

Military-Style Academy Pilot

Fact Sheet

The Government is taking action to address serious youth offending

The Military-Style Academy Pilot is part of a wider set of initiatives the Government is undertaking to address serious youth offending. This includes the new Young Serious Offender (YSO) declaration for young offenders, to ensure they face tougher consequences and are better supported to turn their lives around.

Young people with a YSO declaration could be sent to a new Military-Style Academy, be subjected to a greater use of electronic and judicial monitoring, and Police will have the power to arrest without warrant for non-compliance with conditions of an order or a breach of bail conditions.

This work supports the Government's target to reduce serious repeat youth offending by 15 percent.

Legislation to create the YSO declaration will be introduced before the end of 2024. The YSO legislation is required before the military-style academies can be rolled out on an ongoing basis. Meanwhile, the Military-Style Academy Pilot will begin in late July 2024 and will be progressed under existing legislation.

What are the key facts about the Military-Style Academy Pilot?

- **Location:** The Oranga Tamariki Youth Justice Residence in Palmerston North.
- **Cohort:** Up to 10 young males aged between 15 and 17 years (at the time of the offending) who are already in youth justice facilities.
- **Programme:** three-month residential stage in the Youth Justice residence, followed by a nine-month stage focused on supporting the young person to transition back into the community.
- **Curriculum:** Young people will follow a specially created curriculum and syllabus, with daily activities to support their health, learning and wellbeing. This will include military-style activities.
- **Partners:** Oranga Tamariki has worked closely with the New Zealand Defence Force, the Ministry of Justice, New Zealand Police, and other government agencies to design the Pilot. Oranga Tamariki is also consulting mana whenua and other community groups on the development of the Pilot.

What will the young people do in the Academy?

The initial three-month residential component will focus on:

- Structure and routine
- Addressing criminal behaviours
- Physical activities
- Education and vocational training
- Preparation for work and finding employment
- Specific rehabilitative, therapeutic and cultural components required for each young person.

The Pilot is underpinned by intensive case management for each young person, who will have a consistent mentor throughout. Following the residential component, the nine-month stage of the programme will be focused on supporting the young person to transition back into the community. Whānau will be engaged for the full 12 months of the programme.

How much funding has been allocated to the Military-Style Academy Pilot?

- In the Addressing Serious Youth Offending initiative, initial funding of \$6.037 million operating and \$1.000 million capital was provided through Budget 2024 for one Military-Style Academy Pilot.
- The cost of the pilot will be approximately \$5.1 million, which will be for the full 12-month programme.

Where can I find out more?

- Information and advice is being proactively released on a regular basis. Check the Oranga Tamariki website - [Youth justice | Oranga Tamariki — Ministry for Children](#)
- Refer to companion fact sheet **Young Serious Offender Declaration**