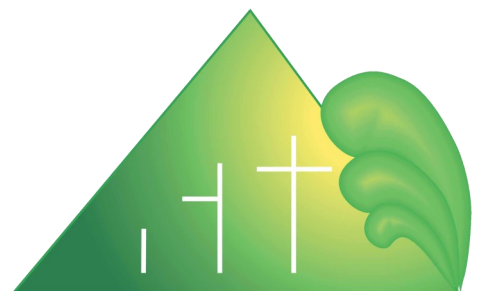


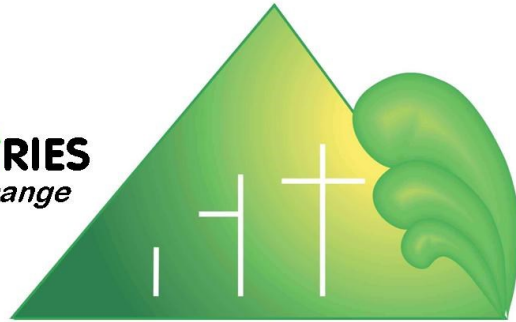
# PRISON CARE MINISTRIES

"I hope

one day  
they will  
forgive  
me.  
My  
offending  
has hurt  
so many."

ANNUAL REPORT  
2020-2021





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# **Prison Care Ministries**

Registered as a Charitable Trust

1st September 2004.

Building relationships with prisoners,  
assisting them to regain independence on release  
and supporting them as they reintegrate with family

## **Purpose**

To provide an environment  
for meaningful reintegration

## **Mission Statement**

To provide accommodation and  
rehabilitative support for men released from prison  
and those involved in the Criminal Justice System.

## **Value**

When people care,  
people change

## **Aim**

To reduce reoffending and ensure  
a safer community

# Thank You

To the funders and supporters who ensure that Prison Care Ministries continue to provide support to those involved in the Criminal Justice System.

Trust Waikato	Wages
HCC Community Well-Being	Mileage
WEL Energy Trust	Wages
COGS	Office/Volunteers
NZ Lottery Board	Wages
Norah Howell Charitable Trust	Beds
Spark	Residential Phone
Interspeed	Internet Domain
Fusion Print	Printing
NZ Bible Society	Bibles
Rhema Broadcasting Group	Word for Today
Maori Postal Aotearoa	Calendars/Magazines
Plastic Welders	Support
Te Rapa Mowers & Chainsaws	Support



We appreciate the support from:

- Community Probation Service
- Work and Income
- Prison Staff & Chaplaincy
- Auditor

and a big thanks to:

- our private Landlords ( 3 ) as they need to negotiate with their Insurance companies to enable their houses to be used to accommodate those who have a criminal record
- 1 Real Estate Agency that we have a tenancy agreement with
- our residents who really encourage us to keep going.

## Chairperson's Report - 2021

I'm sure everyone has their own personal stories of how 2020 became an "unprecedented" year due to COVID-19. PCM suddenly found themselves as an Essential Housing Service Provider and needed to keep working and rapidly change their processes and adapt to online or contactless applications, virtual interviews etc, contactless deliveries etc. Setting up new bank accounts was a challenge, but mostly Sev and the team were able to continue to provide the kind of care and place for our men to belong, that has characterised PCM for many years.



The team continues to "walk alongside" the men, which was recently described to me as providing **a values based therapeutic community** - which was both insightful and encouraging to hear. We've been searching for another staff member to provide more pastoral care and relieve some of Sev's responsibilities. While we've not been entirely successful yet, we're hoping to have an arrangement in-place soon to help fill that gap.

We've had some trustee and volunteer changes over the year:

Bruce McDowall resigned as a trustee in Dec 2020, but is still active as a volunteer.

Alan Vink attended our March 2021 Trustee meeting and subsequently joined PCM as a new trustee. Alan brings an abundance of experience working with community and non-profit organisations at the governance level and we welcome him to the team.

We've had more than 7 new volunteers go through our induction process and they are mostly helping with running Home Groups in the houses. This is awesome as they provide additional support to both the men and the ministry and it's great to see and hear positive feedback of their involvement. PCM couldn't function to the same level without volunteers and we're very thankful for them.

The Professional Counselling Service is now a core part of the care we provide and continues to be well received by the men, as they work through the challenges of re-integration.

We've also had a few more changes with the houses we rent, which is quite time consuming and we've ended up with a few less beds, but that is working ok for us in the interim. Some of these changes come about when our *graduating* men take-over the rental agreement for the house they're in, which is actually an awesome event in terms of their independence and reintegration. Sometimes success takes on different forms.

Finally, I'd like to again thank our donors and supporters who have journeyed with us for many years and continue to surprise and encourage us with their generosity - at just the right time and we look forward to PCM continuing to do what we do best

Respectfully submitted



Alex Shepherd



### **Trustees - left to right**

**Robbie Ahu:** Self employed business owner. Married with 5 tamariki and 4 moko. They attend Gateway church. Qualified as a high performance coach in Rugby League. Robbie loves quality family times, fishing, diving and in Summer motorbike riding. Previously approved volunteer to Waikeria prison.

**Maraenui Taituha:** Staff at Fairfield College. Maraenui is married to Alison and they have three children. They attend St. Marks Church. Maraenui was previously an approved volunteer to Waikeria Prison.

**Bruce McDowell (Resigned Dec 2020):** Bruce is married to Jenny, and they have 4 adult children. They are members of Hillcrest Chapel Fellowship. Bruce is self employed as a Civil Engineer, managing his own business, McDowall Structures. Bruce is also a volunteer with PCM standing alongside some of the men.

**Alex Shepherd:** Trust Chairperson and Software Architect, NetValue Ltd. Alex and Judi have 3 children (one married) and attend Chapel Hill Community Church. Alex has been an Elder (served five-year term) and is part of the Church Missions Team. Alex was previously an approved visitor to Waikeria Prison.

**Jill McMillan:** Co founder (as is Geoff) of Prison Care Ministries. Jill and Geoff have 4 children, 13 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. They attend Chapel Hill Community Church. Both are approved visitors to North Island and Christchurch Prisons.



## **Sev Simwinga Manager**

### **Ups & downs — joys & sorrows**

The past year has been one of many ups and downs, moments of celebration and joy and others of disappointment and sadness. There were times for example, when we had to let go of a large number of men due to inexcusable misconduct. Asking any of our men to leave, though not unusual, never ceases to inflict pain and disappointment on staff and volunteers even when it is the necessary thing to do. One time, we asked four men from different homes to vacate within a space of two weeks. Needless to say, the number of empty beds swelled as a result of this.



In August 2020, we saw another unusually large number of men move out when seven left in a short space of time. Thankfully this time around, the majority of the movements involved men successfully graduating from supported accommodation under Prison Care Ministries to independent living. This was something to celebrate. There is nothing more satisfying in this line of ministry than to see men happy, confident and grateful for the support we have rendered. Sadly, one of the seven men had breached his Parole conditions and was recalled back to prison. While we were saddened by this man's actions that had caused him to lose his freedom, we are thankful to God for the six who had given it their best shot and had succeeded with their reintegration.

### **Remand**

One joyous moment was when our first resident on remand with electronically monitored bail (EM) successfully moved into his own apartment. This was an interesting experience and something of a diversion from the norm for PCM as we usually work with men released on Parole. This is significant because if we had not offered him accommodation he would have remained languishing in prison for the length of his trial estimated to last not less than two years. The provision of our support afforded him the opportunity to find appropriate accommodation from where he is able continue with a near normal and productive life while his rather lengthy trial progresses on. For PCM this has meant working closely with other departments such as EM Bail team, the GPS team, Courts and the Police. It has been an interesting learning experience albeit significantly demanding on time.

### **Every little Counts — Bicycles make a Difference**

Prison Care Ministries delivers a wrap-around case management service that addresses the reintegration needs of men released from New Zealand prisons. The services provided are person-centric and are therefore 'needs based'. The focus is on the individual resident's strengths and their goals for the future. Relationships with the residents are built on mutual respect. Men receive on-going support to gain independence and to reintegrate back into the community and family through positive input into their lives.

These support services transcend the provision of basic essential needs such as food, shelter and clothing to the provision of the much-needed practical support such as: opening a bank account, completing the Work & Income online benefit application, attending other related appointments and registration at a Medical Centre as well as taking them to attend Probation inductions, to mention but a few.

The men are transported for all their initial appointments however, for the subsequent ones including; attending regular Rehab programmes, Probation appointments and job search, the

need for mobility becomes absolutely essential. It generally takes a while before the men can afford to acquire and maintain a vehicle, therefore a bicycle becomes an extremely handy mode of transportation. A bicycle tends to provide the men with the necessary mobility and independence. The fact that they are not reliant on PCM for movements from point A to point B is a big confidence booster. The need for this mode of transportation, as a tool for reintegration, is incontestable and it a tool which PCM has deployed successfully and one which it covets.

In September 2017 Department of Corrections, through Auckland Prison nominated Prison Care Ministries to be a recipient of a donation of 10 fully refurbished bicycles which PCM gladly accepted and greatly appreciated. These have gone a long way in making the reintegration process so much easier for some of our men.

In January 2021, while on a tour of the industry training programs available to prisoners at Tongariro/Rangipo prison, I visited their bicycle refurbishing workshop and was prompted to submit a request for 10 bicycles which we were pleased to receive in July.

### **Feedback**

Supporting men to find their feet after serving a term or in many cases, numerous terms of imprisonment is not 'a walk in the park.' Therefore every little thing we can do matters because "when people care people change'.

Here is a letter from one of our residents just before he was released to Prison Care Ministries;

*"...Hey Sev thank you and PCM for accepting me, its a big deal for me that people are willing to take a chance on me. I am grateful for PCM support. It lifts my spirits up to know that people care and are willing to help me....."*

This one is from a former resident now back in prison because he breached his Parole conditions;

*"Thank you for being so forgiving and allowing me to crawl from beneath the rock I have been hiding under. I am sorry for showing disrespect to you and the Prison Care Ministries family. I have no excuse for the way I left and I am ashamed of myself for it. I again apologise for damaging the trust relationship between Prison Care Ministries and the Parole Board and ruining the positive pathway for lifers. Truly sorry Sev and again no excuse. I don't know how I can make it up to you all but I am truly grateful that you haven't closed the door on me. You have a great heart Sev Thank you".*

Here is another one of hundreds from men we have supported;

*"I will end here but I want you all to know at Prison Care Ministries how supportive you have been not just for me – but you are a hope and inspiration for all those people incarcerated in the prison system. Thank you very much for keeping me focused and helping me stay positive"*

### **Reaching more "Tane"**

The need to help extricate men from the ravages of the revolving door of the judicial system and the relentless cycle of recidivism remains our chief motivator and the reason we remain devoted to this ministry. In order for us to reach even more 'tane' we need to grow the team – staff and volunteers. Finding the right fit in terms of staff has presented challenges which we are still working through and are determined to overcome. The staffing challenge has meant that we have had to hold off on increasing the housing portfolio thus we have maintained the same bed capacity of 25 as was the case at the beginning of the year.







## **John Brennan**

### **Office Manager**

This was my second year working full time in this position. The beginning of the financial year was marked by a Covid lockdown. We had one man released to us in the first week of lockdown who came out with very little clothing. The Warehouse store had just come online but it required serious persistence from him over a course of the day to get through to Work & Income for a clothing grant. Success

came late in the afternoon so the next morning I set him up on a computer to choose his clothing. The challenge then became to find items that were in stock and that stayed in stock long enough for him to get clearance from W&I. It took a few hours to complete this stage and the items arrived in several packages about a week later.

The beginning of the year was also marked by an upgrade to the accounting system from one that had served the organization for over a decade. I ran the two systems in parallel through February and March 2020 which helped identify any issues, but it was a very time consuming process keeping both systems in agreement.

The past year has produced some extra challenges. There was one period where we had to ask several men to leave our supported accommodation. This is not our desired outcome, but it occurred to me at the time that they hadn't done anything really bad; they hadn't broken the law. But they had broken our rules and so hadn't progressed as far as we would have liked or hoped for. Many of our men face big challenges shedding their past – the dysfunction, the scars to their mental health often results in a distorted understanding of right and wrong, a distorted perception of their own identity, etc. Overcoming these sorts of handicaps can take a long time.

At times like this, it can be easy to ignore the majority of our guys who largely keep their heads down and get on with putting their lives back together. Their stories are less dramatic but no less important.

### **Processing Remand prisoners**

Late in the financial year we began a new initiative that involves receiving prisoners who are on remand. Instead of turning them away, we encouraged them to apply to us but it soon became obvious that there are some differences in the way we need to process them. With sentenced prisoners, we have a well oiled process often helped along by the Case Managers in the prisons. With remand prisoners we also need to contact their Lawyer and the men often appear to have little or no involvement with their Case Managers making it harder to contact them in a hurry. Added to this, there is often more time pressure. A sentenced prisoner usually knows months ahead of time when his next Parole hearing will be. Remand prisoners however, often contact us asking for support for a Court hearing in a few weeks time.

### **PCM Video**

This project soaked up a good amount of my time late last year filming and editing a video for PCM. We asked a few of the men if they would record a message for us. I let them know that their faces would be blurred but also that we would like to put the finished result on the website. I was pleasantly surprised that most of those approached agreed to do it. Apart from supplying some questions to give focus to their comments we didn't give any other guidance as to what they should say. The results were both encouraging and surprising. Encouraging in how much they appreciated our service. But surprising in how crucial they considered our help to be. For example, a couple of them referred to PCM "saving people's lives." The video can be found on the 'Stories' page of our website.

## Catherine Simwinga Counsellor

With lockdowns still happening on and off, sometimes keeping the men's interest in counselling can be challenging. However, we are still able to offer either face to face or telephone counselling in lockdowns for those needing it. Prison visits have been disrupted at times but again, we must adapt to what is available. Thankfully, our disruptions haven't been as bad as other places around the world, and for that, we are grateful.



The men we support are usually ravaged by guilt for a lot of reasons but one of these reasons is their absence in the family while serving prison. Most of them come out of prison with intentions of being around whanau and being a source of support. This desire is so deep that once released they step up and vow to do better for their whanau, even when they themselves are struggling emotionally. They feel that they don't deserve to take time for themselves and neglect self-care. When we work with them in counselling self-care is one of those points we start with because if they cannot look after themselves, they have nothing in their tank to offer. It takes a while to do this mahi because guilt usually is a bedfellow with toxic shame. Here is a statement from one of the clients we have been supporting for a year now:

*"I had no idea how not looking after me was hindering my progress with my whanau, especially my children. I found myself resenting spending time with my children. When the little one made a mistake, I started yelling at him. I was too tired...just worn out running after them...but the guilt kept me going with no rest. It was destructive..."*

We still are looking at offering ACC counselling once we have enough staff on the ground to be able to handle the workload. This will hopefully be something we do next year, once ACC tenders for suppliers open.

I am excited at the fact that we can still offer support to students doing their counselling studies at various institutions. At the moment, we are providing support to students from the University of Waikato who are doing their Master of Counselling Studies. Having experienced the process of searching for a placement and struggling to get one, I know how invaluable the support that we are providing can be to the University and the students who work with us. My hope is that eventually one of these students will be employed with us and help to expand the counselling department. There is a lot more work we can do in the community as well as in prison, if we had more manpower.

That is why we value the support we receive from the community because without it we wouldn't be able to offer the level of service and support we do. We are looking to take on another student from next February and so I say, 'thank you' to those supporting Prison Care Ministries and thereby enabling the provision of these training opportunities for students.



Sev, Catherine, Sandy (counseling intern) & John



## An Interview with a new staff member and volunteer

**Kum Lan Brennan,** how did you come to be on staff part-time?

I was a volunteer. I prepared the bags of bedding that PCM lends to the guys when they come out and also washed some of it when men leave unexpectedly. I also helped clean up a couple of the houses that were needing special attention.

**Ema Pule, why did you volunteer with PCM?**

Because I want to help people and it is a part of my Social Work course

**What work have you been doing together?**

House Inspections. The men receive a checklist before we come. We then visit the house and check that it is clean, check for damage and for missing items. We then compile a list of what they need to do and what PCM or the landlord needs to sort out.

**How has been your experience so far?**

**Ema:** I love it, It's fun. Its helping people reintegrate back into society

**In what way does it help them?**

**Kum Lan:** Because most of them have been in a confined area and not treated all that well they don't interact much with strangers. I've learnt to connect with them and treat them as people even though they have made some bad choices in life. I used to fear ex-prisoners, and not talk to them. I now see them as people who have value just as God accepts me. And I think that love is reciprocated because they can feel confident because we accept them as they are, which helps them adjust to society.

We notice that they really appreciate us when we help them with some cleaning.



Ema (left) and Kum Lan (right) preparing a new bag of bedding



Celebrating the end of the year with kai

Hey Miss... "Where can I go when I get out of here."

Waikeria prisoner

**June 2001**

**First meeting post release  
accommodation**

David Stone  
Anton Roest  
Geoff McMillan

**July 2001**

**inaugural meeting**

17 people attended this meeting including a  
Probation officer and released prisoners.

**Nov 2001**

**Hamilton Support  
Accommodation Network (HSAN)  
Committee**

Geoff & Jill Smith  
Eileen Boshier  
Mel Impey  
Anton Roest  
Geoff & Jill McMillan

**HSAN-PCM**

**July 26th 2004** First House opened  
under HSAN. Thanks John.

**September 1st 2004** Prison Care  
Ministries became a Charitable Trust

**April 1st 2005** became a trading  
name under Prison Care Ministries

**January 2008** HSAN committee  
disbanded

**September 2004  
PCM trustees**

Mike Marama Te Ahuru (Chairperson)  
Alex Shepherd  
Len Caley  
Maraenui Taituha  
Geoff McMillan  
Jill McMillan

**Chairpersons 2004-2019**

Mike Marama Te Ahuru  
Alex Shepherd  
LenCaley  
Alex Shepherd (current)

2004 First house opened  
2005 Second house opened  
2007 Third house  
2010 Fourth house  
2014 Fifth house  
2015 Seventh house  
2016 Eighth house opened  
2019 Ninth house opened

2018 Severino Simwinga appointed as  
manager.

2019 Geoff & Jill McMillan formally  
retire.

**Current trustees 2021**

Alex Shepherds  
Maraenui Taituha  
Pam Neilson  
Robbie Ahu  
Bruce McDowell  
Jill McMillan

**Current staff 2019-2020**

Severino Simwinga  
John Brennan  
Catherine Simwinga  
Kum Lan Brennan

When people care, people change

## 31 March 2020

Support Only 16
Pending Decision 33
Waitlisted for Accommodation 47
Resident 20

All New Referrals 144
Of which 96 became Applicants

## 31 March 2021

Support Only 25
Pending Decision 23
Waitlisted for Accommodation 29
Resident 17
No Further Contact 165 (Found Accommodation, Released, Declined, Unknown)

Referrals and applications are up compared to the last three years while the number of men waiting on a decision and waitlisted for accommodation has steadily reduced in that time

## Prison Visits and AVL interviews

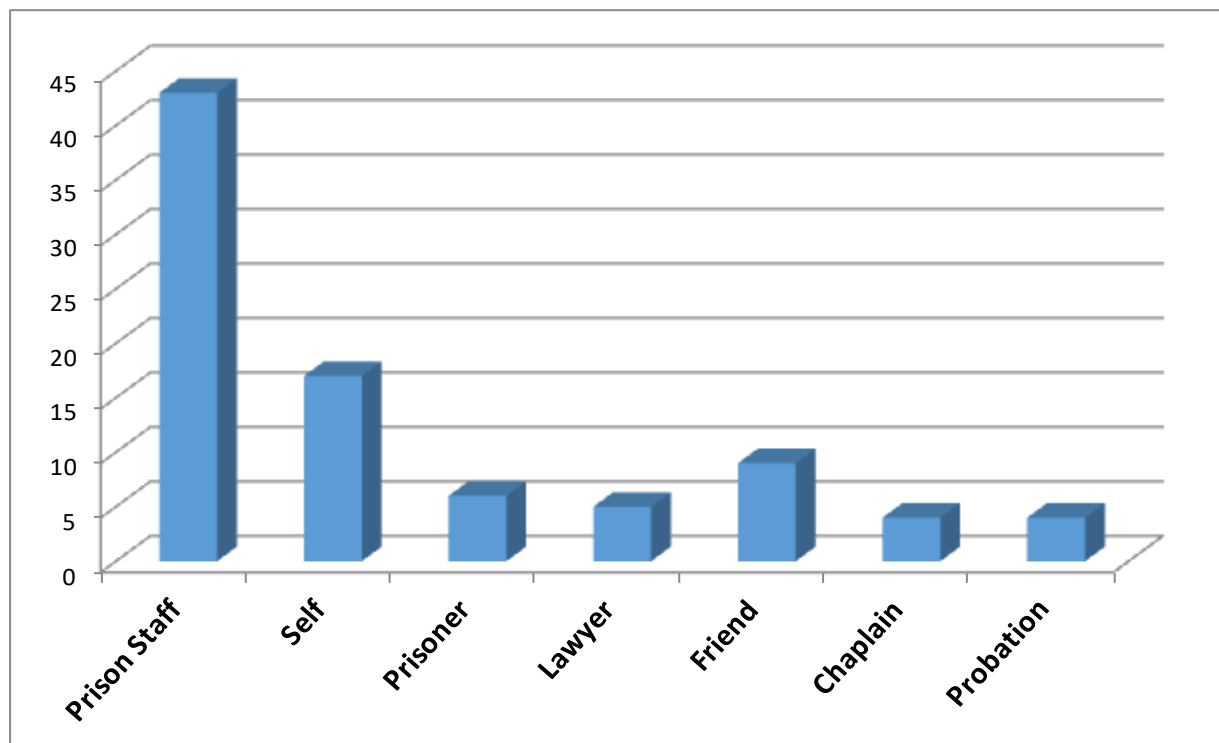
Location	Face to Face		AVL	Phone	Applicants
	Visits				
ASCF				1	5
Christchurch					3
Hawkes Bay	1	1		2	3
Mt Eden					2
Nga Wha			2	1	1
Paremoremo					4
Rimutaka			1	1	
Spring Hill	6	26		7	42
Tongariro	4	13		1	8
Waikeria	5	12		3	24
Other	1	1			4
	17	53	3	16	96

Staff visit as many applicants as possible for the initial interview and will do follow-up visits when able. This helps to build the relationship and makes the transition into the community easier for both the men and staff.

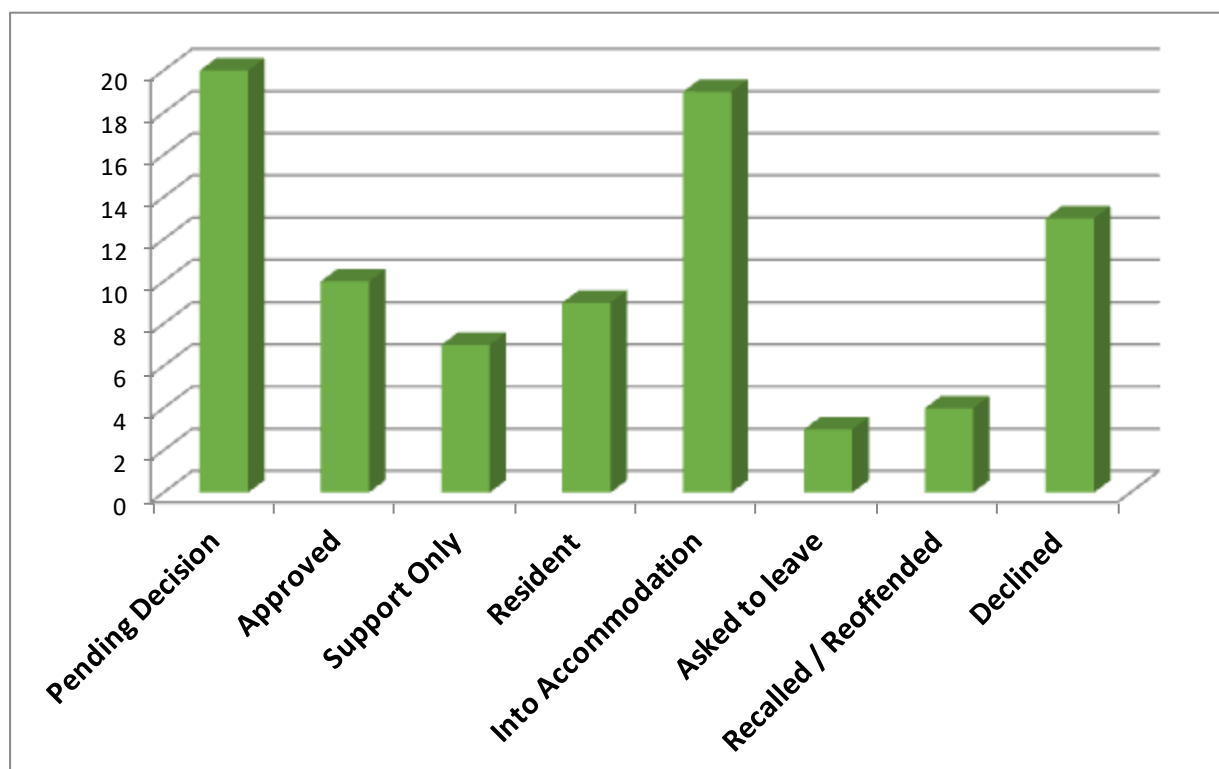
If a face to face interview is not possible due to location or time constraints then an interview by Audio Visual Link or telephone is arranged.

## 96 New applicants during the year

Referred by

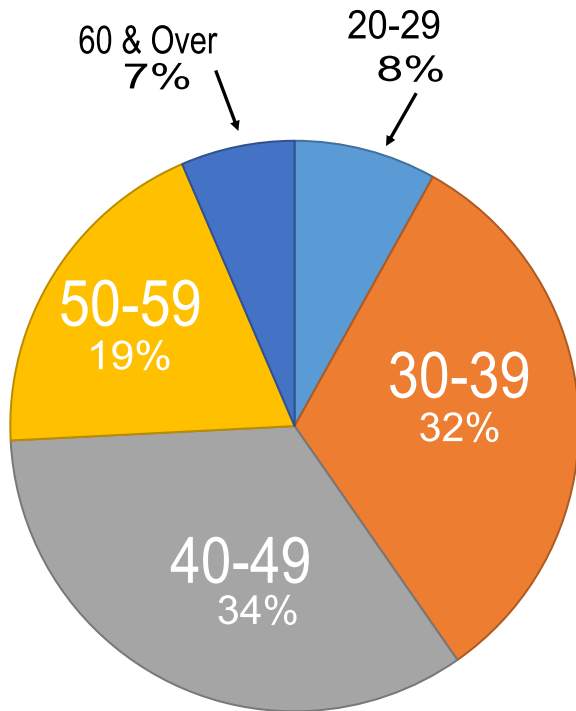


Applicant Outcomes

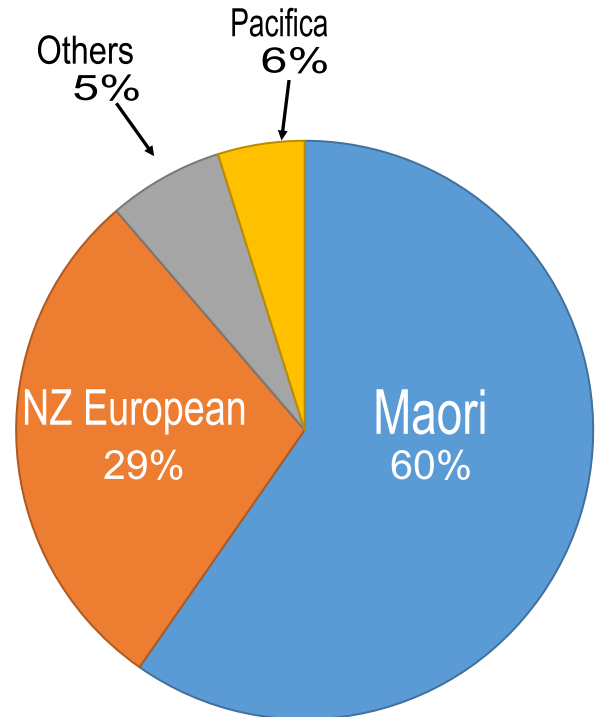




### Residents by Age

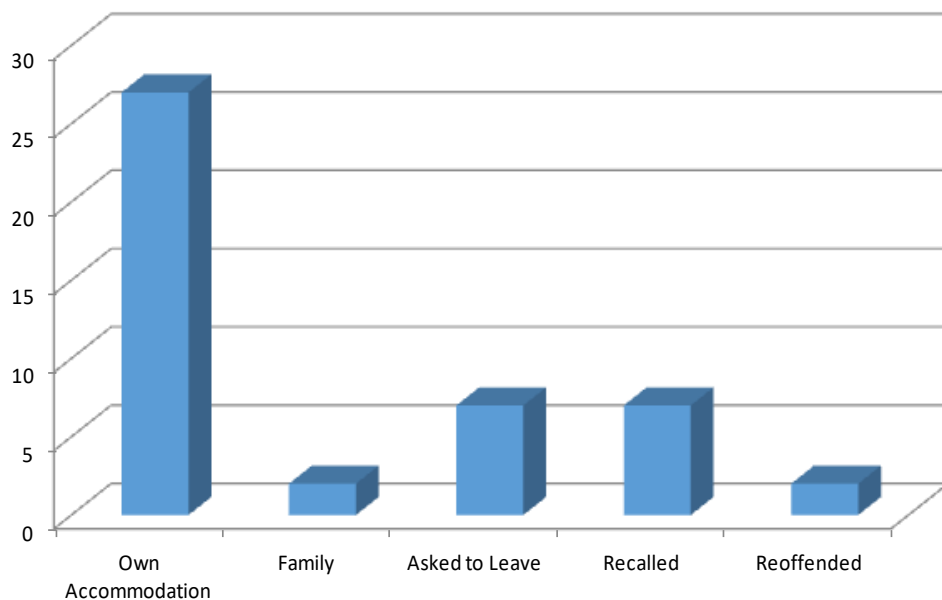


### Residents by Ethnicity



Average age: 44 years

### Residents Outcomes



New Residents: 42, (including 18 Emergency intakes)  
 Men housed during the year: 62  
 Average stay: 4.4 months