



Case Resolution and Rehabilitation Programmes in Aotearoa New Zealand—Summary

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Background:

- This briefing note draws on the findings in Part 1 on what influences criminal offending
- It surveys successful trial, sentencing, and rehab programmes over the last 20 years
- If we are to improve our criminal justice statistics, we need to explore programmes that are successful because they arrest the root influences in offending

Issues:

- Poverty and deprivation are among the key factors that promote criminal offending
- Trial processes and the limited range of rehab programmes have not promoted significant reductions in crime
- Court processes tend to focus on punishment
- Programmes during and after sentence are limited so not all benefit from them
- A comprehensive review of the criminal justice system is required

Findings:

- Poverty and deprivation, particularly in the regions, have a significant impact on offending
- Programmes do not pay sufficient attention to offenders' therapeutic and cultural needs
- Other procedural problems like insufficient legal representation, long trials, and inadequate support for vulnerable offenders can create further disadvantages for offenders
- Programmes need to work with individual offenders to deliver comprehensive assessments of need and tailored services that are culturally appropriate
- Successful programmes have emphasised holistic casework at all stages of the court and sentence process designed to identify and work with the root causes of an individual's offending

Moving forward:

- Criminal justice policy as a whole needs to address procedural delays in the courts
- Programmes should be developed at a local level by communities which can ensure cultural appropriateness to meet the needs of offenders
- Additional focus needs to be given to support programmes after the completion of sentence to ensure the ex-offender has adequate support to desist from further criminal behaviour

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This paper is available at:

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/article/resolution-rehab-nz>