



20 MAY 2021

Tēnā koe

On 22 April 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information regarding the recidivism rate of the Te Hikoitanga programme at Orongomai Marae:

- *How many people go into the programme and how many get recalled to prison subsequently.*

On 6 May 2021, the Ministry emailed you and asked that you specify a timeframe for the requested information. On the same day you advised that you are interested in information from 2019 onwards.

The aim of the Te Hikoitanga programme is to assist clients to prepare for and be placed into employment and access appropriate interventions through re-integration services. The programme aims to increase motivation to participate in employment and contributes to the sustainable employment objectives of the Ministry.

The Employment Placement Service is targeted towards Work and Income job seeker clients with a full-time or part-time employment obligation but who are limited in their capacity due to barriers around convictions.

Clients must be a released prisoner that reside in the Wellington region and show a willingness to seek and move into employment. Clients who have been convicted of an offence and have not served a custodial based sentence and are finding it difficult to obtain fulltime employment due to their convictions, or clients who have been convicted of an offence and are serving a community-based sentence may be accepted on a case by case basis. The client must be available to seek work.

The Ministry can confirm that there were 147 people who were referred to the programme from 2019 to 2021. Of those 147 people, six were recalled to prison.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and

the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [QIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:QIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the Te Hikoitanga programme, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Begg', with a small flourish at the end.

Farisha Begg  
**Regional Contracts Manager**