



Programme Overview

Te Hurihanga Programme Information



Overview of the Te Hurihanga Programme

The Te Hurihanga Programme has been developed in response to the Government's *Youth Offending Strategy*, which identified a gap in programme provision for recidivist young offenders. It is an intensive, therapeutic 9 – 18 month residential and community-based programme. The programme will be piloted for 3 years, and will be formally evaluated.

Youth Horizons, a national provider with extensive experience of working alongside young people with severe behavioural problems, was selected as the programme provider. Youth Horizons have formed a partnership with Maatua Whangai, a Hamilton based Māori provider, to develop and deliver the programme.

In the past, the focus of most residential services for young offenders has been more on containment than on therapy, rehabilitation and reintegration. However, there is no evidence that simply keeping young offenders in a custodial situation will reduce future offending. What appears to be most important is that the residential service is well designed and has very well implemented regimes where the treatment is delivered as intended and monitored for integrity, combined with intensive community-based supervision and reintegration services after the residential phase.

Currently, a number of residential programmes in New Zealand struggle to provide support and assistance to young offenders as they reintegrate from a residential environment back into their community. In contrast, Te Hurihanga has been developed as a three-phased programme to ensure that intensive community-based supervision and reintegration services are provided to young offenders as they move from the residence back home to their family/whanau.

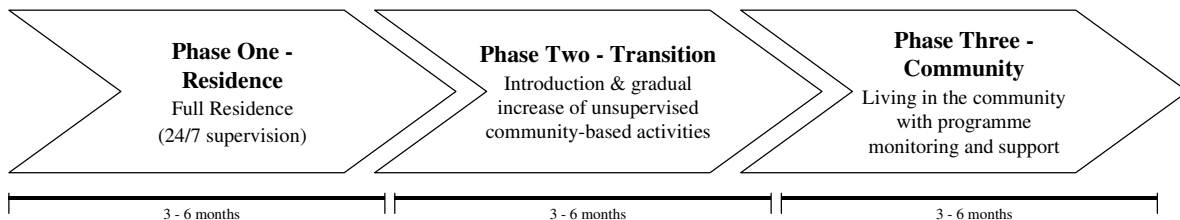
Te Hurihanga is for:

- Males;
- Aged 14-17 years;
- Who live within 60 minutes of the residence;
- Who have appeared before the Court.

Te Hurihanga is for young people with the greatest likelihood of reoffending who require the most intensive level of intervention. Young people will be selected for Te Hurihanga based on their need, not on the number or nature of the offences they have committed. Those who are convicted of sexual offences, or the most serious offences such as murder or manslaughter, will not be accepted for Te Hurihanga.

As up to 60-80% of the young people on the Te Hurihanga programme are likely to be Maori, and the young people on the programme must live within 60 minutes of the residence, it is likely that many will be Tainui. Accordingly, in July 2003 the Ministry entered into a formal Statement of Intent with Tainui.

Young people on the Te Hurihanga programme will spend three to six months living in the residence, then three to six months gradually transitioning from the residence back to their family home, and then three to six months living in the community under close supervision and monitoring. The three-phased programme approach is illustrated below:



During the Residence Phase, the young people will live at the residence full-time and will be under constant supervision from staff members. The young people will not leave the residence during this phase unless they are accompanied by a staff member. During the day, the young people will participate in educational and therapeutic activities, including group and individual therapy, and recreation activities.

During the Transition Phase, the young people will not be required to be supervised 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. However the level of supervision and support will remain high initially with a gradual reduction over the phase. It is expected that initially the young people will continue to live at the residence, and they will begin community-based activities; for example, attending a school close to their home, or beginning work experience. There are two beds at the residence which will be reserved for young people on the Transition phase of the programme.

After the young person has settled into community-based activities, they will move from the residence back into their own home. It is expected that this will occur gradually; for example, with weekend visits home for the first few weeks. Once the young person is living at his home full time, he will travel directly from his home to school and work experience.

During the Community Phase, the young people will be living at home full-time and the focus of the programme staff will be to provide monitoring and support for the young person and their family through Multi-Systemic Therapy.