

# Cultural-Based Approaches in the Rehabilitation of Māori Prisoners

By Sarah Wyber

“Do culturally specific programmes have a place in the rehabilitation of Māori prisoners?”

**Introduction** A secure cultural identity for Māori is associated with improved health and social outcomes, as well as reducing the likelihood of offending (Durie, 1998). This correlation has been the cause for many Correctional responses over the last few decades (Mihaere, 2015, Chalmers, 2014).

**Practice Issue** Despite the implementation of cultural based rehabilitation programmes, reincarceration rates for Māori remain high. Statistics show that 55% of Māori that have been released from prison will be reincarcerated within a 48-month period (Department of Corrections, 2008).

## Literature Review

Literature supports the use of culture in offender treatment. Research conducted around the effectiveness of current strategies showed small but positive trends in reducing rates of re-offending for Māori. However, research was out of date and the trends were too small to make definitive statements claiming their success. A case-management style of reintegration was found to be successful in reducing rates of re-offending for Māori following a two-year trial at the Otago Corrections Facility ((McDonald, Thomson, Sullivan, 2014).

## Recommendations

- An up-to-date review of the effectiveness of Māori Focus Units (MFU's) and Māori Therapeutic Programmes (MTP's) in reducing rates of re-offending and recidivism is required.
- The Department of Corrections handover the development of MTP's and MFU's to Māori so they are developed and delivered within a Māori framework and world view (Mihaere, 2015).
- Workforce capability is strengthened, and increased resources focus on the recruitment of Māori into health and relevant clinical support professions
- Review the success of 'Tiaki Tangata – Project Kete'. Further review is needed on a case-management style of reintegration supporting successful rehabilitation.

## References

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- Department of Corrections. (2007). Reconviction Patterns of Released Prisoners (A 36-months Follow-up Analysis). Retrieved 25 March 2018, from <https://www.corrections.govt.nz>
- Durie, M. (1998). *Te mana, Te kawanatanga: The politics of Māori self-determination*. Auckland: Oxford University Press.
- McDonald, M., Thompson, T., & Sullivan, T. (2014). *Offender Case Management: Tiaki Tangata – Project Kete*. Retrieved 25 March 2018, from <http://a3k.co.nz>
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The Schneider, Whitehead, LoBiondo-Wood & Haber (2013) PECOT model (below) was used to formulate the question “Do culturally specific programmes have a place in the rehabilitation of Māori prisoners?”.

CATEGORY	Information relating to question	Rationale relating to practice issue
POPULATION	Māori prisoners in New Zealand prisons.	Māori are overrepresented in the incarcerated population. They also have high rates of recidivism once released from prison.
EXPOSURE (intervention)	Cultural-based strategies to support successful rehabilitation.	Literature is reviewed regarding the delivery of culturally specific treatments to Māori prisoners and how they contribute to the rehabilitation of Māori prisoners.
COMPARISON/ CONTROL	Māori prisoners who have been involved in cultural-based rehabilitation programmes and rates of re-offending/recidivism of this group.	To identify the effectiveness of such programmes in the rehabilitation of Māori.
OUTCOME	To be able to identify the best strategy to provide Māori prisoners a platform for successful rehabilitation.	With the end goal of improving quality of life for Māori who have previously been in prison by providing the best strategy to reduce reoffending rates and increase rates of successful rehabilitation.
TIME	N/A	I have not included a time due to the range of sentences served.

Poster rationale:

Creating a poster has allowed me to refine and condense complex information into an easy to understand, aesthetically pleasing information sheet. When presented at a forum, posters provide a focal point and a base to initiate informal discussion to increase knowledge and generate additional thinking (Llic and Rowe, 2013). Creating small sections of text and bullet pointing helps separate information making it easier to read and digest (University of Texas at Austin, 2017). This poster is intended to provoke thoughts around current strategies of rehabilitation for Māori and get the conversation out there so change is able to happen.

References:

Llic, D., & Rowe, N. (2013). What is the evidence that poster presentations are effective in promoting knowledge transfer? A state of the art review. *Health Information & Libraries Journal*, 30(1), 4-12.  
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Schneider, Z., Whitehead., D., LoBiondo-Wood, G., & Haber, J. (2013). *Nursing and midwifery research methods and appraisal for evidence – based practice* (4th ed.). Sydney, NSW, Australia: Mosby.

University of Texas at Austin. (2017). Poster guide. Retrieved from [https://ugs.utexas.edu/our/poster/create\\_message/organize](https://ugs.utexas.edu/our/poster/create_message/organize)