A MARSDEN FUNDED PROJECT:

Going Straight Home? Expectations & Realities

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Recidivism, reintegration & stable housing

**IMPORTANCE OF HOUSING**

- Of those released from NZ prisons in 2016/17, within 24 months
  - 62.1% were reconvicted
  - 43.3% were re-imprisoned

- Figures for Māori – 66.7% and 47.6 % respectively (NZ Corrections 2019)

- Stable accommodation can reduce the risk of reoffending by between 11 and 62% (Lutze, et al. 2014; O’Leary 2013; Baldry, et al. 2006; Metraux & Culhane 2004; Social Exclusion Unit 2002)

- ‘a secure base around which (pro-social) identities are constructed’ (Dupuis & Thorns 1998)
LEAVING PRISON

- In 2019, 7,595 people were released from NZ prisons

- Only around half of releasees able to settle into long-term accommodation (Johnston 2018)

- Corrections funds over 1,000 housing places each year through various initiatives, e.g. Supported Accommodation

- Budget 2018 – 57.6 million for housing initiatives
Going Straight Home?

1. TO EXAMINE:

whether stable housing is associated with reduced recidivism in New Zealand

2. TO EVALUATE:

the role of stable housing in contributing to desistance from crime
Began initial interviews at Auckland Women’s

March 2019

 Finished last wave of pre-release interviews

August 2019

Begin 6 month follow-up interviews with participants

September 2019

Begun first wave of 1 year follow up interviews

March 2020

Conduct narrative interviews for stage 2

June 2020
Research sample: Pre-release

**Ethnicity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Māori</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pākehā</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasifika</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Gender Distribution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Diverse</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Do you know where you are going to live on release?

Yes

- Women: 83
- Men: 67
- Māori: 71
- Non-Māori: 33

No

- Women: 17
- Men: 33
- Māori: 29
- Non-Māori: 33
Expected post-prison housing

- Owned: 7
- Private rental: 16
- State: 6
- NGO: 8
- Friends/family: 42
- Hotel/motel: 1
- Hostel/campground: 2
- Streets: 8

Percentage
Have you had any support finding housing on release?

- **Yes**:
  - Women: 27%
  - Men: 34%
  - Māori: 32%
  - Non-Māori: 34%

- **No**:
  - Women: 74%
  - Men: 66%
  - Māori: 68%
  - Non-Māori: 66%
Anticipated post-release housing challenges

- Need for positive environment
- Living with family
- Suitable for children
- Difficulties applying for housing and lack of knowledge of options
- Wanted help and support earlier in sentence
- Out of Gate
Research sample: 6 months

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pākehā</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasifika</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
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<td>Gender Diverse</td>
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</table>
Actual post-release housing

- Percentage

- Pre-release

- 6 months post-release
### Actual post-release housing

#### Expected accommodation (N=66)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation Type</th>
<th>Owned</th>
<th>Rented</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>NGO</th>
<th>Family/Friends</th>
<th>Motel/hotel</th>
<th>Hostel/campground</th>
<th>Street/missing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total expected</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>Motel</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hostel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Street</td>
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<td>1</td>
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Number of moves: 6 months after release

![Bar chart showing the percentage of people who have moved None, Once, Twice, Three Times, Four Times, or Five or More times after 6 months of release.](chart.png)
Post-prison housing challenges

● Supported accommodation/hostels
  • Lack of privacy
  • Felt unsafe – ‘a lot of thievery’

● Finances
  • High rents
  • Steps to Freedom
  • Hard to find other housing

● Poor quality housing
Post-prison housing challenges

- Support – too little, too late
- Support to keep their own homes
- Housing instability and lack of control
- ‘It is a roof over their heads, but people deserve a home’
Study limitations

- Recruitment difficulties
  - Incorrect or out of date contact details – help from Corrections
  - Agreed to be interviewed – then ‘ghosted’
- Those in stable housing more likely to be interviewed
- Follow up interviews in prison
- Koha
- Possibility of interviewing at probation offices
Conclusion

CHALLENGES
Of finding and keeping housing

SUPPORT
to find and keep housing

1 YEAR INTERVIEWS
of the next stage of our study

STAGE 2
housing and desistance
Thank you!

ANY QUESTIONS?

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