

LAW & ORDER: PROTECTING COMMUNITIES

Building a Safer New Zealand



Tackling crime

National is building a safer New Zealand. We've embarked on a comprehensive programme of reform to protect communities, prevent crime, and put victims first.

We'll stay tough on criminals, keep record numbers of Police on the beat, and make sure the justice system focuses on the rights of victims.

Protecting the public

Before National came to office in 2008, crime was increasing, gangs were growing stronger, prisons faced a critical shortage of beds, P was seriously damaging communities, violent repeat offenders were being freed on parole, and the courts were congested.

National is turning that around.

We've embarked on a comprehensive programme of reform. We've passed 18 new laws and made other policy changes to improve public safety and the rights of victims.

This has resulted in less crime, tougher sentences and parole laws, more Police on the front line, a crackdown on illegal drugs, and millions of dollars seized from gangs. We've averted the prison crowding crisis and increased public confidence in law enforcement.

National will further strengthen sentencing, bail, and parole laws, and confront violent and sexual abuse of children, families, and the elderly to build a safer New Zealand.

“National will stay tough on criminals. We will screen parole applications to reduce unnecessary hearings, increase penalties for child pornography, and introduce civil detention orders for the most high-risk offenders who are at imminent risk of serious sexual or violent re-offending.”

Key facts

- Clamped down on gangs, organised crime, and methamphetamine (P).
- Toughened sentences and bail, and abolished parole for the worst repeat violent criminals.
- Put more Police on the streets and gave them better tools to do their work.
- Recorded crime per person is down in the past two years and at its lowest since 1982.
- Averted the prison crowding crisis.
- Seized more than \$30 million of P in 2010, and \$40 million of criminal proceeds to date.
- More than 6000 families have been protected by our Police Safety Orders.
- Further strengthening sentences, bail, and parole laws.
- Supporting innovation in our prisons.

Related policies

→ Victims

→ Tougher Bail

National has...



Strengthened sentencing, parole, and bail

Toughened laws

- ✓ Removed parole eligibility for the worst repeat violent offenders, and for offenders who commit the worst murders, and worked with the Act Party to implement the Three Strikes law.
- ✓ Amended the Bail Act to reverse changes made by Labour that made bail easier to get.
- ✓ Completed a wider review of bail laws.
- ✓ Repealed the use of provocation as a partial defence for murder.
- ✓ Increased the penalty for possessing a knife from two to three years in prison.
- ✓ Introduced legislation that requires assaults on Police and Corrections officers to be an aggravating factor in sentencing.



Tackled gangs and P

Cracked down on gangs

- ✓ Passed new laws to increase sentences for involvement in gangs, and boosted Police powers to intercept gang communications and dismantle gang fortifications.

New powers to take on the gangs

- ✓ Passed laws to allow Police to seize gang assets and to make offenders prove that such assets were not acquired through crime.
- ✓ Established the Police Asset Recovery Unit to seize the millions made from crime.

Tackled methamphetamine

- ✓ Introduced a law to restrict access to methamphetamine precursor chemicals.
- ✓ Created dedicated anti-drug taskforces in Customs.
- ✓ Boosted support for families and communities to protect people from P.



Improved Police tools

Put more Police on the street

- ✓ Put 300 extra Police on the streets in Counties-Manukau.

300 more Police for South Auckland

- ✓ Putting 600 more Police in total on the beat around the country by the end of 2011.

Expanded the Police toolkit

- ✓ Allowed Police to collect DNA when taking fingerprints from people they intend charging with an imprisonable offence, and match that DNA against profiles from unsolved crimes.
- ✓ Rolled out Tasers for frontline Police.
- ✓ Introduced digital radio in the three main centres to improve Police safety.
- ✓ Supported the Police's decision to increase their access to firearms in lockboxes in frontline vehicles.

Tackled boy-racers

- ✓ Passed laws making it harder for boy racers to terrorise our communities.



Protected children and families

Better protected victims

- ✓ Introduced Police Safety Orders to protect those at risk of family violence.
- ✓ Amended the Sentencing Act 2002 within our first one hundred days to make offending against a child an aggravating factor when sentencing.

Tougher sentences for crimes against children

- ✓ Increased penalties for child abuse and neglect.
- ✓ Made it an offence for an adult not to take reasonable steps to protect a child or vulnerable adult knowing they were at risk.
- ✓ Passed a law that focuses on keeping children safe when there has been violence in the home, and improves how the Family Court responds to those victims.

Boosted community probation

- ✓ Increased Community Probation Service funding by \$256 million to boost staff numbers and improve the management of offenders serving community sentences.



Supported Canterbury



Above: An Australian police officer discusses the recovery effort with Prime Minister John Key.

Boosted Police numbers

- ✓ Deployed 1200 extra Police from around New Zealand and overseas for the immediate rescue and recovery effort after the February quake.

Established temporary courts

- ✓ Set up temporary courts as soon as possible to minimise delays to justice.

Provided offender labour for recovery work

- ✓ Supported the recovery effort by providing 170,000 hours of free labour from offenders on community work.



Improved our prisons

Made prisons safer

- ✓ Removed razor blades from high-risk prisoners.
- ✓ Invested \$3.6 million in new safety equipment.
- ✓ Passed laws to give Corrections greater powers to search for contraband.
- ✓ Banned smoking in prisons.

Improved prisoner rehabilitation

- ✓ Doubled drug and alcohol treatment places for prisoners – as promised – and opened three new drug treatment units focusing on short-term prisoners.

Doubled drug and alcohol treatment places

- ✓ Increased the number of prisoners receiving work skills training by 1000 as promised.
- ✓ Boosted literacy and numeracy education in prisons.

Averted the prison crowding crisis

- ✓ Built a 60-bed container unit and increased double bunking by 900 beds.

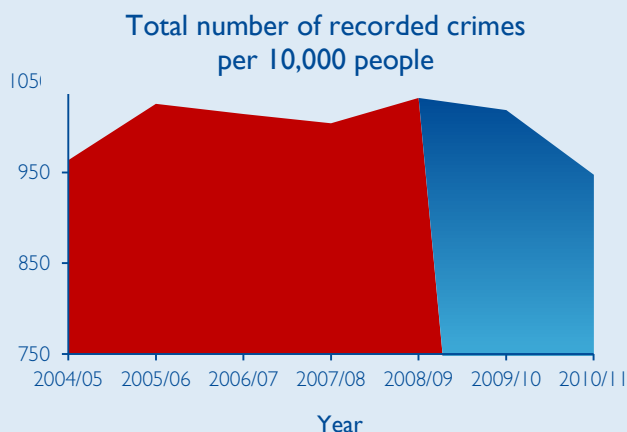
Encouraged innovation

- ✓ Introduced private sector management at Mt Eden Corrections Facility.

Our results so far – New Zealand is becoming safer

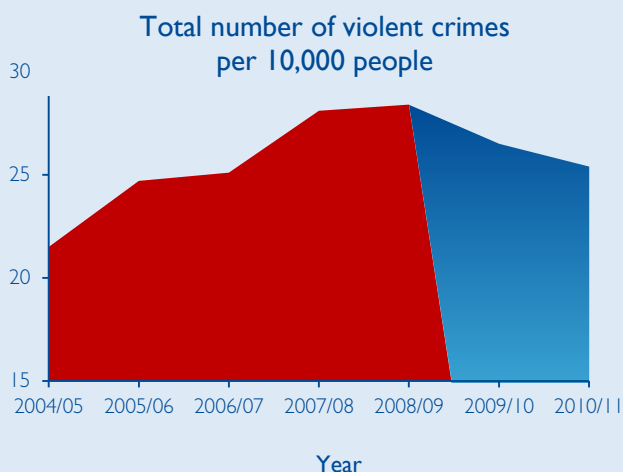
Crime is declining

- Total recorded crime per person is down two years in a row.
- **8.2 per cent decline** in recorded crime per person from June 2009 to June 2011.
- 2010/11 crime rates per person fell in all districts.
- The lowest overall crime rate since 1982.



Violent crime is declining

- Violent crime per person is down two years in a row.
- **10.6 per cent decline** in violent crime per person from June 2009 to June 2011.



Life with no parole for worst killers

– *Dominion Post*
25 May 2010

No parole for the worst repeat violent offenders

- 700 criminals have received their first strike under the Three Strikes law.

More P is being seized and destroyed

- \$30.4 million of P was seized in 2010. This is 46 per cent more than in 2009.

Crime proceeds are being seized

- \$40 million seized from criminals to date this year under the new proceeds of crime laws.

Boy racing has declined

- Street racing offences down by 15 per cent.

Families protected from violence

- The Police have issued over 6000 Police Safety Orders, confirming this as an effective new tool to manage family violence situations.

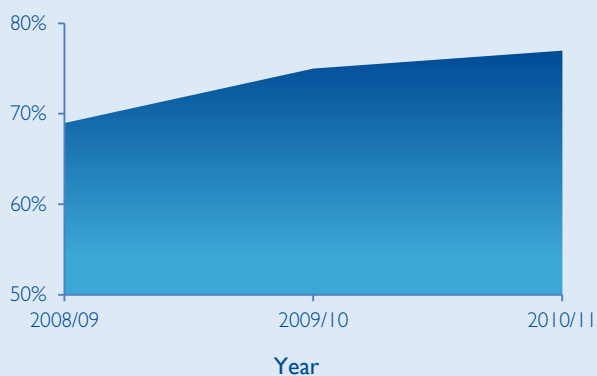
Probation services are improving

- Probation Service staff compliance with mandatory standards is now at its highest level ever (97 per cent).

Confidence in the Police is growing

Public trust and confidence in the Police has increased from 72 per cent in 2008/09 to 77 per cent in 2010/11 – the highest recorded level.

Percentage of people who have confidence in the Police



Prison performance is improving

- Prison escapes are at their lowest ever, with only two in the year to 1 October 2011.
- Public confidence in Corrections is 53 per cent higher than it was in June 2008.
- Positive random drug tests of prisoners are at their lowest.
- Prisoners achieved 108,000 NZQA credits in literacy and numeracy in 2010/11.

What we will do next...



Strengthen sentencing, parole, and bail laws

1. Make bail harder to get

- Pass legislation to make it harder for serious criminals to get bail.

Bail decisions should reflect the risk of re-offending. We will make it harder for those accused of the most serious offences to get bail, particularly where there is a pattern of offending while on bail for such offences (e.g. offenders charged with class A drugs charges have the highest offending rates on bail).

See our [Bail policy](#) for more details.

2. Strengthen sentences for assaults on law enforcement officers

- Pass the Sentencing (Aggravating Factors) Amendment Bill. This will make assaults on Police and Corrections officers an aggravating factor at sentencing.

Police and Corrections officers keep the community safe from dangerous people. There has been a steady increase in assaults over the past five years. We'll send a clear message that assaults on law enforcement officers will be dealt with severely.

3. Introduce random drug testing

- Introduce random drug and alcohol testing where being drug- and alcohol-free is a condition of bail, home detention, or other community sentences.

Random testing will ensure offenders comply with their conditions, reduce re-offending, and uphold the integrity of the sentences handed out by the courts.

4. Reduce unnecessary parole hearings

- Introduce screening of parole applications. This will allow the Parole Board to reduce the number of unnecessary parole hearings.

More than 650 parole hearings are held every year for prisoners who are unwilling to address their offending or who have not completed parts of their offender plan.

Parole is rarely granted at these hearings so they often cause needless stress for victims and are a waste of resources. This policy will save an estimated \$900,000 a year.

5. Introduce civil detention orders

- Pass a law to introduce civil detention orders. These will protect the community from a very small number of high-risk offenders who are clinically assessed as being at imminent risk of serious sexual or violent re-offending when released from jail at the end of their sentence. Offenders will be held under a civil detention order in a secure facility.

Public safety is being jeopardised by a very small number of offenders who are released from prison at the end of their finite sentence. The current extended supervision orders are not the best tool to deal with these offenders, who are at very high risk of imminent and serious sexual and violent re-offending.

Civil detention orders will allow an application to be made to the High Court for such offenders to be held in custody until the Parole Board is convinced they are safe for release.

The new orders are expected to apply to between five and 12 offenders over a 10-year period. The majority of these people are expected to be child sex offenders.

What we will do next... (continued)



Back the Police

1. Give Police greater clarity around surveillance

- Pass the Search and Surveillance Bill into law.

This law will ensure clear and enduring rules for the Police and other agencies to carry out the search and surveillance of suspects.

2. Boost frontline technology

- Improve officers' use of mobile technology such as personal digital assistants (PDAs).

National will ensure front-line Police spend less time on paperwork and more time on the streets preventing and tackling crime.

Better mobile technology can help Police process cases on the spot without returning to the station to complete their paperwork.



Protect families, children, and the elderly

1. Tackle sexual abuse and violence

- Increase the penalties for producing, trading, or possessing child pornography.

Child pornography is abhorrent. We will send a strong message that this trade feeds a market in the exploitation and abuse of children – regardless of where the initial offence was committed – and it will not be tolerated.

- Require justice and social sector agencies to work together more closely to prevent family and sexual violence.

When government agencies work together on their response to family and sexual violence there is less duplication and 'patch protection'. This ensures that as much funding as possible reaches front-line services to support the victims.

2. Confront elder abuse

- Encourage the Police to work closely with partner organisations to share information and improve responses to elder abuse. For example, co-locating Age Concern staff in Police National Headquarters alongside Victim Support and Community Patrols to improve national co-ordination.

Older people who are dependent on others are vulnerable to abuse. Two to three cases of elder abuse are reported to agencies every day. Closer agency relationships and better information sharing will allow better support and services for these cases.



Support innovation in our prisons

1. Use private sector management where it makes sense

- Use a public-private partnership to construct and manage a new prison at Wiri – as required.

Partnering between the Government and the private sector can improve public safety by encouraging innovation and better rehabilitation. International experience suggests that building a new prison at Wiri by way of a PPP will bring savings of between 10 and 20 per cent over the life of the contract.

- Continue private-sector management of Mt Eden Corrections Facility.

Private management of the prison is providing access to world-class innovation and expertise. It provides value for money and incentives for innovation. National will apply the lessons from this contract to the entire corrections sector.

2. Further improve prisoner rehabilitation

- Expand rehabilitation and reintegration services for prisoners and those serving community sentences,

Rehabilitation is an investment in community safety, and we want to do more of it. We will expand rehabilitation and reintegration by:

- Making drug and alcohol treatment available across all of our prisons. Currently, services are available at nine of our prisons – out of 19.
- Working with District Health Boards to develop drug and alcohol treatment for offenders in the community.
- Targeting young offenders with education, training, employment, parenting and living skills.
- Strengthening the programmes available in Maori Focus Units.
- Taking greater advantage of employment services offered by Work and Income – and work with them to prepare and plan for prisoners' release.
- Doubling the number of prisoners participating in release to work programmes.

International research suggests prisoners are less likely to reoffend when they are off drugs, are able to read and write, and have basic work skills. This work will be funded from within baseline spending.

Labour would take New Zealand backwards

Under Labour in 2008:

- ✘ The criminal justice system was in disarray. It lacked accountability and any focus on victims.
- ✘ There was a critical shortage of prison beds.
- ✘ Gangs and organised crime were growing in strength, and the Government was losing the fight against P.
- ✘ Violent criminals were being released on parole.
- ✘ The legal aid budget was blowing out.
- ✘ Violent crime was up 47 per cent over the previous decade.
- ✘ Only one law and order policy was released – to form a committee to look at gangs.

Labour in 2011:

- ✘ Is too frightened of the legal profession to embark on the kind of reform to the criminal justice system that is necessary to make it work well.
- ✘ Has announced they will repeal the Three Strikes law and allow the worst repeat sexual and violent criminals to get out of jail early.

We can't afford another dose of Labour.