

**'Let the law be right' for
people experiencing mental
distress and addiction while in
the justice system**

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HE TURE KIA TIKA

OUR RŌPŪ (TEAM)



CONTEXT

- We have a rising and costly prison population but our overall crime rates are falling.
- Most (91%) of our prison population has experienced of mental distress and addiction in their lifetime.
- We have pursued heavily punitive approaches that have result in little change, with 52% of prisoners re-offending within two years of release.
- High drug convictions, mostly for possession.
- A racist criminal justice system which continues across into our health and social systems.
- Impact of incarceration is intergenerational.
- Yet we have little diverse mental health or addiction supports

“Research tells us most prisoners have experienced mental distress or addiction within their lifetime but often end up in the ‘too hard basket’. We aim to reject this basket, replacing it with a diverse array of kete (baskets) filled with localised mātauranga (knowledge), strategies and solutions to improve wellbeing and reduce reoffending. We hope the findings can inform current mental health, addictions and justice reform.”

**– KATEY THOM AND STELLA
BLACK**

Our kaupapa (purpose)

PŪRĀKAU WHĀNAU (STORIES)



“I wasn’t this gang member... it taught me who I wasn’t... My family came in and they told me the truth. How much I had hurt them... I didn’t even know”.



“A lot of trans sisters don’t know that there is another way and being trans I think there is some form of embarrassment, in that they are seen different in the world”.



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NEXT STEPS