

## The Corrections Chief and the Minister (Epilogue)

In its May 2009 Budget, characterised by strict controls on expenditure, the New Zealand government allocated \$1.45 billion in new operating spending for its “new priorities.” Along with education and health, law and order was one of these priorities. Citing an urgent need for extra resourcing in a number of areas, the Budget provided over \$900 million in operating and capital funding for initiatives in the justice sector over the next four years.

The Community Probation and Psychological Services (CPPS) received a total of \$256 million. The \$205 million in operating funding would allow CPPS to hire an extra 134 probation officers, 26 front-line managers, and 20 psychologists.

“That would ensure that CPPS could effectively manage almost 100,000 sentences and orders each year,” Corrections Minister Judith Collins said.<sup>1</sup> Another \$71.2 million in operating funding had been approved over four years to recruit 112 extra probation officers, three front-line managers and three psychologists, to improve the quality of parole and home detention management.

On 12 June, the Minister launched new prisoner release teams at a ceremony at the CPPS’ service centre in Manurewa, Auckland.<sup>2</sup> In a separate press release, Corrections Chief Executive Barry Matthews said the teams had been established to meet the “extra needs and responsibilities associated with released prisoners.” The staff, to be specially trained, would “improve the standard of management and boost the level of knowledge about the operational requirements for this group of offenders and ensure they are better held to account when they do not comply with the requirements of their sentences.”<sup>3</sup> Other initiatives to improve the performance of CPPS would include increased specialisation for probation officers, and added levels of oversight, Barry Matthews said.

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This epilogue was written by Janet Tyson, Australia and New Zealand School of Government for Dr Richard Norman. It is designed for teaching purposes to accompany the cases 2009-96.1 and 2009-96.2. The use of teaching materials is restricted to authorised persons.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c\\_id+280&objectid=10575059](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c_id+280&objectid=10575059) downloaded 15-06-2009

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/specialist+prisoner+release+teams+will+improve+safety> downloaded 15-06-2009

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.corrections.govt.nz/news-and-publications/media-releases/2009> downloaded 15-06-2009.