

Formative evaluation of Close to Home: a
family reintegration pilot programme at
Christchurch Mens' Prison
June 2012

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Executive summary

This brief formative evaluation examines issues arising from the development of a Pillars family/whānau re-integration programme in May and June 2011.

The evaluation report is to be submitted to the Department of Corrections along with the written programme and materials that have been developed into the Close to Home package.

Most prisoners are parents, and most do not keep in good touch with their children and whānau through the sentence. Yet the research makes it clear that prisoners who get good support from their families/whānau are far less likely to re-offend than those who do not.

A range of programmes were researched in developing the programme, and include information on what kind of programme, eligibility issues, length, content and actual and expected outcomes for the courses. This information was used in developing the structure and content of Close to Home.

The programme was developed over 6-8 weeks and has been written as a programme workbook for delivery. It is summarised in this report.

Features of the programme include: the use of high quality assessment tools and workbooks that have been developed for other programmes; a significant amount of work with the prisoner and whānau present; a strong focus on planning re-integration; and the use of a range of agencies through the Strengthening Families process to facilitate prisoner re-entry.

This approach allows for the particular issues facing individual families to be addressed, and for families/whānau to have access to the resources of a wide range of agencies.

The programme involves significant pre-release work and also post-release guiding and support.

Stakeholders support family/whānau re-integration, although they have a range of different views as to what it entails. There is acknowledgement that prisons currently have not focussed adequately on the role of the family/whānau, nor on the prisoner as a parent.

The project materials were analysed. A wide range of good quality materials are available and will be used at various points through the pilot project. Core tools include the Time's Up workbook and the assessment tools, among others.

The main findings of the formative evaluation are that a very effective programme has been assembled using a range of resources from a variety of sources. Key risks



include the need to bring in a new staff member for the pilot programme phase, and the difficulties in tailoring courses to individual needs. The main risk for the pilot programme is timeliness, as all aspects of the programme will need to be complete within three months.

Appendices to this report include the evaluation research application, information and consent forms, the stakeholder interview schedule and the list of resources consulted (full details are in the large re-integration spreadsheet that is available separately).



Context of this evaluation

This document provides a formative evaluation of the development of the Close to Home programme. In this first phase, the evaluation reports on issues arising from the construction of the programme. In the second phase, to be completed between July and September 2012, the actual pilot programme will be delivered and evaluated.

This formative evaluation is highly unusual, as the evaluator (Liz Gordon) not only evaluated the programme development but also participated in it, by reviewing background material, assisting in putting together the programme guide and facilitating the programme package.

However, the driving force of the project was Verna McFelin of Pillars, and while there was some collaborative work in developing the project, Verna identified the effective materials and programmes and worked out how to deliver the programme.

It is acknowledged that it is difficult for an evaluator to maintain a critical distance when centrally involved in the development of a project, but at the same time the critical decisions in the project can be opened up and discussed. This is what this report does: it aims to trace and analyse the development of a family/whānau re-integration programme from scratch.

It is hoped that this will then provide background information for others who are looking to develop family/whānau re-integration services.

This report constitutes part of a full package of materials that is being submitted to the Department of Corrections. The package includes:

- Programme guide and manual for a family/whānau re-integration programme to be run in New Zealand prisons.
- Brochure
- Selection and consent materials for use with prisoners
- Time's up workbook
- Quick check assessment
- Information on the Strengthening Families process
- Reading and project materials
- Programme spreadsheet of family/whānau re-integration services
- This evaluation document

The evaluation research

The evaluation programme was developed with and approved by the Department of Corrections (see Appendix 1). The key focus in the development phase was on



finding and analysing documents, attending meetings to plan the programme and assist in the development of the programme documentation.

An information sheet and consent form were developed for the project, and are attached as Appendix 2. Interviews were undertaken with several stakeholders (see interview schedule, Appendix 3).

This report aims to evaluate the overall programme development phase in the context of similar programmes and stakeholder viewpoints. The second phase will provide an evaluation of the pilot programme, to be completed between July and September 2012.



Background

The most common perception of prisoners is as individuals sent away from society to serve a period of time being punished for the crimes they have committed and, hopefully, receiving rehabilitation to prevent them from re-offending. But most prisoners are not just individuals: they are also sons and daughters, brothers and sisters and fathers and mothers of people in society.

In New Zealand, little attention has been paid within the Corrections system to the role of the family/whānau in the life and wellbeing of the prisoner, nor to the role of the prisoner in the family/whānau. With the major research project recently undertaken by Pillars over three years (Gordon 2009, 2011) the role of prisoner as parent has become much clearer. Key findings of that report are:

- Over two thirds of prisoners are parents
- Each prisoner who is a parent has, on average, around 2.3 children
- More than half of prisoners' children live more than an hour's drive from the prison
- Most do not get to visit their incarcerated parent on a regular basis
- Most children miss their incarcerated parent and wish to see them, and
- Virtually all prisoners (all except one) indicated that they wish to play a role as a parent to their children in the future

The Pillars research has focused a spotlight on the relationships between parents and children during the prison sentence. Essentially there appears to be little opportunity for prisoners to practice their parenting skills, or take any responsibility for their children, until at least the last two months of the sentence, which has been the designated re-integration period. At that point, things like the location of the prisoner's family/whānau are taken into account or become more important (Gordon, 2009).

While in prison, prisoners may undertake parenting programmes which teach a range of skills, but these occur in isolation from the partner or children. This provides for prisoners the theory of parenting but none of the practice.

Until recently there has been little concern with enhancing the role of prisoners as parents or preparing them effectively for life back with their family/whānau. However, there is now a significant amount of programme-based research demonstrating the benefits to the family/whānau, and to society, in providing effective programmes to maintain and enhance good family/whānau relationships.

In particular, attention has recently turned to the role of the family/whānau in preventing recidivist crime. The main research findings that underpin this move are summarised as follows:



[The analysis] reports two consistent findings: Male prisoners who maintain strong family/whānau ties during imprisonment have higher rates of post-release success than those who do not maintain such ties, and men who assume responsible husband and parenting roles upon release have higher rates of success than those who do not assume such roles (Hettel, 2008).

These programmes are hybrids of two goals with a common theme: strengthening families/whānau and reducing recidivism. The second element has been particularly important in parts of the United States, where rocketing levels of imprisonment have caused unmanageable stress on penal systems, as well as significant “collateral” damage in communities (Thalberg, 2006).

The US Federal Government has become involved in partnering the development of family re-integration, working in partnership with the NGO VERA and the Centre for Effective Public Policy. This collaboration has led to the development of a series of ‘coaching packets’, aimed at “criminal justice professionals and their partners interested in enhancing their strategies for reducing recidivism and improving offender outcomes” (diZerega, 2010).

As a result, there are now a number of family re-integration programmes being implemented in prisons in various parts of the United States, with a strong focus on reducing recidivism by forging strong prisoner/family links. A list of some of these programmes is attached as Appendix 4, and a spreadsheet, which was too large to include in this document, is available separately. The spreadsheet is discussed below.

Programme characteristics

There is a great deal of variation between the programmes. A number of them are listed in the attached ‘re-integration spreadsheet’, which examines a range of characteristics of the programmes, including similarities and differences. These factors were analysed as part of the process of developing the Close to Home evaluation. The key issues are summarised below.

Goals of the programme: these include self-help guides for overcoming barriers, a focus on successful re-integration, recidivism minimisation, overcoming substance abuse, directed towards work and family/whānau.

Target groups include: prisons (to provide services), prisoners awaiting release, prisoners and families/whānau after release, family/whānau-based pre- and post-release, information provision, community support and education.

What the programme does: advice and tips, support for re-integration, education of prison officers, family/whānau case management, a full programme, multi-agency involvement, agency links, information for re-integration.



Who runs the programme: ranges from prison staff, individual agencies and groups of agencies.

Where does it take place: In prison, in community, or both. Community sites include street frontage (i.e. walk-in) services to more traditional case management agencies.

What does it cover: individual or group courses, focus on family/whānau relationships or social context (e.g. employment, housing etc), strengths-based family/whānau models, reunification or partnership models.

Does it have direct family involvement: Only around half of the programmes reviewed here had direct family/whānau involvement. For some, such involvement is at the heart of the programme, but others prefer to concentrate on the offender.

What are the outcomes: Around half of these programmes had been evaluated, and tended to demonstrate a much lower rate of recidivism among participants. Some were considered 'excellent' by the evaluators.

These elements will be considered in evaluating the Close to Home pilot project.



Close to Home

The programme was developed in May and June 2012. The aim was to provide a full programme model that could be piloted between July and September. A series of meetings were held to plan the programme and develop it.

A range of resources were used to assist in the planning. The programme material listed in the family re-integration spreadsheet provided some background, and a further resource called Time's Up, included with the package of materials, provided useful approaches. The materials and administrative processes used by the Pillars defunct Te Atea re-integration project were considered and many adapted for this programme.

A programme plan was developed, and is briefly summarised here.

Goals of the programme

- To re-establish parental roles and responsibilities
- To overcome challenges and barriers to family/whānau and community reintegration
- To effectively re-unite parents and children
- To offer referral linkages to prisoners transitioning back into the community and their families
- To provide pre- and post-release support for successful re-integration to reduce the likelihood of recidivism.

Eligibility and selection

The selection criteria were carefully considered by the project development team. The aim is to commence the programme about four months before the prisoner's release date. Prisoners must be a parent of a child and be intending to be an active parent on release. The prisoner must be intending to live in the Canterbury region (to ensure access to ongoing services), must have family/whānau support and must declare their intention not to re-offend.

Selection will be made by a community-based programme co-ordinator, in consultation with the Corrections case manager.

Once a prisoner had applied to join the programme, the nominated family/whānau members will be approached for their agreement to participate. When both parties are agreed, the programme co-ordinator arranges a meeting with prisoner and family/whānau separately, and uses the Quick Check Assessment tool to gain an overview of issues from each party, and to brief all parties on how the programme works. At this point, both parties are formally enrolled in the programme.



Separate meetings

The next stage is that the co-ordinator analyses the results of the Quick Check assessment and provides a summary of issues affecting the family/whānau. Meetings are then organised with the prisoner and the whānau separately to discuss the findings and allow for a frank assessment by each of the parties. The aim is to increase the insight of both parties into the issues they are facing in terms of integration.

The first hui

The first meeting will be held between the prisoner, the whānau (adults only) and the co-ordinator. It will consider nine areas relating to the re-integration of the prisoner:

- a. Associates
- b. Housing
- c. Employment
- d. Income
- e. Substance abuse/ other health issues
- f. Personal emotional issues
- g. Attitude
- h. Community functioning
- i. Marital and family/whānau issues

For each topic, strengths, weaknesses and plans are discussed and any assistance needed is noted. The purpose of the meeting is to finalise a detailed integration plan and to prepare for the next stage of the re-integration process.

Strengthening Families meeting

Strengthening Families is an existing multi-agency process to help families/whānau get co-ordinated access to services. In planning this programme, Pillars realised that a multi-agency approach was required. Strengthening Families (SF) provides the framework and expertise for achieving this, and allows resources to be deployed in an efficient way. It also harnesses the resources of other agencies to assist in re-integrative work, which is efficient for Corrections.

Apart from community agencies, the whānau/families will be introduced to agency 'guides' who will be there to support the whānau through the re-integration process. Prison Fellowship already runs a similar project, and has made a commitment to provide the service to one family/whānau through the pilot project.

The SF hui will take place at the prison approximately six weeks before the prisoner is released. The Pillars team will co-ordinate the meeting and ensure all relevant



agencies and support people participate. The re-integration plan will provide the basis for planning action and allocating tasks.

Preparing for release

In the following six weeks, the prisoner will prepare in a range of ways for re-integration into the community. This may involve reading around parenting (Pillars has access to a range of resources and workbooks on fathering after prison, for example), some study, work-related tasks or other preparation, with the assistance of the co-ordinator. A 'ready for release' resource will be developed to guide this work. One week prior to release, a final re-integration meeting will be held between the prisoner and the whānau/family to identify and resolve any final barriers to a successful re-integration.

After release

The co-ordinator will meet with the whānau within one week after the prisoner is released to consider:

- Issues relating to the plan
- Any problems or needs encountered so far
- Toolkit issues
- Checking the lead agency supports are in place (for Pillars, this includes child mentoring and family/whānau support services)
- Reviewing the role of re-integration guides, such as Prison Fellowship.
- Setting the time and date for the Strengthening Families review. This review will provide the opportunity to consider the effectiveness of the wrap-around service, whether goals have been met, and identify any further unmet needs or problems. If the process has been effective, the review may signal the end of the support period.

Strengthening Families review

A review of the SF process will be held within six months of the original meeting, with agencies coming together to test the success of the process. If all the re-integration plan goals have been achieved, this constitutes the end of the process. If, however, ongoing needs are identified, these are put in place and expert support and guidance remains available to the whānau.



Stakeholder views of successful family/whānau reintegration

Stakeholders had a range of views about what was needed for prisoners to achieve effective re-integration into the families. From the prisoner's perspective, the need is to 'break the cycle' by "giving people skills and tools to change their lives". One person noted:

It really depends on individual circumstances. Access to secure, good quality and affordable accommodation is crucial. Equally for those able to work, access to employment is crucial. For some programmes that build their skills in positive role modelling and parenting would be helpful. Often general life skills including budgeting and health care are required to meet particular needs. I also think there is a place for mentoring and ongoing support for some who find it difficult to contribute positively to community life.

Most stakeholders focussed on the external factors that would provide the anchors for effective family/whānau life, but one believed that the family/whānau focus is the most important:

If you can get the prisoner back into a functioning family/whānau as an effective partner and parent, you can prevent him (if a male) from re-offending and improve the outcomes for the children. It is not always possible, but when it is, it can work well.

Another noted that the parent/child bond is very important. Prisoners want to do things for their children, which can act as a motivating factor in re-integration.

Corrections staff noted that little is done currently to help construct pathways to family/whānau re-integration. The focus tends to be on programmes of personal improvement, such as alcohol and drug, education and training, violence prevention and psychological programmes.

Another person notes the difficulty in maintaining good parenting when a parent is in prison and those responsibilities are taken away.

Stakeholders were asked their views on what kind of programme could support prisoners and their family/whānau through a successful re-integration. One person noted:

I am not sure. The family has already been through the system. Something different is needed. Perhaps one person to walk alongside the family, or some kind of programme...



This person pondered the conundrum of why some families/whānau seem to cope well with reintegration and others do not, even if they appear similar.

A common theme among the respondents is the need for a wide-ranging service, or wrap-around, and support to help families/whānau meet their goals. One issue is the need to transfer skills learned in various courses into actual outcomes such as writing a CV, work, good budgeting or good parenting.

There is optimism that good programmes can ensure successful family/whānau reintegration. When asked to describe what such programmes might look like, the stakeholders had a range of views on personal support and guidance, family/whānau and parenting courses. One person expressed a wide-ranging focus on solutions to life stresses:

Obvious stress factors could include challenges found generally in society, particularly for those with limited resources. Access to affordable housing, financial planning services (budgeting), legal advice and relationship services would be beneficial. Having such services featured into pre release planning and assessed by families/whānau (including prisoners) prior to release is critical. I also believe the same approach needs to apply with some core programmes that contribute to the maintenance of stable family/whānau relationship (e.g. Parenting).

There was strong recognition of the need to tailor programmes to meet the needs of individual families and whānau.

A variety of views were given on how a programme might be run. The programme might start with the prisoner and whānau separate, or together (both views were offered). There was agreement that programme should start as early as possible before release. Some support was offered for group sessions, although individual sessions were seen as most important.

The stakeholders interviewed for this evaluation had a very good understanding of the nature of family/whānau reintegration programmes, and supported the bringing of prisoners and families/whānau together early to work through potential reintegration problems.

A range of other programmes were mentioned as forming part of overall integration, but the family/whānau re-integration was seen as the glue that held the integration tasks together.



The project materials

A wide range of materials are being submitted with this evaluation. One of the strengths of the process has been that Pillars has not spent a large amount of time developing new materials, when good quality existing materials were available.

The new element is the programme handbook and brochure, which outlines the specific focus that Close to Home brings, and the steps that will be followed.

However, most of the materials used for the programme have been developed and adapted out of existing resources.

The referral, consent and other administrative tools have their genesis in the Te Atea programme.

The 'Quick Check' assessment process is an existing resource, which needs a small amount of adaptation for the current programme.

The notion of a re-integration plan exists quite widely in other programmes, and links also to the planning process of Strengthening Families. Some work will need to be done to produce a specific tool for this project.

The use of the SF process for re-integration is an original idea of Verna McFelin. In the documentation provided with this package, the SF co-ordinator welcomes this move. It will allow a strong set of resources to be deployed to support the family/whānau re-integration of prisoners

A core tool is: *Time's Up : A Reintegration Toolkit For Families*. This Canadian Resource has a very strong family re-integration focus:

Family members have expectations of the returning family member. They want the returning family member to be accountable for his or her behaviour. The greatest success happens when returning family members take responsibility for their actions, are willing to change, and are open to support from the family, from parole supervision and from services in the community (2005 p. 8).

It is also a highly practical document. Pillars is hoping to be able to use large parts of the toolkit within the programme, and is waiting on permission to reproduce the material (it is available to be used, but not reproduced without permission).

A range of other workbooks, reading and resources have been collected and are available for participants to use during the programme period. The aim is to bring the best resources together to assist in the re-integration process.



The pilot programme

The pilot programme is to be conducted between July and September 2012 and will be evaluated during that period. Initial thoughts were that it would be a group re-integration programme, but with the development of the Strengthening Families approach it was decided that each family/whānau would have a programme tailored to their needs. Because much of the work will be done by agencies brought in to support the family/whānau, this is not necessarily more time-consuming than group processes, and will certainly provide a more responsive model.

The pilot programme needs to be nearing completion by the end of September, giving about 12 weeks for the pilot. This means that the programme will need to be compacted. In general, the approach to be followed will be as follows:

July 2012

Recruitment of three families, consent process and Quick Check Assessment, plus first Hui at end of month

August 2012

Reintegration plan, SF meeting and related meetings, reading and materials

September 2012

Release into community, Guide system and SF agencies in place to support.

This tight timeline will require the full co-operation of the agencies concerned, including the Department of Corrections.

The pilot programme will be evaluated as it proceeds.



Main findings

A very thorough, complete and (in principle) workable family/whānau re-integration model has been developed by Pillars over a short period.

There is strong support from stakeholders for a family/whānau re-integration programme, although a variety of views expressed on what that actually means.

Features of the proposed programme include a single-family/whānau approach, the integration of the Strengthening Families process, the incorporation of a lot of high quality assessment, management, learning tools, support, community resources and workbooks from other programmes, and clear pathways from prison to community for participants.

A particular asset is the use of the strengthening families model, which allows community agency supports to be employed to assist in prisoner integration, providing support in all areas of family/whānau and individual life. This will reduce costs for Corrections and will provide great support for the families/whānau concerned.

The next step is to pilot the project over three months, and evaluate the programme in action.

Key areas that need to be addressed are management of the programme and service delivery. The management issue arises because the workbook leaves significant discretion about how to address individual needs, and due to the very large array of materials that has been collected for the project. We understand that Pillars will be employing someone to run the programme, and that person will be simultaneously learning about the project and running it. This is an area of risk and some support may be needed for the staff person.

A key issue will be focussing the prisoner on the whānau/family re-integration tasks, and ensuring that he or she gets a good start back in the community and with the family/whānau.

Other risks include ensuring that the family/whānau can get to the prison for all the assessment, planning and agency meetings, as there are no resources available to provide childcare support.

It is important that Pillars enrol families/whānau that face re-integration challenges but have the personal resources to stick with the pilot programme, so that the effectiveness can be properly evaluated.



Appendix 1. Research application

Boxes for text are expandable (please do not type in the shaded areas).

General information	(Applicant to complete)
Project title	Evaluation of proposed reintegration service, Christchurch
Name of applicant/researcher	Dr Liz Gordon
Mail address	P.O. Box 2031. Christchurch 8140
Email	lizgordon@paradise.net.nz
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Organisation (and department)	Pūkeko Research Ltd
Supervisor(s), or Contract Manager and Agency funding the research	Pillars Inc, funded by Dept of Corrections
Email address of supervisor(s) or Contract Manager.	verna@pillars.org.nz

Details of research project	
Statement of purpose / objectives / hypothesis to be tested	Formative evaluation of development of reintegration service.
Background literature to the research question(s) Summary of literature review , theoretical orientation, bibliography	Literature on similar pre and post release family/whānau -oriented services
Describe your methodology - data collection methods - intended location for data collection - sample size - research subjects required (e.g., female prisoners, sex offenders, Probation Officers etc) - use of control / comparison group - measurement / assessment tools that will be used. Copies of materials you propose to use (information leaflets, assessment tools) must accompany this application.	<p>The data collection methods are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake a document analysis of documentation including the MOU and agreed procedures, external reports, related literature and the Te Atea programme run by Pillars in the mid-2000s. 2. Analyse these documents using formative methods, and provide spreadsheet of options for consideration. 3. Attend project meetings to get an overview of the development of the project. 3. Interview three stakeholders: Corrections HO person responsible for re-integration programmes, Christchurch Men's Prison re-Integration Manager and Pillars Manager. Questions for stakeholders attached as Appendix 1. 4. Attend development workshop with Pillars to produce high quality programme materials. Produce related formative report at end of June 2012, to be submitted along with completed materials.. 5. Undertake a brief formative evaluation of pilot project, July-September 2012. 6. Undertake 12 stakeholder interviews with re-integration staff at Christchurch Men's Prison (2),agency staff involved with the programme ('strengthening families'), Pillars staff (2) and up to 10 people, five prisoners



	<p>and their partners, who participate in the pilot project.</p> <p>Stakeholder interview schedules are appended at Appendix 2, and family interview schedules at Appendix 3.</p> <p>All qualitative data will be entered into a computer and analysed using NVivo, a high quality qualitative analysis programme.</p> <p>All data will be stored on Dropbox, a password-protected limited access storage system.</p> <p>Virtually no quantitative data will be collected or reported, beyond actual numbers of participants and sessions.</p> <p>An information sheet and consent form are attached.</p>
<p>Describe your outcomes</p> <p>What data will be produced? How will the interpretation of data be managed? Where / in what form is it intended that the research findings are published?</p> <p>The Department requires that all final reports are reviewed by the External Research Committee prior to any public release of findings.</p>	<p>The first outcome will be the developed documentation and handbooks for a proposed new service (the service will not commence until the next financial year), plus a report which evaluates and examines the programme approach.</p> <p>The second outcome will be an evaluation of a three month trial of the developed re-integration service at Christchurch Men's prison. The report on this will be attached to the initial evaluation report.</p>
<p>Relationship of research to the Department of Corrections' "Vision" and "Themes" (How might the research / research findings potentially assist the Department in achieving its objectives? See notes above re Departmental vision).</p>	<p>This is an initiative of the Department of Corrections in conjunction with Pillars. The re-integration focus is central to Corrections' current approach.</p>
<p>Project funding arrangements</p>	<p>Pillars will pay my fee.</p>

<p>Project logistics</p>	
<p>Accommodation</p> <p>Describe what facilities your project will require (e.g., interview rooms).</p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p>Research staff</p> <p>Provide the names of all researchers who will be participating, and explain their roles.</p>	<p>Dr Liz Gordon</p>
<p>Equipment</p> <p>Do you propose to use special equipment (e.g., video / DVD, recording devices, laptops)?</p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p>Schedule of data collection events</p> <p>How many on-site data collection sessions are envisaged? How long will individual sessions/interviews last? Will participants be interviewed more than once?</p>	<p>In the first part, the main activities will be document analysis and interviews with 3 stakeholders (see above), workshopping and analysis of documents developed for the pilot</p>



	<p>programme. Note that as this is a formative evaluation, the role of the evaluator will be assistive: to support the development of the programme as well as to evaluate it's strengths and weaknesses.</p> <p>The interviews will last for up to 30 minutes and only one visit to CMP will be needed. However, visits to participate in project group discussions may be necessary (up to two meetings)</p> <p>The second outcome will involve a formative evaluation of the pilot programme from July-September. This will include stakeholder interviews (around 12, see above), evaluations of the pilot programme, plus brief interviews with up to 5 prisoners and their partners that have volunteered to participate in the programme (5 families). It is almost certain that the programme will take place on prison premises at Christchurch men's Prison.</p> <p>Interviews with prisoners and Corrections staff at CMP will take place onsite over one or two visits. In August or September. Other interviews will take place offsite.</p> <p>The final report of both parts will be presented on 30 September 2012.</p>
<p>Offender files Do you need access to the personal files of offenders? What information is sought from this source?</p>	No
<p>Use of incentives or rewards Please describe; If you intend to give incentives or rewards to participants, you must first review the Department's policy on this issue, available on request.</p>	No
<p>Staff assistance, support Describe the kinds of practical assistance that you may require from Departmental staff. This should include such things as how many hours of staff time, how many staff, which staff (e.g. custodial, psychological, health). Dates are also helpful.</p>	Stakeholders only in the first part (3 interviews of 30 minutes). In the pilot project, stakeholders and prisoners will be interviewed (around 5 of each). No additional staffing will be needed.
<p>Participant debrief Will participants be debriefed after interviews / sessions? How will participants receive feedback on results?</p>	No. This is unnecessary. The reports will be published online.
<p>Timelines When do you hope to commence data collection? What deadlines exist for specific phases of the research project? Allowing for delays, when is the research likely to be completed. <i>Note that the application process can take up to six weeks – sometimes longer.</i></p>	<p>The data will be collected in May 2012 for the first outcome, and July/ August for the second outcome.</p> <p>The deadline for the stage 1 report and document development is 30 June 2012, and for the pilot project is 30 September 2012.</p>
<p>Ethical, legal & cultural considerations</p>	
<p>Has ethical approval been obtained? A copy of the approval letter must be supplied before any research agreement will be signed</p>	For the first outcome, the human subjects will only be programme stakeholders consulted in their professional capacity. For the second outcome, prisoners and their



	families/ whānau involved as volunteers in the programme will be briefly interviewed on their views about the programme and of benefits it may produce for them. We will put the documentation for this phrase through an ethical review process.
Informed consent Describe the process to obtain informed consent. Copies of participant information sheets and consent forms must accompany this application	A consent form and information sheet has been developed for the evaluation of the pilot study and these are attached.
Privacy of participant information Describe the measures to protect the privacy of individual participants. Describe the security measures to be used to ensure security of data	The information will be written up on our office computers and stored securely on Dropbox. First names only will be used (and position for stakeholders) and the information will be removed after five years. The research collected will not be used for any other purposes.
Use of deception Is any element of deception intended in the design?	No
Inducement / management of participant discomfort Is the research approach likely to / intended to induce any discomfort in participants? How are associated risks to be managed?	No
Research involving Maori participants: The Department has a policy known as “Effectiveness for Maori Guide.” Researchers must comply with the requirements of this policy. You should detail how you have, or intend to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gain advice / input from Maori into your research topic and design • ensure that research methods are culturally sensitive to Maori • ensure that data analysis explicitly identifies differences between Maori and non-Maori participants (depending on nature of study) • obtain input from Maori into interpretations of findings. The “Effectiveness for Maori” policy is attached. Further guidance regarding obtaining input from Maori can be obtained from the Department.	There may be Māori participants and we are clear about how to analyse data in an effectively bicultural way. The project has been approved and supported by the Runanga o Ngai Tahu, which supports Pillars through the kaumatua and board membership. Prisoners will be asked their ethnicity and the length of their sentence and estimated date of release. Pillars’ kaumatua, Ray and Many Kamo, will be asked to review the draft report and assist with the interpretation of findings.
Other cultural considerations Describe how your data collection and analysis takes into account factors relating to other relevant cultural sub-groups.	NA
Other	
Use this space to describe any other important issues or considerations not already covered above.	



Appendix 2. Information sheet and consent form

Information Sheet for evaluation tasks

Pillars Inc is a community organisation that works with the families/whānau and children of prisoners. Pillars is involved in a range of research-led programmes in Christchurch and Auckland.

In this project, Pillars will be *developing* and then *running* a pilot project to improve the re-integration of prisoners into the community, with an emphasis on positive engagement with family/whānau.

Between April and June, Pillars will organise and write all materials for the re-integration programme, including selection criteria, workbooks and manuals.

An interview-based evaluation of the development process will be carried out with key stakeholders by Pūkeko Research Ltd. These stakeholders will include Corrections re-integration staff, a small number of people running related re-integration programmes and services, and other providers of services supporting families/whānau (especially strengthening families and staff).

Outcomes will be a fully-developed programme for pilot delivery plus a formative evaluation report.

Between July and September, Pillars will run a pilot re-integration programme at Christchurch Men's Prison. This will involve between 3 and 5 sessions with around six families, including the prisoner and his partner. The intention is that a range of agencies will provide information and support for the re-integration process.

Pūkeko Research Ltd will evaluate each session of the programme, and the perceived outcome as a whole. The evaluation will take the form of a brief face to face or written survey form completed by each participant at each session, and an end-of-project qualitative questionnaire. This evaluation will be appended to the development evaluation report, and to the research materials, to provide a well-documented whole.

Confidentiality of all individuals participating in the process will be maintained throughout the project. All materials will be available on the Pillars website when complete.



Family re-integration project 2012

Consent Form

- I have been told that I am not required to participate in this research study – participation is voluntary.
- The researcher has explained to me the purpose of the research, and my right to not answer any question I don't like, or to stop the interview, without having to explain why.
- I understand that all information will be kept confidential by the researchers, and will be used only for research purposes.
- I understand that my name will not be used in any research reports, and that nothing printed in the report will indicate who I am.
- I agree to be interviewed for this research study.

An evaluation report will be available in October 2012 on the development and pilot study. This will be available online.

- I would like a summary of the evaluation, on completion. Please send to:

NAME	DATE
SIGNATURE	



Pillars
Ka Pou Whakahou



For further information contact:
Dr Liz Gordon, Pūkeko Research Ltd
P.O. Box 2031, Christchurch, Ph 0800 787875



Appendix 3. Stakeholder interview schedule

What kind of information or programmes do you think male prisoners and their partners need to build strong post-release relationships?

Prompt: personal relationships, parenting, housing, employment, income, skills development, community, any other

What kind of programmes are most likely to help the prisoners to avoid re-offending?

Prompt: what other things may help...

What do you think is the idea behind family/whānau reintegration?

International evidence is clear that prisoners who successfully reintegrate with their families/whānau are less likely to reoffend. Do you think that is true in NZ? If so, what factors drive this outcome?

What are the stresses that families/whānau face post-release, and what can be done to help them deal with these effectively?

Prompt: pre-release and post-release

Can programmes improve the potential for successful family/whānau re-integration and, if so, how?

If you were designing a pre-release programme for prisoners and their families/whānau, what would be your top priority to include in the programme, and why?

Prompt: what else?

What other things do you think need to be included in such a programme?

Other....?

Would the prisoner and partner/other family/whānau members be involved together in all sessions?

If you were designing such a programme:

How many sessions would it include?

How many families/whānau might be involved in these sessions? (i.e. one one one for group)

How long would the sessions last?

How long before the prisoner's release would it take place?

Any other comments?





Appendix 4. List of publications and research articles

Further information is contained on the programme spreadsheet attached with this package of materials.

- InsideOut Dad
- Virginia Community Re-entry Program
- VERA Institute pilot
- Fresh start, Connecticut
- Family Re-entry, Ohio
- Close to Home, Maryland
- Engaging offenders' families in re-entry - VERA
- Family based re-entry program, CA
- Family connections and prisoner re-entry
- La Bodega de la Familia
- Ready4Work (US Govt)
- Effective case management
- Measuring the impact of re-entry programs
- Families and re-entry
- Operation Jericho
- Making connections (Annie E Casey Foundation)
- Project BRIDGE
- Family approaches (was Family Matters) UK
- Time's Up

