

# Overview of 'A Fresh Start for Young Offenders'

Presentation to the  
Addiction Treatment  
Leadership Day

12 March 2009



# Goals of 'Fresh Start'

- Improve community safety
- Address the underlying causes of offending by children and young people



# Timeframes

- The Children, Young Persons, and their Families (Youth Courts Jurisdiction and Orders) Amendment Bill was introduced to Parliament on 18 February 2009
- To be passed into law by the end of 2009
- Implementation from April 2010
- Implementation completed by the end of 2010



# Overview

The Proposal will –

- Lower the jurisdiction of the Youth Court to include 12 and 13 year olds accused of serious offences
- Give the Youth Court the power to issue new parenting, mentoring and drug and alcohol treatment orders (note separate programmes for teen parents)
- Improve effectiveness by enhancing existing options and creating new sentencing options and programmes



# Overview

The Policy is targeted at a group of 1000 young offenders –

- Aged between 12 and 16 years old
- Commit serious crimes often involving violence (other than murder and manslaughter)
- Mainly but not always repeat offenders
- Mainly male (80%)
- Many are Maori (54%)
- Most are not engaged in education
- Adult and peer influences are negative
- Drug and alcohol abuse is endemic



# Extended Youth Court Orders

- A supervision with residence order placing young person in custody of CE of MSD
  - Extended to 6 months (currently 3)
  - Followed by 12 months supervision order (previously 6)
- A supervision with activity order
  - Extended to 6 months (currently 3)
  - May be followed by 6 months supervision order



# Rehabilitative and Supportive Orders

- Currently, rehabilitative and supportive orders are not an option for the Youth Court
- Mentoring programme orders
- **Drug and alcohol rehabilitation orders**
- Parenting education orders (will include young people about to become parents)



# Military Style Activity Camp Programmes

- Aimed at the 40 most serious young offenders
- Programmes will consist of:
  - 3 months residential training using army type facilities or training methods
  - Followed by 9 months intensive support to meet the young person's individual needs addressing:
    - drug and alcohol issues
    - literacy and numeracy skills



# Supervision with Activity Orders

Incorporate principles and elements of the approach:

- Reinforcement of self-discipline, personal responsibility and community values
- Personalised plans
- Service providers work together
- Iwi and Maori based solutions for Maori young people



# Repeat Offenders

- Subject to more intensive monitoring including electronic monitoring
- Youth Court to take a more active role in monitoring progress
- More intensive supervision in the community



# Drug or Alcohol Rehabilitation Orders

- Recognises the links between alcohol and other drug problems:
  - Offending
  - Poor life outcomes
  - Costs to the community
- Additional funding to expand available programmes and purchase new ones
- Significant work during 2009 with partner agencies (includes Ministry of Health) and NGO providers to develop new and targeted programmes



# Drug or Alcohol Rehabilitation Orders

- Drug and alcohol programmes
  - 16 residential beds
  - 462 community based day programmes and counselling
  - Total cost of \$2.280 million ongoing funding
- AOD component in military style activity camps and treatment foster homes???



# Ministry of Health Response

- Input from Disability Services, Mental Health, Addiction Treatment Services
- Feedback given to:
  - Ministry of Social Development
  - Office of Minister of Health



# Possible Themes for Discussion

- Military style activity camp approach
- Referral to AOD services
- 12 and 13 year old implications for treatment



# For More Information

## Fresh Start for young offenders

- [Read the Prime Minister's media release on the beehive website](#)
- [Read the Minister's questions and answers on the beehive website](#)
- [Download the Regulatory Impact Statement about Fresh Start \(Word 63KB\)](#)



# Submissions

- Social Services Select Committee has called for submissions on the Children, Young Persons, and their Families (Youth Courts Jurisdiction and Orders) Amendment Bill
- The Bill can be downloaded from <http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/SC/SubmCalled/>
- Submissions close **Friday, 17 April 2009**



# Submissions

- Your chance to present your opinions, observations, and recommendations on a matter before a select committee
- Submissions are written, but you may also ask to talk to the committee in person
- A 20 page booklet with details on how to present a submission including a suggested format can be downloaded from

<http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/>



# How Parliament Makes a Law

- **Bill Introduced**
  - No debate
- **1st Reading\***
  - Initial debate
- **Select Committee**
  - Hears public submissions.
  - Recommends amendments.
  - Reports to the House explaining recommendations.
- **2nd Reading\***
  - Main debate on the principles of the bill as it emerged from the select committee.
  - Select committee amendments adopted.
- **Committee of the Whole House**
  - Detailed consideration of each clause or part.
  - Further amendments can be made.
- **3rd Reading\***
  - Final debate on whether it should be passed in the form emerging from committee of the whole House.
- **Royal Assent**
  - Governor-General assents to the bill becoming an Act of Parliament.

\* ***At any of these steps, a vote in the House can result in the bill being defeated.***