

FACT SHEET

Fresh Start for Young Offenders

Fresh Start for Young Offenders targets New Zealand's most serious offenders and those at risk of offending.

The investment will be spread over four years.

Court-Supervised Camp Programmes

- Funds 200 programme places for up to ten days in adventure camp activities or community based youth development activities with mentoring
- Gives the Court more diversion options – failure to attend a programme can result in more serious orders being imposed.
- Starts April 2010
- Investment - \$5.350m.

Community Youth Development Programmes

- Funds 1,000 places in structured programmes such as community youth development programmes led by the police.
- Referrals will come as part of the Family Group Conference, local youth offending teams, Police Youth Aid officers, and principals.
- Targets children and young people whose offending at a low level or at risk of low level offending.
- Phased in from April 2010.
- Investment \$9.750m.

Fresh Start Innovation Fund

- Funds 230 programme places for grass roots organisations to provide local solutions to local youth offending.
- Targets young offenders who Police are considering laying charges against or who may get into more serious offending.
- Available from April 2010
- Investment \$4.550m.

Youth Court Orders and Programmes

- 215 places on military-style activity camps and supervision with activity placements.
- 175 places in supervised bail programmes.
- 30 electronically monitored court orders.
- 232 extra places in alcohol and other drug programmes.
- 700 new parenting programme placements.
- 300 extra places in mentoring programmes.

FACT SHEET

Military-Style Activity Camp (MAC) Programmes

Overview

- Military-style activity programmes are being introduced in response to the Fresh Start youth justice reforms.
- The programmes will reinforce self discipline, personal responsibility and community values, while also helping to address the underlying causes of offending through improving mentoring, literacy and numeracy skills, and drug and alcohol rehabilitation.
- The programmes will involve two phases:
 - residential based phase, which includes a military-style activity camp, and residence based interventions to address the young person's individual needs
 - community based phase which involves ongoing support for the young person and their family.
- The programmes will target up to 40 of the most serious, recidivist offenders, when other options have been exhausted.
- The military-style activity programme is a partnership between Child Youth and Family, the New Zealand Defence Force and community social service providers.
 - The New Zealand Defence Force already has proven experience in helping young people gain important life skills, self discipline, and employment through their Limited Services Volunteer programme. This targets young unemployed and has many of the qualities we are looking for in a successful military-style programme.
 - We will utilise army facilities throughout the programme.
 - Community providers will work with both the young people and their families and provide a supported transition service.
- The programme will be concept-tested in preparation for the legislative changes. We will evaluate options to ensure the programme is effective in helping young people get their lives on track.

Programme Concept Testing

Residence-based phase

- The military-style activity programme will be tested at our Te Puna Wai youth justice residence in Christchurch, beginning mid September 2009. Only young people on the programme will be based in this unit.

- The programme will be for young men who have received a Supervision with Residence Order from the Youth Court. Potential participants will be assessed by the NZ Army. A maximum of eight young men will go through the programme.
- The residence-phase of the programme runs for two months (the same period of time as a Supervision with Residence Order), followed by a six month community-based supervision period.
- The programme commences with a seven night wilderness camp run by the NZ Army and Child, Youth and Family staff. This camp will focus on building the culture of the group by setting daily routines, establishing boundaries, expectations of behaviour, and building a supportive team philosophy.
- After the wilderness camp the group will return to Te Puna Wai. Young people will undergo a thorough assessment to identify their needs. These will focus on identifying the underlying causes of the young person's offending.
- Over the next three weeks Child, Youth and Family residential social workers and NZ Army staff will work together to deliver a daily programme to the young people.
- At this time, community provider staff will begin to develop relationships with the young person and their family. Family members may also be offered interventions by community providers if appropriate.
- During the final four weeks in residence, the residential staff will work with the community social service provider to deliver a daily programme to the young people and develop the transition plan for each young person's return to the community.
- An intervention programme to address the young person's offending related needs will be delivered by professionally trained staff or a psychologist during the young person's stay at the residence.

Community-based phase

- Upon discharge, social workers and community providers will offer a high level of support to help the young person transition from the residence back into the community.
- Community providers will work with the young person to reinforce the skills, knowledge, attitude, etc they gained while at the residence, to stay away from crime and achieve economic independence through employment, training, or education.
- The young person and their family will have support available to deal with any crisis that arises.
- After the initial 4/5 weeks, the community provider will gradually reduce the amount of daily contact with the young person.

Further implementation of the military-style activity programme

The Defence Force and Child, Youth and Family will monitor the test MAC programme process, outcomes and case summaries, and the programmes will be adapted to meet the requirements of any changes to the CYP&F Act.

FACT SHEET

Break-Away Package

International evidence shows that how young people spend their leisure time can have a significant impact on their resilience and outcomes later in life. The Break-Away package provides structured leisure time activities and programmes for young people who normally do not have access to such activities. They are designed to be fun and to enable young people to develop the skills to take advantage of opportunities, and respond positively to challenges.

Prime Minister's Youth Programme

- To reward and foster achievement for young people aged 14-17 years who have overcome adversity and made a sustained attempt to make positive life changes.
- Funds 100 places annually in a week-long daily activity programme.
- Starts January 2010
- Investment - \$0.050m annually.

Break-Away Holiday Activity Programmes

- Funds 30,000 one-week holiday activity programme places for young people aged 11-17 years.
 - That is 3,000 places per week for the 12 weeks of school holidays per year
 - The programmes are likely to include week long programmes and daily events
- Provides structured leisure time activities, including physical activity during school holiday periods.
- Self and parent referral
- Phased in from December 2009.
- Investment \$1.500m in 2009/10; \$3.000m per annum thereafter.

Residential Holiday Respite Camps

- Funds 500 residential respite camp places a year during school holidays.
- Available to children and young people who are cared for by foster parents, extended whanau and grandparents, who may need a break.
- Phased in from January 2010 with Children's Health Camps providing the first camps.
- Investment \$0.200 m in 2009/10; \$0.400m per annum after.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Fresh Start for Young Offenders

Q. What is being introduced to deal with serious young offenders?

A. The government recognises we need to improve and extend the current range of options for dealing with young offenders. We will do this by:

- giving the Youth Court more power to issue new orders that address parenting education, mentoring, and drug and alcohol treatment orders,
- creating tougher sentences for the worst offenders.
- providing additional court-supervised programmes to hold young offenders to account for complying with their FGC plans.

Q. When is this happening?

A. The new legislation will be in effect by 1 October 2010.

Q. Why have military-style camps?

A. This is about getting tough on crime. It's an option for around 40 of the most serious and recidivist young offenders who are on their last chance with the Youth Court, and who's offending sees them heading for the adult court system. It is the most intensive intervention available to the Youth Court, aimed at helping them get their lives back on track.

These camps draw on the experience and skills of the NZ Defence Force who traditionally have succeeded in turning around the lives of young people through developing self discipline. These sorts of programmes will provide offenders with clear boundaries, and teach them about self-discipline, personal responsibility and community values.

Q. Who will run the camps?

A. Child, Youth and Family has worked with the New Zealand Defence Force to develop appropriate military-style residential programmes.

Q. How many military activity camps will be run, when and where?

A. Four programmes will be run each year with 10 young people in each intake.

Q. Will any other programmes incorporate this new ‘military’ component?

A. Child, Youth and Family currently run a range of programmes for serious young offenders through the Supervision with Activity order. Child, Youth and Family will work with providers to ensure their programmes help the young person to develop self-discipline, personal responsibility and community values. Some may contain military-style components.

Q. What is a Supervision with Activity order?

A. Ordered by the Youth Court, these are where young offenders are must undergo structured activities programmes which address their offending while they are under intensive supervision.

The activities could include military type training, numeracy and literacy training and mentoring.

Q. What is a Court Supervised programme?

A. It gives the court additional adventure-camp type programmes as part of FGC plans. The Court directs the Young person to attend an FGC then monitors whether they comply with the programme – if they don’t the Court has them back before it and can give them a formal court order.

Q. What is a Structured Activity Programme?

A. Children and young people will participate in a mixture of activities that will help them to learn new skills and develop constructive interests.

This will include community-based youth development programmes, and may include intensive case management with children, young people and their families and interventions to assist with reducing the risk factors associated with offending.

Mentoring will be a key component so young people get the attention and guidance they need over a sustained period of time to help them get their lives on the right track.

These programmes will help young people stay connected, build strengths and positive relationships, assist with reducing the likelihood of offending and increase their participation in their families, schools and communities.

Parenting support will be provided where necessary.

The programmes will be delivered by building additional capacity and coverage from

existing providers, including Police-led Youth Development Programmes.

Q. Who will be providing the new Court Supervised programmes?

A. A range of existing providers with experience in delivering adventure-camp type activities with a focus on youth development are available and could provide the programmes response to be developed.

Q. What is a Parenting order?

A. Parents will be required to attend training to improve their skills. Research shows that providing the parents of serious young offenders with training and support in parenting skills, and information about addressing risk factors such as drug involvement, school failure, anti-social peers and abuse at home helps reduce youth offending.

Where a young offender is, or is about to become, a parent, they may also be required to attend a parenting education course.

Q. What happens if a parent ordered to attend a programme doesn't?

A. The Youth Court will be able to respond by referring the matter for a care and protection family group conference. That FGC will determine if it's in the best interests of the child or young person to remain with their parents. This will mean that the care and protection of the child will be considered and recommendations around the best course of action for the wellbeing of the child will be made.

Q. What is a mentoring programme?

A. Mentoring links young people up with a strong role models and helps young people set positive goals, improve school performance, enhance their feelings of identity and wellbeing, improve peer and family/whānau relationships and decision-making and decrease drug and alcohol use.

Mentoring programmes with young offenders have been shown to be most effective where they are part of a wider co-ordinated response addressing all the needs of the young person.

Q. Why is there a need for alcohol and drug programmes?

A. A large number of young offenders have problems with substance abuse. Access to programmes which assist in rehabilitating young offenders reduces offending as well as improving the quality of life for the young person.

Q. Who will run the mentoring, parenting and drug and alcohol programmes?

A. A range of new and existing providers with experience in addressing these problems are available and could provide the programmes.

Q. What is the supported bail programme?

A. This programme is for young offenders on bail and is an alternative to being held in a youth justice residence. Young people on the programme are intensively supported in the community to meet their bail conditions, take part in meaningful activities, access services and make positive behaviour changes. An evaluation of the programme shows it works well in keeping young people supported in the community.

Q. What is an electronically monitored court order?

Where a young offender is placed under intensive supervision and breaches the requirements attached to that supervision, they can be placed on a curfew. Monitoring their compliance with the curfew can be done electronically.

Q. Which Youth Court Orders are being extended?

A. The present youth justice system works well for most young offenders. The changes for the most serious young offenders are being proposed so that we can work with them over a longer period of time providing a planned, sustained and intensive intervention in their lives.

- Supervision with Residence order – doubling the current maximum of three months in a residence followed by a maximum of six months supervision in the community to a new maximum of six months in a residence followed by a maximum of 12 months supervision in the community.
- Supervision with Activity order – being extended from the current maximum of three months on a specified activity programme followed by a maximum of three months supervision in the community to a new maximum of six months activity followed by a maximum of six months supervision.

- Intensive Supervision - Repeat offenders and those who breach their community-based orders may be subject to more intensive monitoring. This will involve the Youth Court taking a more active role in monitoring the progress of those young offenders and more intensive supervision in the community. The monitoring will make it more difficult for the offender to be diverted from the plan that is in place to reduce their offending and will ensure they are held accountable.

Q. Why are the length of orders being extended?

- A.** Experience shows us that some young people need a longer, more intensive intervention to turn their lives around.

Research shows longer intervention programmes give young people essential ongoing support and treatment to be able to make a long-term positive change. Research also indicates that intensive programmes for young offenders work if they address the underlying causes of offending and incorporate therapeutic and educational interventions.

Q. With longer residential stays and additional places being created, where will young people be placed?

- A.** Child, Youth and Family is building a 30-bed youth justice facility in Rotorua which is due to be completed by October 2010. Child, Youth and Family is also planning to develop its Palmerston North facility, increasing bed capacity by 10.

These developments increase the total number of youth justice residential places from 110 to 150. These increases, coupled with a greater investment in supervision with activity, supported bail programmes and military-style activity camps, should provide enough placements to accommodate longer residential stays.

The supervision with activity programmes are increasing from 125 to 175 placements to take into account the longer supervision with activity orders, plus 40 MAC placements.

Q. Who do these programmes target?

- A.** New Zealand's most serious young offenders are primarily male (80%), Maori (54%) between 12 and 16 years of age. They generally have left school or are in danger of leaving. They may live in families that condone antisocial or criminal behaviour or where parental supervision is poor. Alcohol and drug abuse is prevalent.

Q. How do these programmes address Maori offending?

A. Approximately half of serious young offenders are Maori. The Fresh Start approach recognises that “one-size-fits-all” is not the most effective way to respond to the individual needs and behaviours of young offenders.

Offender’s plans will be based on an assessment of what is required to turn their lives around. This will require service providers to work together in providing a package which is designed for the young offender. This will often require iwi and Maori-based solutions for Maori children and young people.

Q. How will you monitor and evaluate these reforms?

A. Monitoring will ensure that the right children and young people receive the services and programmes required, through screening and assessment

A set of measures is being developed around Fresh Start, including: the reduction of reoffending; reduction of Māori over-representation in the Youth Justice System; and measures around enhancing victim participation and satisfaction.

The measures will capture improvements in health, social connection, education training and employment for children and young people receiving Fresh Start programmes and interventions.

Q. How will organisations go about applying for the Innovation Fund?

A. Access to the fund will be through the Ministry of Social Development. The Ministry is developing the process and will ensure it enables innovative local providers of promising initiatives to access funding with a minimum of bureaucracy.

Q. What kind of organisations could apply?

A. We want to encourage local successful initiatives. In particular, initiatives that work for Maori young people too many of whom are getting caught up in the youth justice system. The Fund is all about hearing from local people about what's needed in their local communities to reduce offending and re-offending by young people, and getting funding to them to develop and deliver those ideas.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Break Away Programmes

HOLIDAY ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES

Q. Why is the Government investing in holiday activity programmes?

A. The government recognises that how young people spend their leisure time can have a significant impact on their resilience and outcomes in later life. More needs to be done for the large group of people who may not have access to structured leisure time activities, or to programmes that enable young people to develop the skills to take advantage of opportunities and manage and respond positively to challenges.

Attendance on these programmes will serve three purposes:

- countering any drift into anti-social or unconstructive activities
- providing general development support and transfer of skills and knowledge
- exposing young people to a range of physical activities.

Q. Who will be eligible to attend the programmes?

A. Young people aged 11-17 from high needs areas will be targeted. Participant selection will be through parental or self-referral. Attendance will not be dependent on parental income testing. Those providers selected to deliver the programmes will promote their programmes in the targeted communities.

Q. How much will it cost to attend the programmes?

A. The programmes will be free to attend. Parents/caregivers will need to cover any transport costs.

Q. When will the programmes start operating?

A. The first programmes will be run in January 2010 and will continue thereafter. There are 12 weeks of school holidays per year and the programmes will run throughout these weeks based on demand.

Q. How many programmes is the Government funding?

A. There will be a total of 30,000 one week places. The number of days a participant attends will be dependent on the structure of the programmes developed by providers. The number of programmes will be determined through the tendering process. Delivery in year 1 will be for 15,000 one week places.

Q. Who can provide these programmes?

A. Any organisation that wishes to provide a programme, is in one of the targeted communities and meets the minimum standards for the programme will be eligible to apply to be providers.

Q. What's the difference between Break Away programmes and OSCAR holiday programmes?

A. OSCAR services operate during term time and holidays to meet the needs of working parents with dependent children under the age of 14 years. Break-Away programmes operate solely in the school holiday periods to provide challenging, fun opportunities to communities of young people in the 11-17 age range.

Q. Who will decide which organisations will run the programmes?

A. The programme providers will be determined by a contracting process run by the Ministry of Social Development. A contracting process will be initiated in September 2009 and completed by December 2009. Interested providers can check <http://www.familyservices.govt.nz/> for more information as it comes available.

Q. What activities will be available on the programmes?

A. Content of the programmes will vary dependent on the provider, the demographics of the young people and the programme location. Activities may include dance/music, waka ama/kapa haka, outdoor activities, art and games, drama and performance and networking opportunities. There will be a physical activity component within all programmes.

Q. What funding is available for these programmes?

A. \$3 million is available per year for these programmes – which is \$100 per one week placement.

Q. Will the holiday activity programmes be targeted at young offenders?

A. No. The holiday activity programmes will focus on young people from high need areas who would not normally have access to a holiday programme and would benefit from something fun and constructive to do in the holidays.

Q. When will the contracting process begin?

A. The first programme will be run in January 2010. The contracting process will be initiated in September 2009 and be complete by December 2009. It is intended potential participants will know about the programmes before the end of the school term in December. The contracting process will be managed by the Funding and Contracting team in MSD's Family and Community Services (FACS).

PRIME MINISTER'S YOUTH PROGRAMME

Q. What is the PM's Youth Programme?

A. The PM's Youth Programme is to reward young people aged 14-17 years who have overcome adversity and made a sustained attempt to make positive life changes, for instance young people who have moved away from low-levels of offending, truancy or poor academic achievement.

Q. What will the young people do on the PM's Youth Programme?

A. The Programme will offer young people a mix of fun, challenging and developmental activities. In addition, the young people will be offered the opportunity to spend time with and learn and get advice from high achieving/iconic New Zealanders, who they might not normally meet. The icons will act as positive role models. Together, the icons and the young people will take part in workshop activities designed to show the young people how different their lives could be, and the opportunities that may be available to them, if they continue to adopt the right attitude.

A number of high profile and well respected Kiwis in a variety of fields have offered their time to the Programme, including: actor Oscar Kightley; ex All Black Norm Hewitt; netball guru Raewyn Henry and hip hop artists Prestige.

Q. How will young people be selected to take part in the programme?

A. Young people will be nominated to attend and will decide if they wish to take part in the programme. In the first instance the programmes will largely be delivered in South Auckland.

Q. How will nomination work?

A. Key people in the community, including Principals, will be involved in identifying and nominating young people for the Programme. Details of the process will be made available on the Ministry's website later this year.

Q. How many young people will this benefit?

A. Each year 100 young people will be able to participate in the programme. The programme will run for one week at the end of the Christmas school holidays.

Q. Will this really make a difference?

A. International evidence demonstrates that participation in positive activities can: help to improve attitudes to, and engagement with, school; build social and communication skills; help young people avoid taking risks such as experimenting with drugs or being involved in anti-social behaviour or crime; and improve their self-confidence and self-esteem. Participation can also help increase the resilience of young people who are trying to rebuild their lives.

Q. How will the programme take into account the different interests of the young people?

A. Four themed programmes will be run annually. Two will be sports themed, one with a performance/art theme, and one with a music theme. The organisations running the programmes will be expected to provide a diverse range of activities throughout the week in addition to the time the young people spend with the participating celebrities.

Q. Can a young person attend more than one of the themed programmes?

A. No. Young people nominated will only be able to attend a single programme.

Q. When will the programmes take place?

A. The four programmes will operate annually at the end of the Christmas break, beginning in the final week of January 2010.

Q. Who will run the programmes?

A. The Ministry of Youth Development will contract providers to run each of the four programmes. The providers will be selected by the end of November.

Q. Will the Prime Minister actually be involved with the Programme?

A. Yes, the Prime Minister will have a role in the programme, including the issuing of a certificate from the PM to all participants.

Q. What will happen to the young people after the programme?

A. The young people will be encouraged to maintain their positive behaviours and supported to identify future goals for after the Programme.

RESIDENTIAL HOLIDAY RESPITE CAMPS

Q. Why is the Government investing in Residential Respite Camps?

A. Caregivers/families/ grandparents who are caring for a young person as a result of a breakdown in the young person's family need to be able to have a break from what is a very difficult role. The programme reflects the Government's commitment to supporting caregivers and recognises their important role in nurturing the young person in their care.

Q. Who will the programmes target and when will they run?

A. The residential camps are for kids of school age (5 to 7 years and 8 to 12 years) who are in the care of someone other than their parents. The programmes will operate during the 10 weeks of school holidays per year.

Q. Who will run the camps?

A. Te Puna Whaiora Children's Health Camps is being contracted by MSD to run the camps and from 2010/11 additional providers will also be contracted.

Q. Where will the camps be run?

A. The camps will be throughout the country, though it is likely some kids will need to travel to attend a camp.

Q. How long will the camps be?

A. The age of the young person, along with individual and family needs, and circumstances will determine the length of time spent at camp. Existing providers currently deliver 4 – 6 day camps.

Q. Will there be a selection process for attendance?

A. Access to the camps will be through referral from: Strengthening Families, Family Start, Child, Youth and Family, Social Workers in Schools, Police Youth Aid. Self-referrals, as a result of public awareness of the initiative, may also be accepted.

Priority will be given to children cared for by:

- foster parents
- extended whanau
- grandparents.