



# Justice Matters

December 2018 | Issue 13

## In this issue:

We hear from an American criminology expert on the forgotten victims of prisons; a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Judiciary; the newly established Behavioural Insights team has had success recovering fine repayments; Courts and Tribunals legislation passed; and the first phase of family violence legislation changes came into effect.



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MINISTRY OF  
**JUSTICE**  
*Tāhū o te Ture*



# A fond farewell

**Andrew Bridgman**  
**Secretary for Justice and Chief Executive**



This is my final Justice Matters introduction as the Secretary for Justice and Chief Executive of the Ministry and I want to use this column to express my thanks to you all.

The Ministry is a large, complex organisation that delivers justice services in many different forms. Whether that be through Treaty settlements, policy advice, court services or the provision of legal aid (to name just a few of our services), everything we do is about delivering justice and supporting the justice system.

What we do is not easy, but it is important. In fact, it is most important. Justice is essential in any civil society, but for it to be useful and effective it needs to be more than theoretical.

By supporting the justice system, you make, in one way or another, the justice system real. For all of you who interact with the public, you are the face of justice. How you treat the public determines what they think of justice in Aotearoa.

Thank you for the great work you do every day. Thank you for your passion for justice. And thank you for your support over the last seven and a half years.

Kia kaha.



Andrew Bridgman

**“For all of you who interact with the public, you are the face of Justice. How you treat the public determines what they think of Justice in Aotearoa, New Zealand.”**

Andrew Bridgman finishes as Secretary for Justice and Chief Executive of the Ministry on 31 January 2019. His replacement, Andrew Kibblewhite starts on 1 February 2019.



# A year in review

**Andrew Little**  
**Minister of Justice and Courts**



On 26 October 2017, Jacinda Ardern outlined how she wanted her government to do things differently as she travelled on her way to be sworn in as New Zealand's 40th Prime Minister. Kindness, empathy, and understanding would be core tenets of this new coalition government as we navigated our way through the first few weeks of governing, many of us as first time Ministers.

A year on, and those tenets still underpin everything we do in government. From the Families Package, to KiwiBuild, to cheaper GP visits, this Government is committed to making a meaningful difference for all New Zealanders. I'm proud of what we've achieved, and I'm proud of the direction we're heading.

In my first column of 2018 back in February, I said I was committed to enacting an ambitious, values-driven agenda that puts fairness back at the heart of the justice system. With the Teina Pora compensation, the establishment of the Criminal Cases Review Commission, the expungement of historical homosexual offences, the Criminal Justice Summit, the Family Violence legislation, and more, we've gone some way in achieving that agenda.

I'd like to take this moment to say thank you. This Government has an ambitious and enduring agenda. But without the support of our officials and government departments we would get nowhere. Thank you for your work in keeping our courts running, our legislative programme ticking, and our justice system fair.

Wishing you a safe and restful festive season with friends and loved ones. I look forward to building on the momentum of this year to ensure long-lasting change for our justice system, and for all New Zealanders.

**“Thank you for your work in keeping our courts running, our legislative programme ticking, and our justice system fair.”**

# Creating an integrated system that works for victims

Jan Logie • Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Justice (Domestic and Sexual Violence)



When you talk with victims of family violence and sexual violence, they describe how hard it is to access the support they need for safety and recovery. Most will disclose abuse many times before anyone hears them and responds. Then, they endure processes that are insensitive to their needs, and complex to navigate, often leading to further trauma.

Given that the trauma of family violence and sexual violence leads to significant impacts on victims' health, mental health, parenting, employment, and housing, the failure of our systems to respond to their needs is costly on every level. This is why Government ministers are working together to transform the family violence and sexual violence systems. We know that preventing and reducing family violence and sexual violence is one of our greatest opportunities to improve wellbeing.

An integrated system that responds to the needs of victims and their children, can reduce family violence and sexual violence. We know that government has to do things differently to achieve that integration. For this reason, we have created a Joint Venture model bringing chief executives together to deliver an integrated, whole-of-government approach to family violence and sexual violence. It creates a single point of accountability and leadership, as recommended by the sector and experts like the Law Commission and the Family Violence Death Review Committee.

A priority for the Joint Venture is preparing a national strategy and action plan on family violence and sexual violence. We're in the process of designing the engagement process in support of the national strategy and action plan. Through those engagements, New Zealanders will have the opportunity to contribute their ideas and aspirations for safe families, whānau and communities.

The Family Violence (Amendments) Act takes effect this month, introducing the new offences of strangulation and suffocation, coerced marriage or civil union, and assault on a family member. The Act also makes victim safety the primary consideration in bail decisions and makes it easier for video evidence to be used in court. The broader provisions will enter into force in 2019.

**“Preventing and reducing family violence and sexual violence is one of our greatest opportunities to improve wellbeing.”**

For now, I'm aware that we're heading into a very busy period for those on the frontlines. Police, support agencies, and courts will be very busy responding to family violence and sexual violence cases throughout the Christmas-New Year period. This is something we all want to see less of in future years. I wish you all the very best with your work during this time and I look forward to working with everyone in 2019 to achieve further progress on our ambitious work programme.

# Family Violence Act

This month marks an exciting milestone in the Government's commitment to transforming the family violence response system, with the first phase of new family violence legislation which came into effect on 3 December.

The new law is the culmination of extensive consultation with communities, organisations and individuals by both the previous and current government.

The safety of victims and accountability for perpetrators is at the heart of the new legislation. Phase one is about strengthening criminal law so perpetrators of family violence can be effectively prosecuted. Three new offences have been created: Strangulation or Suffocation; Coerced Marriage or Civil Union; and Assault on a Person in a Family Relationship. These offences are covered by amendments to the Crimes Act 1961.

Victim safety and reducing trauma are at the heart of amendments to the Evidence Act 2006 and the Bail Act 2000, also coming into effect in the first phase. We are making it easier for victims to give evidence in court by video recording, so that they will only have to describe what happened to them once. This is being rolled out as Police capacity to gather evidence on video allows.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Justice Minister, Jan Logie says, we will take steps to keep victims safer while the person who has been violent to them is on bail.

"The safety of victim and family becomes the priority when deciding whether to grant bail and on what conditions.

"Victims who may be additionally vulnerable because they live in ethnic immigrant communities now have better protection from types of abuse that may have higher prevalence in their cultural community, such as coerced marriage or civil union.

"Phase two of the legislation strengthens family law and will come into effect in July 2019. Phase two measures build on the changes in phase one, with the same emphasis on victim safety and perpetrator accountability. Protection Orders and Police Safety Orders will be improved and information sharing will be enabled where it will enhance victim safety," says Ms Logie.



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## Public feedback on the family justice system

An independent panel has received public submissions about New Zealanders' experiences in the family justice system.

The panel, tasked by Justice Minister Andrew Little to examine the impact of the 2014 family justice reforms, is reviewing feedback from people who have used family justice services to resolve custodial disputes following a separation.

The panel received 310 public submissions between September and November and more than 180 groups and individuals attended several consultation meetings across the country.

Rosslyn Noonan, the panel's Chair, says there's been a great response by the public to the submissions process.

"It's been important that the panel has heard from parents, guardians and whānau that use, or have used the family justice system. It's only with their input that we can truly understand the impact of the 2014 reforms," says Rosslyn.

The public engagement process has involved people telling their stories to the panel online, a series of nationwide public engagement meetings, and focus group research.

The panel will be reporting its findings to the Justice Minister in May 2019.

# Justice leaders share benefits of our workplace family violence programme

Our senior leaders shared their experience developing our workplace family violence programme at a lunch for public sector leaders, in Wellington recently.

At the event, they called on leaders from other government departments and ministries to make similar changes to help improve the whole-of-government response to family violence.

The Ministry launched the family violence programme in November 2017. Earlier this year, the Ministry, along with Westpac NZ, became the first two organisations in New Zealand to receive the DVFREE Tick from domestic violence prevention charity, Shine.

The event for public sector leaders organised by the Ministry, in conjunction with Westpac, provided a chance to share how the design and implementation of our programme has benefited our people.

Carl Crafar, Chief Operating Officer and senior sponsor of the family violence part of our wellbeing programme, explained to leaders from several agencies why addressing family violence with workplace programmes is so important.



*From left: David McLean, Gina Dellabarca from Westpac, with Carl Crafar and Suzanne Stew from the Ministry, at a joint family violence discussion lunch.*

“Our family violence programme was built on the knowledge that because of the high prevalence of family violence in New Zealand, we will have people who are affected – both as victims and as perpetrators.

“We want to make it OK for people to reach out and ask for help. We want our leaders to feel supported and confident in helping employees who are facing difficulties at home. We’ve put in place policy and training, and our initiatives in this area have demonstrated leadership within the public sector,” said Carl.

Across government, efforts to better co-ordinate our response to family violence are gathering pace. Legislation designed to focus on earlier intervention to prevent future violence, has passed unanimously through Parliament. The Bill names the Ministry – and other government agencies - as ‘family violence agencies’ with specific responsibilities in the system.

Cabinet has also agreed to establish a joint venture of chief executives to provide a single point of accountability for the whole-of-government response to family violence and sexual violence.

You can read more about our key initiatives at [justice.govt.nz](https://justice.govt.nz)

## Return to historic Oamaru courthouse

Justice Minister Andrew Little joined Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher in Oamaru to reopen the historic courthouse in October. The building was classed as earthquake prone in 2011 requiring local court services to relocate to temporary premises.

The 1883 building, constructed in local whitestone, features a temple-front portico complete with Corinthian columns.

The building has undergone significant strengthening with steel strengthening rods installed throughout the building and a new roof. Internally, the space has been reconfigured to create spaces expected in a modern courthouse such as private interview rooms, as well receiving security and technology upgrades.

Mr Little says he’s delighted at the progress that has been made by Council on the strengthening and refurbishment. “It is fantastic to see such a wonderful facility remain an integral part of the community.”



The Ministry looks forward to delivering services for the people of Oamaru from this locally significant building which is now much more fit for purpose and is working with council to finalise a return.

# Courts and Tribunals Bills pass into law

Parliament has passed legislation to improve services and modernise Courts and Tribunals.

The Courts Matters Bill and the Tribunals Powers and Procedures Legislation Bill are designed to make our courts and tribunals more modern, fair and effective.

The Courts and Tribunals Bills will have a broad impact for our people across Operations and Service Delivery as well as Court Security. Most amendments came into effect upon receiving Royal Assent. These include:

- the ability to appoint deputy chairpersons to the Human Rights Review Tribunal
- new standard powers and procedures for 21 tribunals. For example, the Legal Complaints Review Officer will be able to dismiss claims without merit, and to decide more matters on the papers
- reversing the order of the two statutory inquiries under the Criminal Procedure (Mentally Impaired Persons) Act 2003 so that the fitness inquiry is held first
- enabling Driver Licence Stop Orders (DLSOs) to be issued by a police officer at the side of the road
- automated decision making for time payment arrangements to pay fines and reparation.

As we make the necessary business and IT changes, the remaining amendments will be brought into effect in stages and these will all be in effect by mid-2020:

- extending the powers of court security officers to deny entry to, and to remove and detain disruptive people in court and tribunal buildings
- doubling the financial threshold for the Disputes Tribunal
- giving the Real Estate Agents Disciplinary Tribunal the power to award compensation in more cases.

The success of this legislation progressing through Parliament depended upon all the various parts of the Ministry working together.

Andrea King, Acting General Manager of Courts & Justice Services Policy, congratulates everyone involved who has worked on the Courts and Tribunals Bill.

“This has been a work in progress since 2013, led by the Policy Group but with significant support and assistance from the many business units supporting the courts and tribunals, as well as security and Office of Legal Counsel,” says Andrea.

This has been a work in progress since 2013, with assistance from many business units supporting the courts and tribunals, as well as security and teams in policy.

Wayne Newall, Manager Implementation, expects the legislation will make broad improvements to how the Ministry operates.

“The Courts and Tribunals Bills amend 38 Acts across several jurisdictions that contribute to the Ministry’s goal of a modern, efficient and effective courts and tribunals system.

“The key benefits will include an improved customer experience and more efficient and effective processes which will reduce the time taken to resolve matters. Some of the changes include more decision-making powers and standardised procedures for tribunals,” says Wayne.

*Our people from Policy, Operations and Service Improvement, and Court Security celebrate the passing of bills to modernise courts and tribunals.*



# Sixteen words to raise \$1.7 million

A simple change to a letter has seen an increase in people paying their fine repayments.

Earlier this year the Ministry of Justice started to use behavioural insights to improve the way we deliver our services. Behavioural insights are findings about the different things that affect how people behave.

Vee Snijders, Senior Advisor in Behavioural Insights, says people are often influenced by seemingly unimportant factors and biases.



*Brendan Rose and Vee Snijders from the Behavioural Insights team with their successful new fines letter.*

“There’s a large body of literature on how the wording in letters can change people’s behaviour. For example, adding a social norm that simply points out what the majority of people do can affect people’s behaviour as most of us want to do what everyone else considers normal,” says Vee.

In a trial, the Behavioural Insights team tested four versions of a letter sent to people who were very late paying their fines. In one of the letters they added the following statement, ‘Most people pay their fines, you are in the small minority that still needs to pay.’

The trial showed that this was the most effective letter and led to a 7.2% increase in fine repayments. If this was used annually the Ministry could expect an additional \$300,000 paid within 28 days of receiving this fine letter, and up to an additional \$1.7 million from those who set up payment arrangements.

“Most people want to do the right thing but they haven’t paid their fine because they lead busy lives and have forgotten about it,” says Vee.

The Ministry has established a small Behavioural Insights team and plans to grow this capability across the justice sector. Several other projects are already underway, looking at other fine letters, and other behaviour to encourage people to attend community work or stick to bail conditions.

## Tenancy disputes receive better services



New Zealanders involved in tenancy disputes are receiving better services following the introduction of Resolve Online Adjudication System.

The Ministry’s project with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to deliver a single case management and adjudication software for all tenancy service providers, has been positively received across the board.

Melissa Poole, Principal Tenancy Adjudicator, has been pleased with the results to date.

“Resolve has benefited the Tenancy Tribunal in a number of ways. It has eliminated the burden of moving thousands of paper files between Tenancy Services (MBIE) and the Tribunal registry in various locations [in the Ministry]. The ‘one process’ nature of tenancy application processing now affords a level of oversight and visibility not previously available.

“Resolve enables us to have a clear view of what has happened with each application, and what tasks related to each application have been created, by whom, and what needs to be done,” says Melissa.

In the hearing room, Resolve allows the adjudicators greater flexibility and a better mechanism for the actual writing of decisions.

“From the customer’s perspective, and particularly once the concept of electronic documents has been bedded in with customers, the process will be easier and faster, especially if parties use email for their address for service,” says Melissa.

Resolve has improved the way we communicate with Tenancy Services, registrars and Tenancy adjudicators. Tasks can be completed quicker with fewer touchpoints and interventions, and it also reduces the opportunity for human error.



# Have your say on the criminal justice system

The Justice Summit kicked off a national conversation earlier this year and the kōrero has continued with Te Uepū Hāpai i te Ora – the Safe & Effective Justice Advisory Group visiting towns and cities around the country.

Te Uepū was appointed in July by Justice Minister, Andrew Little, to engage in a public conversation about what people in New Zealand want from their criminal justice system and canvass ideas on how it can be improved.

It is chaired by Chester Borrows, former Minister for Courts, and includes nine other members with practical experience from right across the system.

This year they have talked with around 1,300 people in South Auckland, Canterbury, Bay of Plenty, Northland, Waikato, Taranaki, Manawatu-Whanganui, Otago, Southland, West Coast, East Coast, and Tasman. More sessions are planned for Auckland and Wellington in the new year.

Chester says this is a unique opportunity to make a big difference to our criminal justice system, and it is essential that we listen to what New Zealanders want and expect from it.

“We’ve had a great response so far and we want to hear from as many people as possible. We encourage anyone who wants to have their say to submit their ideas to us online at the Safe and Effective Justice website.

“We will consider all feedback, in whatever form, to help inform our report to the Minister.”

For more information, visit

[www.safeandeffectivejustice.govt.nz](http://www.safeandeffectivejustice.govt.nz)



Jarrod Gilbert (far left) and Chester Borrows (far right) with the Hamilton Abuse Intervention Project Team.

## New MOU signed with the Judiciary

The Chief Justice and the Secretary for Justice and Chief Executive of the Ministry have signed an agreement outlining their respective responsibilities in delivering justice in New Zealand courts.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Rt Hon Dame Sian Elias and Andrew Bridgman on 13 November.

The agreement formalises and sets out the constitutional principles on which the relationship between the Ministry and the Judiciary is based, and identifies our respective and shared responsibilities regarding the operation of the courts. While these principles are not new, for the first time they have been written down in a mutually agreed form.

Recording the principles in this way is a major achievement. They’ll provide guidance on working together with mutual respect to foster a good relationship.



# New contract with the Royal Federation of NZ Justices' Associations

The Royal Federation of NZ Justices' Associations will be able to expand and enhance their education and training services thanks to a new funding increase.

A new three-year \$1.3 million contract between the Ministry of Justice and the Royal Federation was signed in October. The contract was signed by the President of the Royal Federation, Rachael O'Grady, and witnessed by Justice Associate Minister, Aupito William Sio.

At a ceremony to commemorate the signing, Rachael said it was fantastic to see the new contract reconfirming the close relationship between the Ministry and Justices of the Peace.

"Justices of the Peace perform an important role in society, from witnessing and certifying documents and taking statutory declarations, to presiding over cases involving low-level offending and opposed bail applications in the District Court if they are a judicial JP," said Rachael.

Aupito William Sio said the Government values the significant public service role JPs provide.

"JPs provide easy access to invaluable legal services at the community level, often from community clinics run at libraries, courthouses and other public places. They also provide significant assistance by attending and presiding over Saturday morning arrest courts."

"I look forward to continue working with the Federation and meeting with many of the JPs who generously give up their time to provide essential voluntary services across New Zealand," said Aupito William Sio.

Carl Crafar, Chief Operating Officer from the Ministry, has also welcomed the signing of the new contract, emphasising that JPs provide an important public service.

"The new contract ensures JPs are actively engaged in ongoing education, and they can extend their training programmes and update their website to make information and material easily accessible," said Carl.

**For more information about their work, visit [justiceofthepeace.org.nz](http://justiceofthepeace.org.nz)**



## Around the Ministry

- Our Chief Executive, Andrew Bridgman, has granted the first two applications for the expungement of historical homosexual convictions.
- Brett Crowley was appointed as the new Wellington Public Defender.
- The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS) has reached its target of interviewing 8,000 New Zealanders over the age of 15 about their experience of crime.
- The Waitangi Tribunal released the first stage of Te Mana Whatu Ahuru: Report on Te Rohe Pōtae Claims as part of the Te Rohe Pōtae District Inquiry.
- Our Policy team and the Office of Legal Counsel have worked together on a Bill that established a Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC). The CCRC is an independent body that reviews convictions and sentences where there is a suspected miscarriage of justice.
- Tokoroa celebrated the completion of a \$3.5m refurbishment to the District Court.
- The Government confirmed the establishment of a new Māori Crown agency, Office for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti and the scope of the portfolio. The new agency brings together the Office of Treaty Settlements, the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Unit, the Post-Settlement Commitments Unit and the Crown/Māori Relations Roopū.
- Noel Harris from the Ministry's Waitangi Tribunal Unit received a State Services Commissioner's Commendation for Frontline Excellence from Peter Hughes.
- Brett Dooley joined the Ministry in October as the Group Manager of National Service Delivery.
- The 2018 Annual Report was published in October. You can see these stories in more detail and the Annual Report online at [www.justice.govt.nz](http://www.justice.govt.nz)

# New Zealand a world leader in restorative justice

When a Ministry leader told a Canadian symposium that New Zealand spent \$9 million annually on restorative justice, there was an audible gasp from the audience.

Restorative justice is a voluntary facilitated meeting between a victim and offender of a crime. At a restorative justice meeting, offenders will have the chance to take responsibility for their offending, apologise to the victim, and decide how to make amends for the harm that was caused. A trained facilitator is present at the meeting to keep everyone safe and make sure the discussions stays on track.

“It was fascinating to see the degree of similarity between Alberta and New Zealand. A lot of the issues in Alberta and New Zealand are the same. However, we are seen as a world leader in restorative justice because our governments have played a significant role in developing and funding restorative justice where in other countries it is not driven by governments and it is seen an add-on,” says Hayley.

In Hayley’s speech, she highlighted New Zealand’s long history of developing restorative justice from Judge Mick Brown’s initiative in 1989 with Family Group Conferences, to how the system operates today

because of a series of major legislative changes. She also spoke about the challenges and issues of managing restorative justice in New Zealand.

Hayley described the value of dedicated Ministry contract providers to support community providers of restorative justice. Hayley says this has improved the relationship with the Ministry, ensuring that providers were accountable for their performance under their contracts, measuring the quality of their services, the Ministry’s procurement processes and working with Māori restorative justice providers.



*From left: Hayley MacKenzie, Manager Community Services and Francesca Kliffen, Senior Advisor Criminal Resolution Services attended the Canadian Justice symposium.*

These meetings are conducted before the offender is sentenced, and judges consider any resolution or agreements that have made.

One week prior to the symposium, the Government of Alberta announced that it had doubled its spending on restorative justice from CAD \$350,000 to \$700,000.

Hayley MacKenzie, Manager of Community Services, spoke at the two-day criminal justice symposium sharing insights from our restorative justice. More than 250 people attended the symposium in November, mostly from community agencies and representatives from the Alberta provincial government.

“The speech was very well received. I think it struck a chord with many of the community groups there. The Canadians feel they have so much to learn from us in terms of restorative justice,” says Hayley.

After the symposium Hayley visited the Alberta Provincial Government to meet their Justice Minister and senior officials. As a result of Hayley’s visit, there is a shared desire to maintain regular contact between our Ministry and the Alberta justice sector and work together.

You can find Hayley’s presentations here:  
[whatworks@justice.govt.nz](mailto:whatworks@justice.govt.nz)

# The forgotten victims of prisons

Jailing a parent has devastating long-term effects on their children says visiting American criminology expert, Ann Jacobs.

Ann recently shared insights about children growing up with parents in prison. She has more than 40 years' experience working in the criminal justice sector and for two decades she was the Executive Director of the Women's Prison Association in New York. Her speaking tour around New Zealand was sponsored by Presbyterian Support Northern.

Ann spoke movingly to employees from Justice, Police and Corrections in October about the plight of women and their children in New York's penal system.

Like New Zealand, women are the fastest growing section of the United States' prison population, says Ann.



*American criminology expert, Ann Jacobs, talking to Ministry employees about children growing up with parents in prison.*

“These women are overwhelmingly poor, under-educated, unemployed, homeless or living in substandard housing, involved in abusive or violent relationships and mothers often of very young children. They can have untreated trauma, substance abuse and high rates of mental illnesses,” says Ann.

In many cases, people turning their lives around shouldn't involve a custodial sentence, but rather management in the community where women are supported with their children and the family unit is maintained, she says.

“It doesn't make sense to lock a mother up for two years and then expect her to go home and establish a successful family unit,” says Ann.

Ann says the imprisonment of a parent has devastating, life-long effects on children and justice systems need to become more child sensitive at every stage of the process, from arrest through remand and adjudication of the case, to sentencing, incarceration and reintegration.

Children who experience a parent's arrest and are subsequently separated from them suffer a wide array of problems including trauma, anxiety, guilt, shame, and fear. These problems result in failing at school, truancy, gang involvement, early pregnancy, self-harm, drug abuse, and delinquency. In the US, 1 in 10 are incarcerated before reaching adulthood, she says.

Research suggests there are benefits to children visiting their parents in prison but they must go through the process of waiting in long queues, undergoing searches and meeting their parent in sterile rooms with barred windows and chairs bolted to floor.

“Simple acts of humanity are lost, such as allowing children to bring their drawings from school to show their mother, sit on their parent's lap, or get down on the floor and play together.

“In the United States, we're recognising the effects on children from imprisoned parents and how it can lead to more wasted lives. It's better to transform lives through the criminal justice system and child welfare system and other government agencies working together,” says Ann.

Ann concluded her talk by suggesting we could do things differently; including, implementing child sensitive arrest policies and creating more child friendly prison visiting conditions. She also suggested educating school social workers in methods they can help children that are affected by parental incarceration. Lastly, using trained staff in social services and public health to mentor the family unit to help women at home on detention to better manage their own health and their parental responsibilities.

Note: New Zealand's Department of Corrections has a range of initiatives recognising the significant impact that having a parent in prison can have on a child. Three women's prisons have mother and baby units. Prison visitors centres have been refurbished to be more child-friendly. It runs parenting programmes for parents serving a sentence, and they work with, PILLARS, a charity that provides specialised support for children and families of prisoners.

*For more information on the mothers with babies unit, visit [www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/newsletters\\_and\\_brochures/new\\_beginnings\\_-\\_mothers\\_with\\_babies\\_unit.html](http://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/newsletters_and_brochures/new_beginnings_-_mothers_with_babies_unit.html)*

*For more information on parenting skills, visit [www.corrections.govt.nz/news/latest\\_news/2016/prisoners\\_learn\\_skills\\_to\\_improve\\_parenting.html](http://www.corrections.govt.nz/news/latest_news/2016/prisoners_learn_skills_to_improve_parenting.html)*

*For more information on PILLARS, visit [www.justus.org.nz/justus-orig/parents-caregivers.html](http://www.justus.org.nz/justus-orig/parents-caregivers.html)*