

## **Ara Poutama Aotearoa Department of Corrections**

### **Summary of Resource Consent Application for Residential Accommodation with associated rehabilitation programme**

#### **14 Bristol Street, St Albans, Christchurch**

##### Introduction

Ara Poutama Aotearoa – Department of Corrections has applied for resource consent to use the existing property at 14 Bristol Street, St Albans to provide residential accommodation for men as part of a rehabilitative and reintegrative programme.

Up to a maximum of sixteen men, aged 18 and older will reside at the property while participating in a programme designed to enable residents to return to the community with new skills to address the causes of their offending and to support them to live a crime-free life.

The programme will be modelled on Tai Aroha in Hamilton, a successful residential programme in Hamilton that has been operating for the past ten years. Residents will live at the property for a maximum of 22 weeks, with most residents living at the property for 14 to 16 weeks.

A referral process will ensure that only those men who are ready for and capable of participating in the programme will be referred to live at the property. Men who are eligible to participate in the programme will be identified as such in a pre-sentence report. The Court will ultimately determine whether a person should be referred to participate. Residents will not be required by the Court to attend the programme if they do not wish to do so.

Men with significant untreated mental health issues, or any current or historical convictions of sex offences will not be eligible to participate in the programme. Men with high treatment needs relating to alcohol and drug use will first be referred for treatment prior to being accepted into the programme.

##### Support and supervision

Residents will be intensively supervised by programme staff with up to eight support and supervisory staff at the property during the day and two or three awake staff monitoring the property and residents overnight.

All residents will be electronically monitored by GPS while living at the property. Residents will spend most of their time on the property but will be permitted to take some preapproved supervised outings such as going to the gym, shopping for weekly groceries or attending appointments with agencies or service providers. For those residents reaching the end of the programme, unsupervised outings may be approved, generally for the purposes noted above. Residents nearing the end of the programme

may also be approved to meet whānau at an agreed location, as preparation for their reintegration into the community.

### Visitors

Residents will be permitted to receive approved visitors on Saturdays between 1 and 5pm. This will be restricted to people who are actively supporting residents in the programme. Unapproved visitors will not be permitted to enter the property. Between ten and fifteen visitors are expected over the four-hour period.

### Transportation

Four onsite carparks and seven cycle parks will be provided onsite. None of the residents will have access to a private vehicle. Traffic movements to and from the property will include support and supervisory staff, support agencies, deliveries and maintenance, and visitors. Up to 32 vehicle trips per day are predicted to occur during the weekday, 32-46 vehicle trips on a Saturday and 14 vehicle trips on a Sunday.

### Buildings and landscaping

The 1678m<sup>2</sup> site currently consists of a 24-bedroom complex, with 13 bedrooms within the central unit and a further 11 bedrooms in two separate wings. Whilst no additional buildings are proposed on the site, some internal reconfiguration of the current building layout is proposed to better provide for staff facilities, programme delivery/meetings rooms and fire egress. These changes will result in a maximum of 16 bedrooms for residents.

CCTV cameras will be installed on site and directed into the site.

Enhancement of the existing landscaping is also proposed, including replacing two existing sections of fence along the Bristol and Berry St frontages, planting of new hedges and trees and repainting of boundary walls.

Ara Poutama Aotearoa will set up a community representative group that will meet regularly with programme staff to provide feedback or concerns. They will hold public open days where neighbours will be invited to the property to meet staff and see how the programme is delivered. They will provide a 24-hour phone number to the community to contact the on-site programme team.