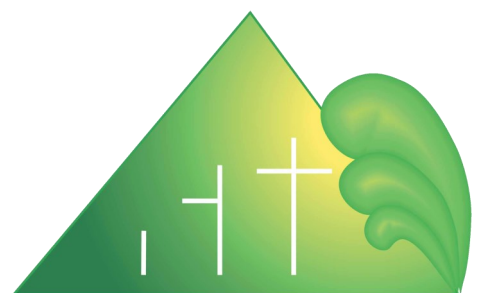


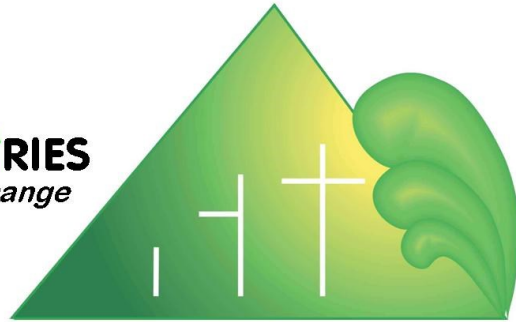
PRISON CARE MINISTRIES

ANNUAL REPORT
2022-2023

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



PRISON CARE MINISTRIES
When People Care, People Change



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(Can be found on the Charities Services website here)	

Registration No CC22440

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 and community

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 CharitableTrust	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
Te Rapa Mowers & Chainsaws	Support



Other Trusts, Churches and Individuals who have generously made donations towards office rent, wages, general funds, house provisions and other needs as they arise.

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
- one Real Estate Agency that we have a tenancy agreement with
- our residents who really encourage us to keep going.

Chairperson's Report - 2023

It's always good to see our plans and preparations in one year become fruitful blessings in the next year. This past year we've been able to enjoy a time of fewer changes and more focus on implementing the changes we'd previously planned.

We've now had a full year implementing the new structures and refinements Scott recommended, and it has translated into a significant boost to our overall income for the year despite the ongoing uncertainties that characterise working in this sector. This has been a very welcomed outcome and a source of encouragement and motivation to continue and make more incremental improvements.



Another significant blessing was having Tony onboard as a full-time staff member for a large part of the year. This has allowed Sev to focus more time on managing and preparing PCM for more improvements in the future.

The trustees and staff had a strategy workshop and planning day, which Scott presented and facilitated. We considered several opportunities that PCM could be involved with in the future and the changes and additional resources that would be required to embrace those opportunities. We've not committed to any of those yet, but watch this space...

We are also encouraged to continue to receive personal feedback and thanks from some of our residents over the year. It's good to hear how thankful they are to come and join our "Values-based Therapeutic Community" and to receive support and services from our staff. After all, this is why PCM exists and continues to grow and build on the past to support more men in the future. Long may that continue.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Shepherd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alex Shepherd



Trustees - left to right, Alan Vink, Robbie Ahu, Jill McMillan, Maraenui Taituha, Alex Shepherd

Robbie Ahu: Married with 5 tamariki and 5 moko. They attend Elim 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.

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 and retired (formally) in 2019.

Alan Vink: Started his working life as a Secondary School teacher, then transitioned to pastoral leadership of two Baptist churches for 23 years, followed by the last 17 years in leadership development, consultancy and teaching. Alan has been on numerous Boards of Christian organisations throughout his working life.

Sev Simwinga Manager

The need

Over 700 men have been accommodated and provided with wrap-around and person-centred support in the eighteen years of the existence of Prison Care Ministries having been founded in 2004 by the gallant couple – Geoff and Jill McMillan. Looking at the significantly high number of men we have supported so far, I think it is fitting for Geoff and Jill, the staff and volunteers, all our esteemed supporters and indeed the Board of Trustees past and present, to appreciate this is no mean achievement and that this result would not have been attained if it was not for the concerted effort of all.

While it is necessary to look back, identify, mark and celebrate the achievements, it is equally important to consider the current need within the sphere of our operation, the New Zealand Justice system, specifically the reintegration space.

Sadly, the need to help people reintegrate back into the community after serving a prison term has not reduced over all these years. The simple fact is we have but just scratched the surface of the ever-growing need. Even so, as a community-based initiative, Prison Care Ministries is determined to continue doing our bit to provide the much-needed support to help men caught up in the cycle of recidivism disentangle themselves, reclaim their mana and become productive members of the community. In order to do this better, we have begun to consider other opportunities available to tap into in order to help increase our resources and capacity.

Remand

As we come to the end of the year, I have taken a moment to reflect on how the remand aspect of our work has fared particularly around how the support we render to the men in our care has ultimately affected Court decisions at sentencing. It is gratifying to note that none of the men on Remand bailed to Prison Care Ministries has been given a custodial sentence. All of them received community-based sentences. The rehabilitative nature that our therapeutic community and its holistic approach is clearly a big part of why it continues to please the Courts to issue our men community-based sentences as opposed to custodial sentences. We had one remand resident recalled to prison for breaching his bail conditions.

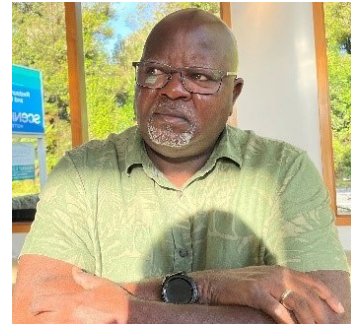
Housing

Our house portfolio of seven has remained the same and five of the houses continue to be earmarked predominantly for men released from prison on Parole while two houses are for accommodating men on Remand.

Counselling personnel

Our latest counselling student on placement, Sarah, finished with us having successfully completed her Masters programme.

We celebrated the success she had with her studies and appreciated her invaluable contribution in helping our men safely navigate through some complicated aspects of their



lives. She was dedicated, reliable, engaged and connected very well with our Taane. We did not succeed in getting another student counsellor by mid 2023 and so we are planning on bringing another counsellor on staff.

My own dilemma

Now I share the dilemma I had reading a letter from a prisoner asking for consideration for supported accommodation because his prison sentence was soon coming to an end yet he had no release address. In his letter he details the dysfunctional nature of his upbringing, his involvements with the gangs and then states definitively that at 35 years of age he is 'done with it' because he now has a daughter and ready to be a father and a good role model. Call it what you may, coincidence or chance, serendipity or fate, because the very next letter I picked up to read, was by a 62-year-old man who was imploring us to help find the son he had not been in contact with for a long time. It so happens that the son he is looking for is the author of the letter I read before his. Obviously, due to the confidentiality act, which we subscribe to, we cannot honour the request. What is more is that both letters originated from one and the same prison. I visited him in prison two weeks ago, his son had just been released, and I still could not tell him anything.

Some samples of Prisoner feedback:

Thank you for coming to see me today. Thank you for allowing me to share with you. I was really anxious that I wouldn't be understood...I saw the care and empathy in your eyes I am humbled to have spent that time with you. I am crying again. Thank you for your words of hope, encouragement, support & wisdom. The meeting was very brief yet I felt empowered and supported by you....

It was uplifting meeting and talking to you Sev. I am so used to being judged by my past behaviour by Parole Boards, Probation etc it was a joy to be judged as the man I have become over the last 8 years. ... Thank you Sev. I hope you are well, take care

Thank you for believing in me it makes me feel worthwhile...

A prison staff member writes:

Hi Sev I just had a catch up with Pete and he said he had a meeting with you and was in great spirits feeling that he has finally met someone who does not judge him for his past. He is an easy man to deal with and yes, he does have a colourful history but hey it is what it is.

A former resident writes :

Hello Sev, thought you might be interested to know, I did my first day at School in 47 years and it would not have been possible without your help to start off with. Thank you

Without the invaluable support of you our esteemed financial donors, sponsors, Supporters and friends, Prison Care Ministries would not have been able to provide the much-needed support with the reintegration of men back in to the community. Your continued support is what has sustained this work and we continue to covet it. Thank you.



Tony Ngugi Mungai

Reintegration Officer

Our value 'When people Care, People Change' has continued to guide my efforts and energies in all that I have focused on this past year. Prison Visits are a great avenue for this value to be seen and expressed practically. With every visit that I have made to Waikeria Prison, Springhill Prison Corrections Facility, Tongariro Prison and to Auckland South Corrections Facility, I have been conscious and intentional to express care



(manaaki) and to form relationships that are safe, respectful and mana enhancing to assist with the eventual supported transition of Tane from prison back into our communities. As a result, this 'investment' pays off huge dividends when the men finally come out of prison and become residents in any one of our five houses. Their reciprocation of respect and genuine friendships makes the reintegration journey that much more fruitful. With aroha as a solid base, we continue to support these men to address their offending in the context of therapeutic community living by gaining and exercising basic living skills like healthy routines at a personal level, shopping for groceries, maintenance of their house sections and then transitioning to more demanding skills like financial budgeting and money management. All these contribute and positively impacts their well-being all round.

Our wrap around service is customised to the unique needs of each resident who has come through into our supported accommodation this year with the recognition and appreciation of their goals for their future. This has allowed me to assist several men as they go to open new bank accounts or revive those accounts that may have been suspended while the men were in prison. I have supported our men with the requirements needed to complete their online Work and Income benefit applications as well as attending their W & I appointments as a support person. With every new release to us from prison, I liaise with Tui Medical to enrol and accompany the men for their first GP's visit.

This year I sought to upskill my knowledge base and enrolled for a One-year Certificate level training in Bicultural Social Services program at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa. My aim is to better understand the diverse cultural expressions around the work we do as well as gaining a deeper knowledge of tools and skills required to help me give back through service to our community.

Finally, I would like to highlight that with several men finding their feet after a time of settling well into the community, it has been very satisfying to see them move on to their own accommodation. Sadly though, we have also seen one of our very promising residents being recalled back to prison to continue serving his sentence. We had created a good strong relationship while he was a resident and our commitment to supporting him with regular visits in prison and letters every so often will continue because of 'When people Care, People Change'.

Tony Ngugi Mungai

Catherine Simwinga **Counsellor**



2022-2023 has been full on in terms of counselling due to the fact that we haven't had a student counsellor for the first time in four years. This has highlighted the need for some more counselling hours. We are looking to employ another counsellor in the new year which will be great. We have continued to offer men more counselling hours under the new Therapeutic community and many men have taken up more than the 10 sessions we initially offered. As much as this increases the workload, it has been wonderful for the men to know that we have more counselling available. We are also looking to expand placement hours to Wintec students as the Waikato University School of Counselling has had a change of leadership and we need to offer our services to the new 'guard'.

We continue offering support to men on remand and that has been going very well. Some of the men who have been on remand under Prison Care Ministries have done quite well with a number of them being offered community sentences. However, there are no guarantees that all of them will end up on community sentences and the ever-present fear of going back to prison is real. Our work is to support them to make realistic goals for the future but also to instill hope for that future, however it may look like. A lot of them struggle with not knowing what the future holds for them especially the ones facing the possibility of incarceration for the first time in their lives. The challenge of the ever-present risk of suicide for first timers is real and hence the weekly catch ups with those on remand.

We are grateful for the support that we continue to enjoy from everyone who supports us.



John Brennan **Office Manager**

I mentioned last year the new way we interact with Work & Income whereby we act as agents for our men, has meant dealing directly with the department rather than getting them to do it. Having submitted a job-seeker application for a new resident to W&I, the application could end up being handled by anyone in region or even around the country. As our approach to care is somewhat unique, we find that even relatively simple matters like the payment of rent and bond in advance that we ask for in the first week often doesn't get paid, or the benefit payments when they eventually do kick in have not been calculated correctly. This has meant long waits on the phone to sort it out. The new system also brought with it implications which we wrestled with quite some time around what settings would do well for both the men and the ministry.

A year or so back we were blessed with some newly painted bikes, however, keeping them road worthy meant quite a bit of work for me. It was however a joy to get out with one of the men for a couple of rides last summer.

My wife and I regularly visited one of the houses every week and part of that time was spent reading together helping the men to understand what they were reading. With one of the men who was in the house for most of the year, we saw a very clear improvement in his reading ability over that period.

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 2004-2022

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
Robbie Ahu
Jill McMillan
Alan Vink

Current staff 2022-2023

Severino Simwinga
Tony Mungai
John Brennan
Catherine Simwinga
Kum Lan Brennan

When people care, people change

31 March 2022

Support Only 27
Pending Decision 15
Waitlisted for Accommodation 29
Resident 16

All New Referrals
106

 Of which
 61
 became
 Applicants

31 March 2023

Support Only 22
Pending Decision 14
Waitlisted for Accommodation 24
Resident 13
No Further Contact 75 (Found Accommodation, Released, Declined, Unknown)

Prison Visits and AVL interviews

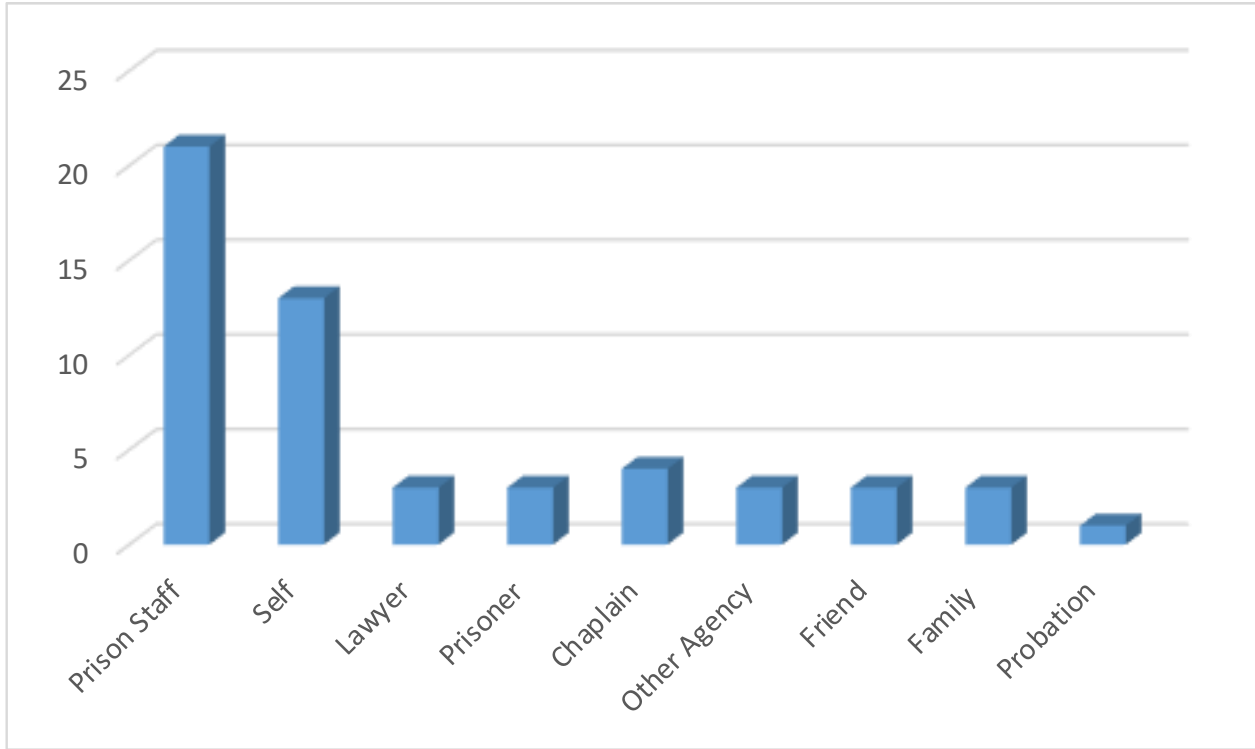
Location	Face to Face		AVL	Phone	Applicants
	Visits				
ASCF	1	2			4
Hawkes Bay					1
Mt Eden				4	6
Nga Wha	1	1			
Paremoremo	1	1			1
Rimutaka			4	1	5
Spring Hill	8	25	9		23
Tongariro	9				2
Waikeria	8	27	5		15
Other		3			4
	27	58	18	5	61

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.

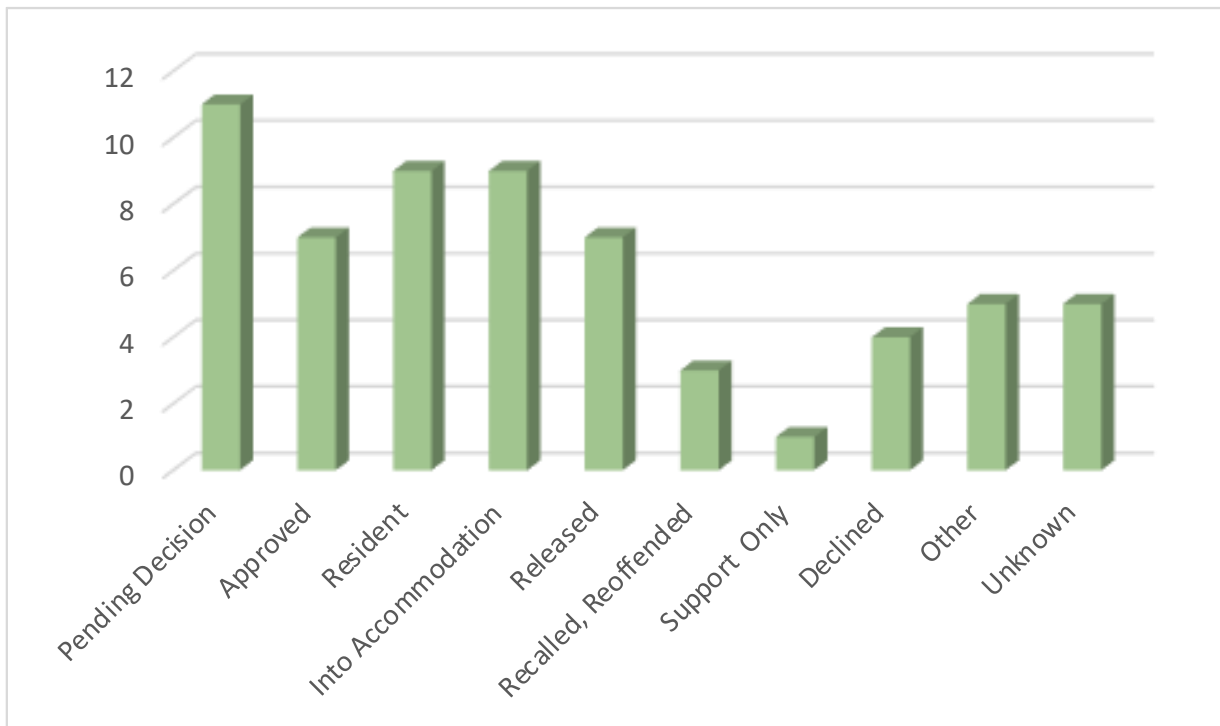
If a face to face interview is not possible due to location or time constraints then an interview by Audio Visual Link or telephone is arranged.

61 New applicants during the year

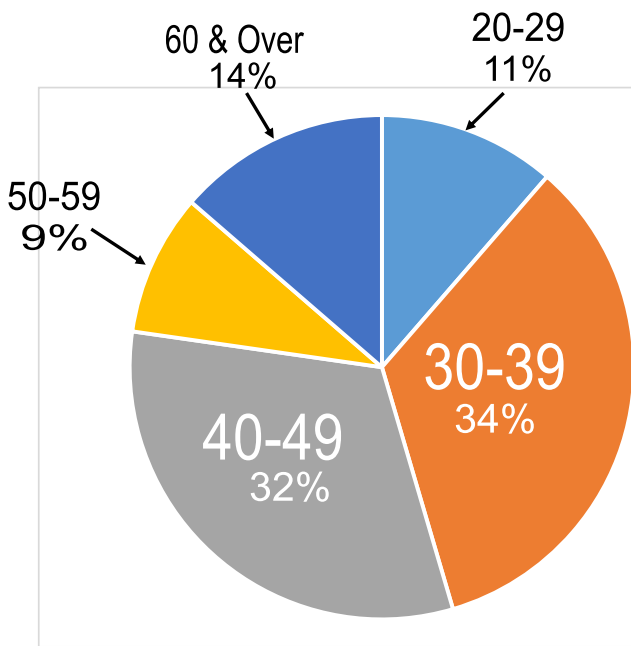
Referred by



Applicant Outcomes

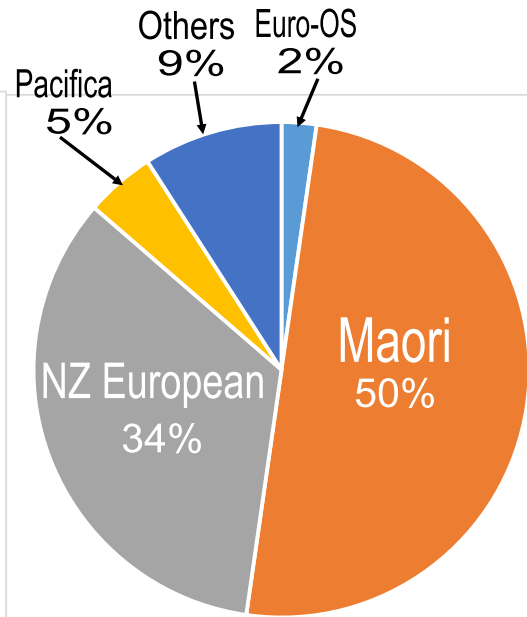


Residents by Age



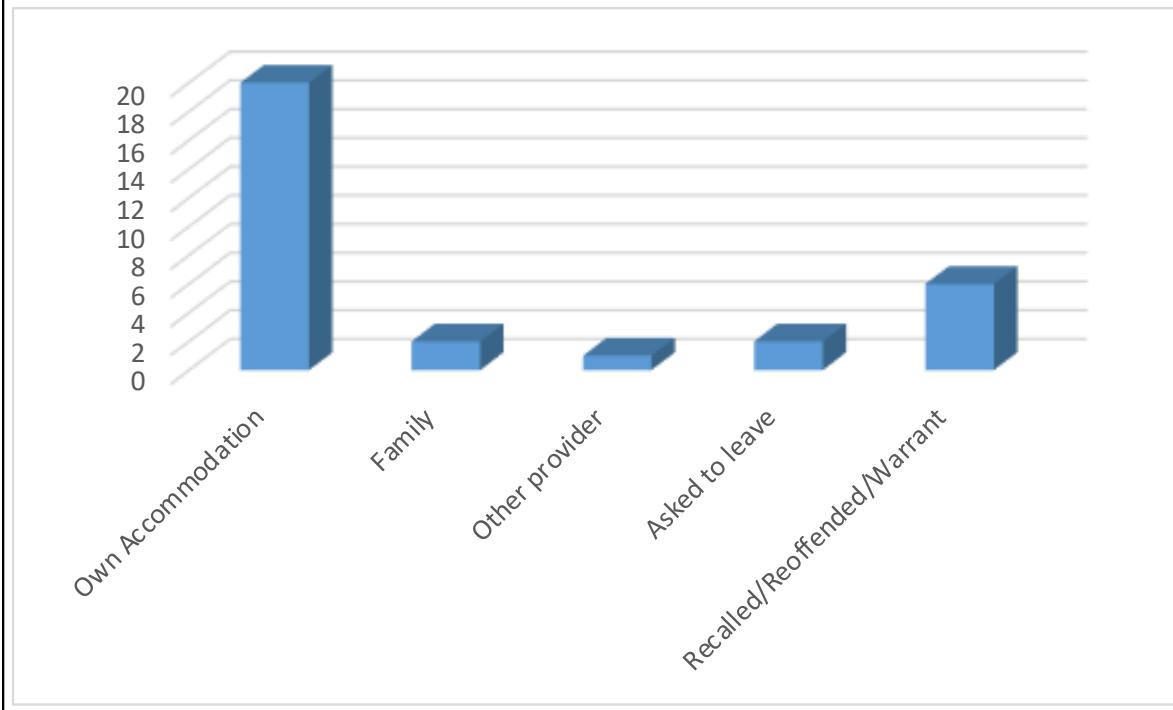
Average age: 42 years

Residents by Ethnicity



Sentenced 59%
On Remand 41%

Residents Outcomes



New Residents: 20
Men housed during the year: 44
Median length of stay: 5.3 months