work in a regular job after they've been to prison or served a community sentence are less likely to re-offend.

Offenders approved for RtW are nearing release, have demonstrated a strong work ethic while in prison, are highly motivated and are eager to work.

The RtW programme also provides employment skills, training, and formal qualifications that will help offenders to gain sustained work on release.

Feedback from employers involved in the programme is positive and about 50% of prisoners who take part in the programme continue working for the same employer on release.

Related Case Study

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Better Public Services Result 8 - Case Study: Interventions Delivered by Probation staff [archived]

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As part of the justice sector target to reduce re-offending by 25% by 2017, the Department of Corrections has increased the number of interventions delivered to offenders both in prison and in the community. These interventions are also being further targeted to address the underlying issues that led people to commit crime, and being offered to a wider group of offenders.

More than 50% of crime is committed by people under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs, which makes intervening in problematic alcohol and other drug use a major focus.

In the community, probation staff are now delivering brief interventions in relation to alcohol and other drugs, alongside other rehabilitative activity including relapse prevention and motivational interventions, to offenders throughout New Zealand.

Once problematic alcohol or other drug use is identified, a brief intervention consists of a short, focused conversation that aims to: provide feedback on identified harms associated with their use; enhance motivation to address the harms; and identify specific goals or actions in relation to use and/or harm reduction.

Probation staff have now delivered more than 32,000 direct interventions to about 11,000 offenders.



Better Public Services Result 8 - Case Study: Corrections, Police, Work and Income find jobs for offenders [archived]

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The Department of Corrections Central Region has been working closely with other agencies to help offenders find work.

In Tauranga, Community Probation staff are working with Work and Income to find jobs for offenders in a new pilot programme. Already six offenders have found jobs in the pilot which involves probation officers profiling work-ready

offenders for an assigned work broker who then endeavours to find them work.

Kim Smith, Acting Principal Advisor – Employment Development, is encouraged by the results so far.

“We know that people in regular employment are less likely to re-offend but for many offenders it can be immensely difficult to find work. Having a work broker able to assist them in this challenge makes it easier for people to make positive life changes. It’s fantastic that Work and Income are working with us to help people that might otherwise fall through the cracks in our system. And while six of our “job seekers” have found work so far, the sky’s the limit. We are experiencing a lot of support in the community from employers willing to give a person a second chance.

To ensure long term success we only profile our most work ready people, those with a positive can do attitude and who genuinely want to work to support themselves and their families. Our role is not to force people to work but to assist those that want it to overcome some of the hurdles they face.

Probation officers are vital to this working as they do the motivational work prior to being referred, they help build confidence to even apply for a job, and talk through how to explain their convictions. For some job seekers that have not worked before or in a very long time, we work with the basics like what to do if your boss tells you do something”

This pilot has been a great opportunity to show how two different government organisations can pool their resources and expertise and help the people we are here to assist in a positive way. It’s a great honour to help someone get a good job, its like giving someone a winning lotto ticket. This has been a very rewarding experience for everyone involved and we look forward to many more job seekers getting work through this process.

In Tokoroa, Corrections, Police, and Work and Income staff are working collaboratively to get young offenders on the right track.

“Corrections wants offenders to re-engage with Community Work, so they complete their sentences successfully. This ensures they are held to account for their offending and may offer them a chance to develop work or other life skills that will help reduce the likelihood reoffending,” said Amanda Neill, Corrections Tokoroa Service Manager.

Staff from the three agencies have started meeting regularly to look at ways to work together more effectively, and it has already led to positive outcomes. Their aim is to get young offenders off the streets, crime-free and into work.

The agencies are working to break down barriers which may hinder employment. Collaboration between Corrections and a work broker from Work and Income has led to around eight offenders being placed in work, such as tree pruning.

“A job can provide people with a sense of purpose, regular routine and economic well-being, which all contribute to them becoming crime-free. Breaking the cycle of crime results in fewer victims and safer communities,” said Amanda Neill.

“Under the Joining Forces programme, Police and Corrections share expertise and resources in ways that help us operate as effectively as possible. To do this we are exploring how we work together now, identifying opportunities to do some things differently and encouraging both small and large initiatives.”

“We are giving our full support to this collaboration as it fits fairly and squarely within our drive to prevent crime,” said Inspector Steve Bullock, Area Commander for Taupo Police.

“History tells us unemployment and crime are linked to some degree in every community and studies demonstrate that many young people enter the criminal justice system and stay there for a long time revolving in a desperate cycle of incarceration and re-offending. Police, now more than ever, recognise that opportunities exist to turn lives around, especially the lives of young people. Corrections and Work and Income have enabled us to explore those opportunities with some very good early results.”

The agencies are working together to identify appropriate training or employment opportunities for young offenders.



Te Kawa Mataaho
Public Service Commission

Better Public Services Result 8 - Case Study: Offenders get the message about drink/drug driving and road safety [archived]

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Don't drink and fry demonstration

Whanganui/Taranaki Community Corrections partnered with emergency services, road safety agencies and a funeral director to deliver an innovative road safety programme to 66 community-based offenders in Whanganui in May.

The programme was designed to tackle drink/drug-driving and encourage road safety using interactive demonstrations including a rock

climbing wall, mock crash, a thought-provoking DVD about a horror crash in Hawke's Bay, a seat belt simulator and walking a straight line while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Coralea Easter, Community Corrections District Manager Whanganui/Taranaki, says "The programme aims to educate people in relation to driving offences, to help them appreciate the consequences their actions may have. It also aims to empower them to make the right decisions in the future."

David Francis, Whanganui Service Manager said "We are grateful for the support of Police, the Fire Service, St Johns, Horizons Regional Council's road safety teams, Roadsafe Taranaki and Hawke's Bay and Cleveland Funeral Home who all came together to make the day possible."

Offenders from Whanganui, Hawera, Eltham, Stratford and the Waimarino area (Raetihi and Ohakune) attended and took part in the following activities:

- climbing an eight metre high rock wall that used skills that relate to safe driving including thinking ahead, concentrating, working with others and restraint use
- attempting an obstacle course, putting a key into a lock while wearing goggles that give the impression of being impaired by alcohol and drugs
- hearing about a multiple fatality in Hawke's Bay and watching the related DVD ("Just another Saturday Night") about the time a driver who had been drinking got behind the wheel and the aftermath
- learning how to put out a kitchen fire
- seeing what happens when a chair restraint (seatbelt simulator), moving at 12 kph, stops suddenly
- hearing from Police about road safety and drink driving
- learning basic first aid
- seeing volunteers cut from a mock car crash
- hearing from a funeral director about the process they follow at a fatal car crash.

Corrections is committed to reducing re-offending by 25% by 2017. Programmes such as this encourage offenders to assess risks and make decisions that will help them to lead an offence-free life.