

NZ Justice International Network

PĀNUI 1, DECEMBER 2019



*Dr Ian Lambie, New Zealand
Chief Science Advisor (Justice)*

Kia ora

Well what a year 2019 has been. A lot has happened since we held the Criminal Justice Summit in Wellington in August 2018 and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for agreeing to be part of our international network. As you know, we set up this network to support the provision of advice, analysis and reporting on New Zealand's ongoing criminal justice reform and transformation from a range of international experts.

In this Pānui (newsletter), we are excited to share with you the New Zealand Government's recent announcement on the direction for reform, provide an overview of what I covered off at the recent ANZSOC Conference in Perth and seek your feedback on what you would like to see in future Pānui.

Course set for safe and effective justice

On 12 December 2019, the New Zealand Government announced its initial response to recent reports on the criminal justice system.

Justice Minister Andrew Little welcomed the reports delivered by Justice Advisory Group Te Uepū Hāpai i te Ora (*Turuki! Turuki!*), the Chief Victims Advisor to Government (*Te Tangi o te Manawanui: Recommendations for Reform*) and the organisers of the Hui Māori (Māori workshop) for justice (*Ināia Tonu Nei – Now is the Time*), saying that there is much we need to do if we want the criminal justice

system to be safe and effective and if we want to change what it does for the better.

He also signalled the Government's intention to make Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment (AODT) Courts permanent, by extending their operation in Auckland and Waitākere by two years and announcing plans for an additional AODT Court in Waikato.

Turuki! Turuki! – which is a traditional call to the crew of a waka (Māori canoe) to work together and create forward motion with urgency – provides recommendations for a fundamental reshaping of the justice system to one which prevents harm, addresses its causes, and promotes healing and restoration among individuals and communities.

Te Tangi o te Manawanui: Recommendations for Reform, which means 'the heart that says 'no more' in order to protect our taonga: future generations', sets out recommendations from the Chief Victims Advisor to Government, Dr Kim McGregor, on improving the criminal justice system for victims.

Ināia Tonu Nei – Now is the Time captures the kōrero (conversation) at a national Māori hui (workshop) held in Rotorua in April 2019 to discuss Māori experiences with the justice system. Published in July 2019, the report calls for Māori to have a genuine leadership role in creating a future justice system for Aotearoa New Zealand.

The recommendations and changes being discussed are aimed at improving the justice system to make it safer, more effective and more connected to New Zealanders.

Further work on a long-term Government response will be detailed in 2020.

[Read Justice Minister Andrew Little's media release](#)

[Read Turuki! Turuki!](#)

[Read Te Tangi o te Manawanui: Recommendations for Reform](#)

[Read Ināia Tonu Nei – Now is the Time](#)



Justice Minister Andrew Little with Justice Advisory Group Chair Chester Borrows and Chief Victims Advisor Dr Kim McGregor

Youth justice and victims reform in Aotearoa New Zealand

Nessa Lynch from Wellington's Victoria University (VUW Law School) and I recently attended the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology (ANZSOC) Conference in Perth, Australia where we discussed reforming youth justice in Aotearoa New Zealand. Our session looked at recent reforms and initiatives in the youth justice system from the perspectives of principles and evidence.

Specifically, we looked at the new principles introduced in New Zealand on 1 July 2019 as part of a re-orientation of the law governing care and protection and youth justice. Key amongst these were the concept of 'well-being', a clarification of the purposes of the youth justice system, recognition of rights under international conventions, recognition of Maori cultural concepts and the inclusion of most 17-year olds in the youth justice system.

We also looked at how evidence-based interventions are needed to assist in bringing about sustained long term change to the youth justice system and the challenges New Zealand faces in 'doing' as opposed to just 'talking'.

Sarah Tapper from New Zealand's Ministry of Justice also attended ANZSOC and presented a paper titled *Co-design between government, academia and the wider victim community*. This gave an overview of the Hāpaitia (criminal Justice reform) programme and focussed on the online Victims Survey and Victims Issues Workshop held by Chief Victims Advisor in March of this year.

Sarah also took part in a roundtable panel discussion on *Interactions between academic researchers and government officials in New Zealand – Potential and challenges*.

Get in touch at safeandeffective@justice.govt.nz if you are interested in more detail on these sessions.

What do you want to discuss?

We want to make sure this Pānui provides a vehicle for regular two-way discussion on criminal justice reform.

Please let us know what you would like to see discussed in our next edition by emailing your ideas to safeandeffective@justice.govt.nz

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Happy holidays to you all and I look forward to catching up in 2020.

Ngā mihi (thank you)

Ian Lambie, New Zealand Chief Science Advisor (Justice)