

Northland Region Corrections Facility Inspection – May 2024

Quick-read summary

Mā te titiro me te whakarongo ka puta mai te māramatanga -
By looking and listening, we will gain insight.

This report was published in February 2025 by the Office of the Inspectorate.

The Inspectorate is part of the Department of Corrections but works independently.

What we did:

- We visited Northland Region Corrections Facility (NRCF) 6 – 10 May 2024 to carry out the inspection.
- We talked to **67 prisoners.**
- We talked to **64 staff and service providers.**
- We got information from the prison and Corrections.

At the time of the inspection:

- There were **533 people in the prison.**
- **278** of those people had been sentenced.
- **255** were on remand.
- **333** of the people were Māori.



What did prisoners say?

- Most felt safe but some had seen others being bullied
- A lot wanted more to do – more jobs, education and programmes
- Many said it was hard to get a meeting with a Case Manager
- Some said it was too hard to see a Nurse or Doctor.

What did we find?

We found some positives and some things that could be better, including:

- Ngāti Rangī was active at the site and prison staff valued this relationship.
- Prisoners could have regular in-person visits with family/whānau.
- Prisoners could ask for virtual visits.
- The Case Management team was struggling to create offender plans on time due to the high number of prisoners coming in for short times on remand and then being released.
- Around 130 men had jobs in prison industries, but the different industries were all trying to get workers from the same group of suitable prisoners.
- Some Māori prisoners had access to cultural activities, but others did not.
- The health team did not always communicate well with prisoners.
- There were a lot of health clinic cancellations.
- There was a plan to improve health services.
- The kitchen was clean but workers were not always following all food hygiene standards.
- Some mealtimes were too early, with lunch served around 11am and dinner between 2.30 and 3.30pm.
- Some men were being held for too long in the Placements Unit.
- Some prisoners were doing programmes and education but many had little to do.

What happens next?

After an inspection, the prison creates an action plan to try to fix any problems.

The prison sends the action plan to the Inspectorate and Inspectors check on progress.

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Ngāti Rangī has kaitiaki (guardianship) status and mana whenua (authority over the land) at Northland Region Corrections Facility (NRCF). Ngāti Rangī is a principal hapū (sub-tribe) of the Ngāpuhi iwi.

More information

The full inspection report is available in prison libraries and online at:

<https://inspectorate.corrections.govt.nz/>

Thank you to all
who talked with
us and helped with
this report.