

Better Public Services Results For Māori

2011-2016



Summary

This booklet relates to the Government's Better Public Services programme that focuses on State Sector services working together to deliver improved services and better results for New Zealanders.

Whakataukī

Nāku te rourou, nāu te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi With my basket and your basket, the people will live

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Published by

Te Puni Kōkiri ISBN: 978-0-478-34593-3 Paengawhāwhā/April 2017

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Services Results for Māori 2011–2016

Introduction

Kaupapa/Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- (a) Update Government progress for Māori towards the results in the Better Public Services programme. This connects with Te Puni Kōkiri statutory responsibility to provide advice to Ministers and agencies on achieving better results for whānau Māori.¹
- (b) Highlight that Better Public Services results may not be reached for Māori without significant improvement in the effectiveness of government policy.
- (c) Contrast Better Public Services programme results for Māori with results achieved for the total population in each of the areas being targetted for improvement.

Rationale

The State Services Commission regularly updates progress towards targets for the total population in each of the results. Progress for groups (for example, Māori) is not reported, apart from the NCEA Level 2 or equivalent target that is updated by the Ministry of Education.

It is important to provide updates of progress for Māori in the Better Public Services programme. The reality is that achievements are not being made for Māori to the same extent as for the total population, as is evidenced in this report. While progress towards targets for the total population in the areas targetted is tracking positively and many might be achieved in the timeframe, progress for Māori is further away from doing so.

Background

The Better Public Services programme, launched in 2012, focuses on the state sector working better to deliver improved results for all New Zealanders. Achieving results through the Better Public Services programme requires cross-agency collaboration. This programme allows the State Services to monitor the success of its service delivery to the public.

The Government set challenging targets across five results for the state sector to achieve within an average of five years with target dates ranging from 2014 to 2018.

Some of the targets within these results have been changed since they were initially set in 2011, including benefits, NZQF Level 4 or above and total crime.

Te Puni Kōkiri is investigating the possibility of publishing future Better Public Services reports for Māori in a joint venture arrangement with the State Services Commission.

The State Services Commission has been reviewing the Better Public Services programme. Some results will be refreshed and others replaced. The refresh will be announced later in 2017 and will take effect in 2018.



Te Puni Kōkiri, 2015.

Summary of Government's Better Public Services programme

Table 1 sets out the Better Public Services programme results, targets and target due dates. Please note, the sub-targets in Table 1 (i.e. 3a., 3b., 7a., 7b., and 7c.) do

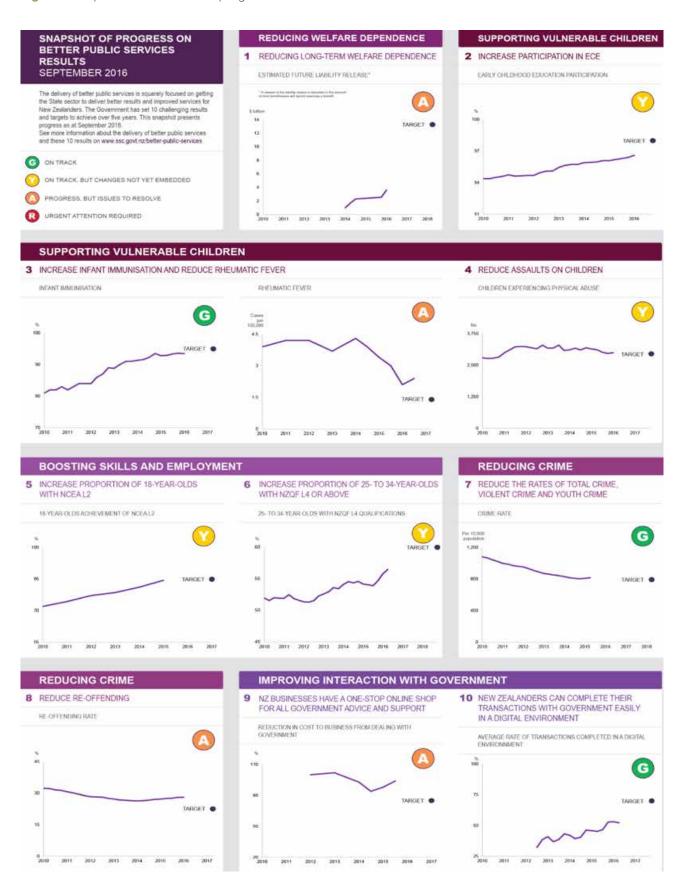
not appear in Government's updates or snapshots of progress. They are specified for clarity in this table and throughout the report.

Table 1 Better Public Services programme results, targets and target dates

Result Area	Target	Target date/s
1. Reducing welfare dependence	Reduce working age client numbers by 25%	June 2018 (changed in 2015 from 2017)
2. Supporting vulnerable children	Increase participation in quality early childhood education to 98%	December 2016
	3a. Increase infant immunisation to 95%	December 2014; maintain at 95% to June 2017
	3b. Reduce rates of rheumatic fever by two thirds	June 2016
	 Halt the 10-year rise in children experiencing physical abuse and reduce 2011 numbers by 5% 	June 2017
3. Boosting skills and employment	5. Increase proportion of 18 year-olds with NCEA Level 2 to 85%	June 2017
	6. Increase proportion of 25 to 34 year-olds with NZQF Level 4 or above to 60%	September 2018 (changed in 2014 from 2017)
4. Reducing crime	7. Reduce the rates of: 7a. total crime by 20% 7b. violent crime by 25% 7b. youth crime by 25%	June 2018 (total crime) June 2017 (violent crime) June 2017 (youth crime)
	8. Reduce reoffending	June 2017
5. Improving interaction with Government	NZ businesses have a one-stop online shop for all government advice and support	July 2017
	 New Zealanders can complete their transactions with Government easily in a digital environment 	December 2017

The graph on page 7 (Figure 1) is Government's snapshot of progress for all in receipt of services towards the results, targets within and shows the status of progress.

Figure 1 Snapshot of Government progress towards Better Public Services Results



New Zealand Government



Methods

Lack of publically available and accessible current data for Māori remains the status quo for the majority of targets. It is, therefore, necessary for Te Puni Kōkiri to request Māori-specific data from relevant agencies and Stats NZ.

Data requests were made of agencies that report their Better Public Services results to the State Services Commission. The exception to this is target 6 NZQF Level 4 or above where data were sourced from the Household Labour Force Survey via Stats NZ. This is consistent with government practice for this target.

Data provided by agencies were for Māori and the total population in each of the target areas and are no later than June 2006.

Te Puni Kōkiri data tables were updated and analysis was guided by the following questions:

- (a) To what degree is progress for Māori towards achievement of the targets being made?
- (b) Are there targets where progress is not being made and, if so, which ones are they?
- (c) Is progress for Māori the same as it is for the total population?
- (d) What targets are likely to be achieved for Māori by their due dates and how does this compare with the total population?
- (e) To what degree are Māori represented in these targets?

Assessing target achievement, (d) above, involved calculating progress to date and the annual average of change to determine what was needed to achieve the target. A further calculation identified if achievement would be possible by target due dates.

Te Puni Kōkiri analysed Māori-specific data for the first four results. The fifth area cannot be broken down by Māori and was, thus, out of scope.

Where Government counts 10 targets in five results, Te Puni Kōkiri counts 11 targets in four results. The difference in counts relates to targets 3 and 7 that have five sub-targets: 3a., 3b., 7a., 7b. and 7c.

Research on each of the targets was undertaken to provide context and additional commentary.

Data analysis and commentary on the targets was sent to the relevant agencies for their review. Review comments were considered and are reflected in the report.

Notes

Better Public Services programme targets are set for the total populations in receipt of services in each of the programme areas. In some instances, targets are not relevant for Māori, i.e. benefits and cases of child abuse. In these instances, data are raw numbers.

In other instances (i.e. total and violent crime), targets are not relevant for the total population. In these instances, data provided are not the same as those reported on by the State Services Commission when updating Better Public Services programme results.

In each of these instances, Te Puni Kōkiri calculated target percentage reductions in order to assess progress towards achievement for Māori and to make comparisons with the total population.

A note on terminology:

- (a) 'Results' is the term used by the State Services Commission to refer to the socio-economic and business areas being focussed for improvement in delivery of government services.
- (a) 'Total population' refers to all those in receipt of services related to the particular target area.



Summary of Key Findings in Better Public Services programme for Māori

Progress for Māori towards targets is summarised in Table 2 and Figure 2.

Table 2 Progress for Māori towards Better Public Services programme results

Targets that have	Result 4 reducing crime:		
been met for Māori.	Targets 7a. (total crime) and 7b. (violent crime) were met in 2013 and 2014 respectively. These targets are tracking positively towards achievement by their target dates. ²		
Targets likely to be	Result 2 supporting vulnerable children:		
met for Māori.	Targets 3a. increasing immunisation and 3b. reducing the rate of first-time hospitalisations for rheumatic fever.		
	3a. the 2014 date for increasing immunisation was not achieved; but it is likely the target will be reached by 2017.		
	3b. the Ministry of Health set a separate rheumatic fever target of 4.8 for Māori, but this target is not reported on by the State Services Commission.		
	Target 4: reducing the number of cases of substantiated abuse of children.		
The target unlikely to be met for Māori.	Result 3 boosting skills and employment, target 5: increasing achievement in NCEA Level 2 or equivalent for 18 year-olds.		
Targets will not be	Result 1 reducing long-term welfare dependence.		
met for Māori.	Result 2 supporting vulnerable children, target 2: increasing participation in early childhood education.		
	Result 3 boosting skills and employment, target 6: increasing achievement of NZQF ³ in Leve 4 or above.		
	Result 4 reducing crime, target 7c (youth crime) and target 8 (re-offending)		

Please note the caveat on page 19 explaining the difference in data used that cannot be compared with the Government's analysis of these targets.

Please note: The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) administers the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF). NZQF lists all New Zealand quality assured qualifications. tions, covering senior secondary school and tertiary education qualifications, and includes all qualifications open to international students. See NZQA for more information http://www. nzqa.govt.nz/assets/Studying-in-NZ/New-Zealand-Qualification-Framework/requirements-nzqf.pdf



Figure 2 Te Puni Kōkiri snapshot of Government progress towards Better Public Services Results for Māori.4



⁴ Note: Te Puni Kōkiri assessment of total and violent crime (7a. and 7b.) is based on proceedings data provided by New Zealand Police that were broken down by Māori. For these targets, the State Services Commission uses 'recorded crime' that cannot be broken down by ethnicity.



Commentary

Te Puni Kōkiri analysis of the 11 targets has identified that progress is being made as seen in convergence between the groups in eight targets; and progress for Māori towards achievement of nine targets, though it is likely under half will be achieved in the timeframes.

Table 2 shows that Māori are tracking positively towards five targets: immunisation, rheumatic fever, cases of substantiated physical abuse of children, total and violent crime. It is unlikely, however, that the following targets will be met for Māori: long-term welfare dependence, early childhood education, NCEA Level 2 or equivalent, NZQF level 4 and above, youth crime and re-offending.

The target group for reducing benefit numbers was changed in 2014 from Job Seekers to all main benefits without a change in the percent decrease and timeframe. Consequently, achieving the target within the set timeframe with the substantially increased number of beneficiaries is unattainable.

The NZQF target is the only target in which progress for Māori has not been made. Apart from a slight increase in 2015, numbers have steadily dropped.

The trend lines in Figure 2 indicate where convergence is occurring between the two groups in eight targets, i.e. participation in early childhood education, immunisation, rheumatic fever, NCEA Level 2 and the four crime targets, i.e. total, violent, youth crime and re-offending.

Figure 2 also shows that, while progress for Māori is being made, Māori are disproportionately represented in all targets, either over- represented (particularly in long-term welfare dependence, rheumatic fever, total, violent and youth crime and abuse of children) or underrepresented.

Comparing results for both groups towards achievement of targets, progress for Māori has generally been greater than for the total population towards the majority of targets.

Māori are ahead of the total population towards reducing cases of substantiated abuse of children. This target could be achieved for Māori (or come close), but might not be achieved for the total population.

The only target where progress is not being made for Māori is achievement of NZQF level 4 and above. In this instance, Māori are tracking away from the target. Please note the caveat related to the use of Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) data for this target on page 18.



Better Public Services results for Māori

Key Findings

Results for Māori and the total population in the areas being targetted are presented in this report in order to compare progress for the two groups. In presenting the analysis below, the report attempts to use language consistent with that of the State Services Commission.

Result 1: Reducing long-term welfare dependence

The original target set by Government of reducing Jobseeker Support numbers to 55,000 by June 2017⁵ was replaced in 2014 by a new target: reduce working-age⁶ client numbers by 25 percent to 220,000 from 295,000 as at June 2014, and an accumulated actuarial release⁷ of \$13 billion by June 2018⁸. Te Puni Kōkiri did not assess the 'actuarial release' target.

Government aims to reduce the number of people who have been on a working-age main⁹ benefit for more than 12 months.

Table 3 describes progress made for both groups since 2014 towards a 25 percent reduction in the target.





Reduce nubmers of working-age clients by 25% by June 2018

	Māori	Total	
Targets	75,631	221,490	
Status	98,392	279,769	
	2.4%	5.3%	

Neither will achieve Overrepresentation of Māori by almost 3 to 1

TABLE 3

Progress towards a 25% reduction in numbers of workingage clients by June 2018

Year	Māori	Total
2014	100,841	295,320
2015	98,348	284,260
2016	98,392	279,769
Target - 25% reduction in numbers	75,631	221,490
Percent change 2014-2016	2.4%	5.3%
June 2018 Target (%)	25%	25%

Note: Results are as at March 2016.

⁹ The Ministry of Social Development lists the following as 'main benefits': Jobseeker Support, Sole parent Support, Supported Living Payment, Youth Payment/Young Parent Payment, Other (includes, Emergency Maintenance Allowance, Emergency Benefit, Jobseeker Student Hardship, Widow's Benefit Overseas, Sole Parent Support Overseas. (see https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/latest-quarterly-results/all-main-benefits.html)



The target in 2015 was 'Reduce the number of people continuously receiving Jobseeker Support for more than 12 months by 30 per cent, from 78,000 in April 2012 to 55,000 by June 2017'

⁶ Ministry of Social Development definition: 'Working-age recipients are aged 18-64 years'

Note: An 'actuarial release' is an estimate of the change in long-term liability of the benefit system resulting from changes in the number of beneficiaries and their likelihood of long-term benefit receipt. The measure attempts to isolate the impact of collective Government activity on beneficiary numbers. (http://www.ssc.govt.nz/bps-reducing-dependence)

⁸ Cabinet Paper, 2014:4.

In order to identify progress towards achievement of the target for Māori and compare progress with the total population in this area, Te Puni Kōkiri calculated a twenty five percent reduction of the 2011 figures.

The change from Jobseeker to all main benefits in 2014 has significantly increased the numbers for both groups in this target area without a change in the percentage or timeframe for the reduction to occur. Consequently, it is likely neither group will achieve the required reduction in two years.

Numbers for Māori rose by 44 in 2016, but have continued to decrease for the total population on main benefits. Of note, however, is that Māori are almost three times more likely to be on a main benefit.

Rationale for target

The Ministry of Social Development explains that the cost of paying benefits to working-age clients is now over \$8 billion a year, with much higher lifetime costs. The cost is significant, but is only a portion of the entire economic and social price New Zealand pays as a result of lost productivity and negative social impacts. Being out of paid work and on a benefit for extended periods increases the risk of poverty, social dislocation and deteriorating overall health. It can also have negative effects on the children of long-term beneficiaries.¹⁰

Comment on progress

Reduction in the numbers on main benefits in the last two years - as reported by the State Services Commission and reflected in Table 3 for both groups - has been due primarily to the reduction in Sole Parent Support payments. Demographics of those in receipt of Sole Parents Support payments are: 92 percent female; 50 percent aged between 25 and 39 years, and almost half (47 percent) are Māori. 12

When the youngest child in a sole-parent family reaches three years of age, the parent has part-time work obligations that include being expected to find paid employment for 30 hours per week and to enrol their child or children in an early childhood education programme or equivalent.¹³ Finding secure employment that is flexible enough to respond to the needs of their tamariki and home situation can be challenging, especially for sole parents who are looking after disabled or sick children.¹⁴

Joining the labour force does not necessarily improve the socio-economic status of these families nor act as a means of escaping poverty. Current statistics indicate that poverty continues to affect families where at least one adult is in full-time work and affects two in every five children. On average, Māori have more children, poorer education and training, fewer qualifications and lower wages, as well as poorer health and social connectedness.

Result 2: Supporting vulnerable children

This result has three targets that focus on: early childhood education; health (specifically, infant immunisation and rheumatic fever); and substantiated physical abuse of children. Te Puni Kōkiri distinguishes the health targets as 3a. and 3b.

There is a link between early childhood experiences and adult mental health and social, educational and employment outcomes. Too many children are at risk of poor outcomes because they do not get the early support they need. Early intervention brings long-term benefits in terms of better health, reduced imprisonment and arrest rates, higher employment, and higher earnings later in life.¹⁷

The human and financial costs of not facing up to these challenges are too high. Remedial spending is often less effective and more costly than getting it right the first time.¹⁸

¹⁰ State Services Commission: Result 1

¹¹ Ministry of Social Development – Benefit fact sheet, 2016

¹² ibid

¹³ New Zealand Government, 2015

¹⁴ Dwyer, 2015.

¹⁵ Dale, 2013:5.

¹⁶ Marriott and Sim, 2014.

⁷ State Services Commission: Supporting vulnerable children

¹⁸ Ministry of Social Development. Why this is important, 2015

Quality early childhood education

The target set by Government for this area is: In 2016, 98% of children starting school will have participated in quality early childhood education.

Table 4 describes progress for both groups since 2011 towards 98 percent participation in early childhood education.

H

Increase participation in quality ECE to 98% by December 2016

94.6%

Total 96.6%

Likely neither will achieve. Might be at the maximum possible.

Convergence 4.5 in 2011 to 2.0 in 2016

Slight underrepresentation of Māori

TABLE 4

Progress Towards 98% participation in quality early childhood education by December 2016

Year	Māori (%)	Total (%)
2011	90.2	94.7
2012	91.3	95.2
2013	92.6	95.7
2014	93.6	96.1
2015	94.3	96.1
2016	94.6	96.6
December 2016 Target (%)	98%	98%

Note: Results are as at March 2016

Progress made for Māori has been consistent, but the annual average increase indicates it is unlikely this target will be achieved. On the basis of the annual average, the same result applies to the total population in this area. The target will not be achieved for either group.

Convergence between the two groups is occurring. The difference between Māori and the total population in 2011 was 4.5 percent and has reduced to 2.0 percent in 2016.

Rationale for target

The importance of quality early childhood care and education provision is noted in the 2014 Cabinet Paper as being particularly important for vulnerable children.¹⁹ Participation in high-quality early childhood education 'contributes to stronger learning foundations, particularly for children from disadvantaged families' who receive the greatest gains from high-quality early childhood education.²⁰

Poor quality early childhood education can contribute to high stress levels for children who can, in some instances, suffer long-term effects through to adolescence and beyond²¹. High levels of stress can have a negative influence on relationships between staff members that can, in turn, affect relationships between staff and children in any early childhood centre.²²

The Education Review Office provides guidelines for 'quality' in early childhood education that note te reo Māori and tikanga should be seen as integral to the curriculum as well as a commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi as these actions make a positive difference to what happens for Māori children and their whānau.²³

Comment on progress

There is no update on, or discussion of, the quality aspect of this target.²⁴ The Education Review Office measures of quality are based on indicators such as process (relationships between centre staff and children) and structural matters (for example, staff:child ratios). The Education Review Office notes that neither of these measures is sufficient to guarantee that children are experiencing quality education.²⁵



⁹ Cabinet Paper, 2014:4.

²⁰ Ministry of Social Development, 2007:1

²¹ Australian Government, 2014.

²² Education Review Office. High quality education and care.

²³ Education Review Office. High quality education and care - an overview.

²⁴ The Ministry of Education advises that '...the target does not have a quality component and is something that might be considered for the future.' Personal communication Ministry of Education official, July 2016.

²⁵ Education Review Office. High quality education and care - an overview.

Increase infant immunisation and reduce rheumatic fever

Infant immunisation

The Government's target is to increase infant immunisation rates to achieve and maintain 95 percent coverage of eight month-old children fully immunised with the scheduled vaccinations by December 2014 and to maintain this at 95 percent to June 2017.

Table 5 describes the progress made by Government since 2012 when the target of increasing and maintaining the rates of immunisation of eight month-old children²⁶ was introduced. The increase in immunisation to 95 percent was not achieved by 2014. Despite this, the rates for both groups have been steadily increasing towards the 95% target.





Increase immunisation rates of 8 month-old children to 95% by December 2014 and maintained to June 2017

91.6%

93.5%

Māori might come close; total is likely to achieve.

Concergence 8.4 in 2012 to 1.9 in 2016

Slight underrepresentation of Māori

TABLE 5

Progress towards a 95% increase in immunisation rates of 8 month-old children by December 2014 and maintained to June 2017

Year	Māori (%)	Total (%)
2012	75.1	84.4
2013	83.0	88.9
2014	86.7	91.4
2015	90.0	92.9
2016	91.6	93.5
December 2014 Target (%)	95%	95%

Note: Results are as at March 2016

Rates of Māori immunising their eight month-old tamariki have steadily increased since 2011. With a sustained effort by the Ministry of Health and other relevant agencies, achievement for Māori might come close to the 95 percent immunisation rate by June 2017. The total population in this area is closer to reaching the 95 percent rate than Māori and is likely to do so by 2017. ²⁷

²⁷ See https://www.ssc.govt.nz/bps-supporting-vulnerable-children ' 'With modest progress during 2015, the 95% target may be achieved in 2016 with sustained effort. New Zealand's immunisation rate for babies at age 12 months'.



²⁶ For the 2016 results presented, the reporting period is 1 January to 31 March 2016 and includes all eligible children who turned eight months age during that period. Other data are for the same quarter in the previous years.

Convergence between the two groups is occurring. Where there was a difference of 9.3 percentage points in 2012, by March 2016, that has reduced to 1.9; a difference of 7.4 percentage points.

Rationale for target

Immunisation can prevent a number of vaccine preventable diseases. It not only provides individual protection, but also population-wide protection by reducing the incidence of infectious diseases and preventing spread to vulnerable people. Some of these population-wide benefits only arise with high immunisation rates, depending on the infectiousness of the disease and the effectiveness of the vaccine.²⁸

New Zealand's history of paediatric immunisation coverage has been poor, but, while important areas of concern remain (for example, some diseases that are still not controlled by vaccine and sub-standard coverage in certain conditions and age groups), improvement has been considerable.²⁹

The target of increasing immunisation coverage of eight month-olds has secondary benefits in supporting early enrolment of infants in general practice and on-going engagement with primary care and well child services.³⁰

Government actions

The Ministry of Health reports that increasing immunisation has been a health target since 2007. The four-point action plan being implemented by the Ministry and the health sector involves key actions that are underpinned by an approach that joins 'primary and maternity care and Well Child/Tamariki Ora services'.³¹

Rheumatic fever

The Government's target is to reduce the rate of first-episode hospitalisations of children by two-thirds to 1.4 cases per 100,000 by June 2017. The Ministry of Health set a specific target for Māori of 4.8 cases per 100.000.³²

Table 6 describes progress for both groups towards reducing first episode rheumatic fever hospitalisations.



Reduce first-episode hospitalisations for rheumatic fever by two-thirds by June 2016

	Māori	Total
Targets	4.8%	1.4%
Status	6.3%	2.1%

Likely both targets will be achieved and Māori might also achieve Total's target of 1.4 Convergence 10.5 in 2011 to 4.2 in 2015 Overrepresentation of Māori 3 to 1

TABLE 6

Progress towards a two-thirds reduction of first-episode hospitalisations for rheumatic fever by June 2016

Tear	Maori	IOlai
	Per (100,000)	
2011	14.7	4.2
2012	13.5	3.7
2013	13.5	4.3
2014	9.3	3.4
2015	6.3	2.1
June 2017 Target (rate per 100,000)	4.8	1.4

Note: results are as at December 2015

²⁸ Ministry of Health. Health targets: Increased immunisation.

²⁹ Turner, 2014.

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ Ministry of Health. Increase infant immunisation rates and reduce rheumatic fever.

³² The State Services Commission does not report on this particular target, rather it reports on progress for the Total against the rate of 1.4 per 100,000 people.

Progress for Māori towards this target is significant and can also be seen in convergence between the groups. Where the difference in rates in 2011 was 10.5, in 2015 it was 4.2 - a difference of 6.3.

It is likely the targets set for each group (i.e. 4.8 for Māori and 1.4 for the total population) will be achieved by 2017. With a concerted effort by the Ministry of Health and other relevant agencies, the target of 1.4 may also be achieved for Māori. Māori are, though, three times more likely to have rheumatic fever than the total population in this target area.

Rationale for target

Strep throats can lead to rheumatic fever in a small number of people if it goes untreated. This condition can cause the heart, joints, brain and skin to become inflamed and swollen, which can cause rheumatic heart disease. In addition, the disease can cause premature death in adults.³³

Rheumatic fever has almost disappeared from industrialised countries, but is still a problem for New Zealand (and Australia), particularly for those who live in 'resource limited settings' (and indigenous communities), demonstrating the impact socioeconomic factors have on the disease.³⁴ New Zealand's rate of rheumatic fever was reported to be '14 times the OECD average'.³⁵

Most cases of rheumatic fever have been recorded in the North Island, with Māori and Pacific children and young adults (aged 4–19 years) having the highest rates of the illness.³⁶

The Ministry of Health considers it 'highly likely that a combination of crowded housing conditions and socio-economic deprivation, barriers to primary healthcare access and the subsequent higher burden of untreated strep sore throat infections are important factors leading to higher rates of rheumatic fever among Māori'.³⁷

Government actions

The Ministry of Health established a programme in 2011 designed to prevent and treat strep throat infections (which is a primary contributor to rheumatic fever). The programme was expanded following the introduction of the rheumatic fever Better Public Services target, and an investment of \$65 million has been made by the government to reduce rates of rheumatic fever for Māori and Pacific children and young people aged 4-19 years throughout New Zealand.³⁸

Substantiated physical abuse of children

By 2017, the Government aims to halt the 10-year rise in children experiencing substantiated physical abuse (from a projected 4,000 to less than 3,000, representing a 25 percent reduction) and reduce 2011 numbers by five percent, which is described as an 'extremely ambitious' target.³⁹

Table 7 describes the numbers of children who have experienced substantiated physical abuse between 2011 and 2015 and shows that numbers have fluctuated during this time. Halting the 10-year rise in numbers that had been occurring up to 2011 has not yet been achieved.⁴⁰



³⁴ Steer, 2015.



³⁵ McCracken, 2015

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ Personal communication with the Ministry of Health, October 2016.

³⁹ State Services Commission: Supporting vulnerable children Result 4.

⁴⁰ Noting that Māori are included in the numbers for the Total.



Halt the rise in numbers of children who experience physical abuse and a reduction of 5% of the 2011 number by June 2017

	Māori	Total
Targets	1,410	2,954
Status	1,439	3,118
	-3%	0.20%

This is the only target area where progress for Māori is ahead of that for the total population.

Māori might achieve, unlikely Total will

Overrepresentation of Māori by 2:1

TABLE 7

Progress towards halting the rise in numbers of children who experience physical abuse and a 5% decrease of the 2011 number by June 2017

Year	Māori	Total
2011	1,484	3,110
2012	1,428	3,195
2013	1,507	3,181
2014	1,470	3,178
2015	1,439	3,118
Target - 5% reduction of 2011 numbers	1,410	2,954
Percent change 2011–2015	-3%	0.20%
June 2017 Target (%)	5%	5%

Please note, it is the ethnicity of the child who has been abused that is counted.⁴¹

In order to identify progress towards achievement of the target for Māori and compare progress with the total population towards this target, Te Puni Kōkiri calculated a five percent reduction of the 2011 figures.

The number of Māori children experiencing substantiated physical abuse on an annual basis between 2011 and 2015 has reduced by 45 (or three percent), meaning the five percent target may be achieved in the timeframe. In comparison, the total number of children experiencing substantiated physical abuse in the same timeframe has increased by eight; it seems unlikely the target will be achieved for them.⁴²

This is the only target area where progress for Māori is ahead of that for the total population.

The Ministry of Social Development notes that Māori are, however, 'more than twice as likely to experience substantiated abuse than non-Māori, with a rate of 5.2 per 1,000 Māori children compared to a rate of 2.0 per 1,000 non-Māori children.'43

Rationale for target

The effects of being abused as a child persist into adolescence and beyond. Children experiencing child abuse can develop internal and external behavioural disorders, including, for example: anxiety, depression and other psychiatric disorders; relationship difficulties; anti-social attitudes that can lead to criminal activities and violence perpetration. Abused children can, in turn, become abusive parents.⁴⁴

Government actions

Actions taken through the Children's Action Plan include raising awareness of child abuse and encouraging the reporting of occurrences, which could lead to an increase in numbers of cases in the short term.⁴⁵

Note: results are as at June 2015



Ministry of Social Development, personal communication May 2017

⁴² Ministry of Social Development explains that, where ethnic breakdowns are provided annually, all data breakdowns are provided on a quarterly basis. MSD, 21 July 2016.

⁴³ Ministry of Social Development, personal communication September 2016

⁴⁴ Australian Government, 2014

⁴⁵ Ministry of Social Development, n.d.

Result 3: Boosting Skills and Employment

Education is acknowledged as being one of the most important keys to success. Educational achievement is linked with multiple positive outcomes, including higher incomes, greater employment opportunities and improved health. Possessing knowledge and skills also enhances peoples' sense of self-worth, security and belonging.⁴⁶

NCEA Level 2 or equivalent

The Government's target is that 85 percent of 18 year-olds will have achieved NCEA Level 2 or an equivalent qualification in 2017.

Table 8 describes progress for Māori and the total population of 18 year-olds in this area towards the June 2017 target.





Increase achievement of NCEA Level 2 or equivalent to 85%by June 2017

71.1%

Total **83.3%**

Unlikely either will achieve
Convergence 17.2 in 2011 to 12.2 in 2015
Underrepresentation of Māori

TABLE 8

Progress towards 85% achievement of NCEA Level 2 o equivalent qualification by June 2017

Year	Māori (%)	Total (%)
2011	57.1	74.3
2012	60.9	77.2
2013	63.3	78.6
2014	67.7	81.2
2015	71.1	83.3
June 2017 Target (%)	85%	85%

Note: Results are as at June 2015

Achievement for Māori of these qualifications has increased, but, based on the increases to date and the percentage increase still needed, it is unlikely Māori will reach the 85 percent target within the timeframe. The increase for the total population of 18 year-olds undertaking these qualifications during this period appears to be sufficient for the target to be reached.



⁴⁶ Marriott and Sim, 2014

Despite the possibility of the target not being met for Māori, progress has been made as is evidenced in the increase of 14 percentage points between 2011 and 2015. Convergence, another indicator of progress, has been occurring between the two groups as demonstrated by the difference of 17.2 percent in 2011 to 12.2 percent in 2015.

The Ministry of Education notes: 'The high numbers of Māori and Pasifika young people that are leaving school without NCEA Level 2 or equivalent remains an area of concern.'⁴⁷

Rationale for target

Educational success is pivotal to the Government's goal of building a productive and competitive economy. Educational qualifications help New Zealanders develop the skills needed to reach their full potential and provide opportunities to contribute to the economy and society.⁴⁸

With a Level 2 or equivalent qualification, further education and training can be pursued that can, in turn, result in better chances of gaining employment, improved health outcomes and an overall better quality of life for whānau.⁴⁹

NZQF Level 4 or above for 25 to 34 year-olds

The target set by Government in 2012 was to: Increase the proportion of 25 to 34 year-olds with advanced trade qualifications, diplomas and degrees (at Level 4 or above) by 2017. This target was revised in 2014 because it was expected it would be met before the stated date. The new target was raised to 60 percent to be achieved by 2018.

Table 9 describes progress towards the target of 60 percent of 25 to 34 year-olds with level 4 or above qualifications.



Increase achievement of NZQF at level 4+ to 60% by Sep 2018

Māori 32.2%

Total **55.8%**

This is the only target where Māori are tracking away from achievement.

Difference between the groups: 14.7%in 21011 to 23.6% in 2016. Maori will not achieve the target.

Unlikely the total will.

Caveat - data for this target were accessed from Stats NZ, using the Household Labour Force Survey. The Ministry of Education considers the small sample of Māori in the surveys makes findings unreliable.'

Underrepresentation of Māori

TABLE 9

Progress towards 60% achievement of NZQF qualifications at level 4 or above by September 2018

Year	Māori (%)	Total (%)
2011	36.9	51.6
2012	36.6	52.3
2013	32.7	53.4
2014	32.3	54.6
2015	29.8	54.7
2016	32.2	55.8
September 2018 Target (%)	60%	60%

Note: Results are as at March 2016

⁴⁷ Ministry of Education, personal communication July 2016.

⁴⁸ State Services Commission: Boosting skills and employment Result 5

⁴⁹ State Services Commission: Boosting skills and employment Result 5

This is the only target where Māori are tracking away from achievement. Proportions have been steadily dropping until 2016 when the percentage increased slightly by 2.4 percent.⁵⁰ Progress towards the target for the total population undertaking these qualifications has, on the other hand, risen slowly since 2011. It seems likely, however, that neither group will achieve the target.

Where the gap in NCEA Level 2 achievement between Māori and the total population has reduced, it has widened for Māori in the achievement of NZQF qualifications.

This is the only target where progress for Māori has not been made. Proportions have dropped from 36.9 percent to 32.2 percent between 2011 and 2016. In addition, the difference in achievement rates between the groups in 2011 was 14.7 percent, and, in 2016 has now risen to 23.6 percent.

Please note: data for this target were accessed from Stats NZ, using the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS); these data are not easily available elsewhere. The Ministry of Education adds a note of caution when interpreting these data for Māori, commenting on the higher sampling error for Māori than the total population and that these results could have been influenced by changes in the HLFS. They also note that the net increase for the total population comes from skilled immigration, but that, though higher proportions of Māori are achieving these qualifications, the effect of migration for Māori is the loss of skilled people.⁵¹

Rationale for target

Individuals with higher qualifications tend to have better economic and social outcomes than those whose qualifications are upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education. ⁵² People who gain higher level qualifications, especially at degree level and above, are more likely to be employed, have greater access to further training and earn higher incomes. ⁵³

Comment on progress

Treasury notes the continual inequalities and inequities in society that result in Māori being underqualified and under-represented in employment are linked strongly with the education system.⁵⁴

The Ministry of Education acknowledges that extra effort will be needed to 'lift' Māori educational outcomes.⁵⁵

Result 4: Reducing crime

The causes of crime are many and complex. The impact of social factors, such as poverty, unemployment, drugs and family breakdown are considered key in determining criminality. ⁵⁶ The effects of parental neglect, being abused as children and low self-esteem caused by myriad reasons can also put people at greater risk of becoming offenders. ⁵⁷

A note on counting crime

The counting of crime statistics changed in 2014 based on recommendations made in 2009 by Stats NZ.⁵⁸ The new measure is the number of proceedings police initiate against an offender, where proceedings includes referrals to court, diversions and warnings. Proceedings data record the identity of the offender and their most serious offence. Please note, 'a proceeding does not represent a count of offences'.⁵⁹

The new method of counting crime affects total and violent crime rates. The counting of youth crime and re-offending has not changed.

The use of proceedings data that are disaggregated by Māori to assess progress for both groups in total and violent crime is on advice from New Zealand Police. Te Puni Kōkiri accepted this advice in order to compare results between the two groups in progress towards these targets.

⁵⁰ The Māori figures are subject to a high sample error within the Household Labour Force Survey which has implications for statistical significance. Ministry of Education, 2016.

⁵¹ Ministry of Education, personal communication 21 July 2016.

⁵² Education Counts, 2013.

⁵³ State Services Commission: Boosting skills and employment Result 6

⁵⁴ Treasury, 2013.

⁵⁵ Ministry of Education, Count Me In.

⁵⁶ Mago, et al. 2013:2, Schäfer 2011:1, Adebayo 2013:72

^{57 2014:}n.p.n Australian Government

⁵⁸ New Zealand Police, 2016

⁵⁹ New Zealand Police, 2016

Data used by the State Services Commission to update these two crime targets are not 'proceedings' and cannot be disaggregated by Māori, the analysis below is, therefore, not comparable with State Services Commission updates. In order to identify progress towards achievement of the targets for Māori and compare progress with the total population in these areas, Te Puni Kōkiri calculated a twenty percent reduction of the 2011 figures for total and violent crime. The targets in Tables 10 and 11 are not, however, agreed by the State Services Commission or Ministers.

Total crime

The Government's target is a 20 percent reduction in the total recorded crime⁶⁰ rate from June 2011 to June 2018, which equates to a rate of 792 per 10,000 of the population. Recorded crime cannot be disaggregated by ethnicity, therefore, as noted, the following analysis is of proceedings data that is broken down by Māori.

Table 10 describes progress made for both groups towards reducing total crime by 20 percent by 2018.





20% reduction in total crime proceedings rate per 10,000 by June 2018

	Māori	Total
Targets	1,099	428
Status	1,022	376

Analysis of proceedings data shows both groups tracking positively towards achievement

Overrepresentation of Māori by almost 3 times to 1

Convergence 839 in 2011 to 646 in 2015

TABLE 10

Progress towards a 20% reduction in total crime proceedings by June 2018

Year	Māori	Total
	Rate (per 10,000)	
2011	1,374	535
2012	1,266	501
2013	1,137	439
2014	1,055	394
2015	1,022	376
Target - Reduction of 20% from 2011 (per 10,000)	1,099	428

Note: Results are as at December 2015



⁶⁰ Recorded crime cannot be disaggregated by ethnicity.

Proceedings data show that a 20 percent reduction was met for Māori and the total population in this area in 2014. Both groups are, thus, tracking positively towards achieving a 20 percent reduction in proceedings for total crime by 2018. The rates also show that convergence between the two groups is occurring. Where the difference between the groups in 2011 was 839, it was 646 in 2015.

Despite the gains made for Māori, more work needs to be done by the Ministry of Justice and relevant agencies as Māori continue to be over-represented in total crime by almost three to one.

If the target rate of 792 per 10,000 for recorded crime is considered in the context of the data being analysed, it can be seen that the total population in this area would already have achieved the target before the Better Public Services programme began.

Violent crime

The Government's target is a 20 percent reduction in the recorded violent crime rate from June 2011 to June 2017; this equates to a rate of 88 per 10,000 of the population. As noted, recorded crime cannot be disaggregated by ethnicity, therefore, the following analysis is of proceedings data that are broken down by Māori.

Table 11 describes progress made for both groups towards reducing violent crime by 20 percent.





20% reduction in violent crime proceedings rate per 10,000 by June 2017

	Māori	Total
Targets	195	68
Status	181	62

Analysis of proceedings data shows both groups are tracking positively towards achievement

Overrepresentation of Māori by almost 3 times to 1

Convergence 158 in 2011 to 119 in 2015

TABLE 11

Progress towards a 20% reduction in violent crime proceedings by June 2017

Year	Māori	Total
	Rate (per 10,000)	
2011	243	85
2012	217	77
2013	197	68
2014	188	64
2015	181	62
Target - Reduction of 20% from 2011 (per 10,000)	195	68

Note: Results are as at December 2015

Proceedings data show that the target was met for Māori and the total population in violent crime by 2015. Currently, both groups are tracking positively towards a 20 percent reduction in rates of violent crime by 2017.

Convergence between the two groups is occurring in this area. Where there was a difference of 158 between Māori and total violent crime rates in 2011, the gap has reduced to 119 in 2015.

Māori are, however, over-represented in results for this target by almost three to one. More work needs to be done in this area by the Ministry of Justice and relevant agencies to improve results for Māori.

If the target rate of 88 per 10,000 for recorded crime is considered in the context of the proceedings data being analysed here, it can be seen that the total population in this target area would already have achieved the target before the Better Public Services programme began.

Comment on progress

The Ministry of Justice notes that violent crime is under-reported and, with an increased focus on victims, there may be some short-term increases in recorded violent crime due to an increase in notifications to the Police.⁶¹

This year, the State Services Commission published violent crime data that were separated into violent crime committed in dwellings or in public places. The former is a proxy for family violence as recorded by Police and the data are showing that this has been increasing since June 2014, now being similar to levels in June 2011. New Zealand Police suggest that this may be due to an increase in the reporting of crime and not necessarily that more crimes are actually occurring.⁶² The bulk of the remainder of violent crime is committed in public places and has fallen by 19 percent since June 2011. The Police add that data used for these findings cannot be disaggregated by Māori.⁶³

Youth crime

The Government's target is a 25 percent reduction in the rate of court appearances of 14 to 16-year-olds from June 2011 to June 2017; this equates to a rate of 242 per 10,000 by June 2017.

Table 12 describes the reduction in rates of crimes per 10,000 for Māori and the total population of youths in this target.



Reduce rates per 10,000 by 25% by June 2017

	Muuli	10001
Targets	242	242
		400

Māori are unlikely to achieve; Total will achieve Overrepresentation of Māori by almost 3 to 1 Convergence 451 in 2011 to 333 in 2015

TABLE 12

Progress towards a 25% reduction in youth crime by June 2017

Year	Māori	Total
	Rate (per 10,000)	
2011	774	323
2012	724	297
2013	656	254
2014	545	210
2015	531	198
June 2017 Target (per 10,000)	242	242

Note: Results are as at September 2015



⁶¹ Ministry of Justice, Measuring success. The Ministry of Justice defines violent crime as:

Homicides and related offences (attempted murder, manslaughter), including driving causing death where this results in a manslaughter charge

Acts intended to cause injury (for example, serious assaults), and

Offences against the person (including kidnapping and abduction, robbery, and other related offences).

⁶² State Services Commission. Result 4 – Reducing Crime

⁶³ New Zealand Police, 2016

The rate at which reductions have been achieved for Māori means it is unlikely the target will be met. While reasonably significant decreases in rates for Māori occurred between 2011 and 2014, this slowed considerably between 2014 and 2015.

The target was reached for the total population in this area in 2014. Thus, the total population of youth in this area is tracking positively towards the target. Convergence between the two groups is occurring; the difference between the groups was 451 in 2011 and has dropped to 333 in 2015.

The convergence is positive, but Māori remain over-represented in this area by almost three to one. More work needs to be done in this area for Māori by the Ministry of Justice and relevant agencies to reduce the youth crime rate and achieve the target of a rate of 242 per 10,000.

Government actions

The Youth Crime Action Plan, devised by the Ministry of Justice in 2002, intends to reduce youth crime and help those who offend turn their lives around by taking a practical approach to supporting all those involved.⁶⁴

Eighty three percent of offending by young people is now dealt with under the alternative youth justice procedures under the control of the Police.⁶⁵ Thus, the Ministry of Justice reports that the number of youth charged in court has decreased for all major age and ethnic groups. The majority of young people in court are aged 15 or 16 years, 79 percent are male and, as above, are disproportionately Māori.⁶⁶

Re-offending

The Government's target is to reduce re-offending by 25 percent by 2017.

Table 13 describes the progress being made since 2011 for both groups towards achieving the 25 percent reduction in re-offending.



Reduce re-offending by 25% by June 2017

Māori

Total

Targets **22.5%**

22.5%

tatus $oldsymbol{3}$

.7% 28.0

Unlikely either group will achieve
Small convergence 5.6 in 2011 to 4.7 in 2015
Overrepresentation of Māori

TABLE 13

Progress towards a 25% reduction in re-offending by June 2017

Year	Māori (%)	Total (%)
2011	34.4	28.8
2012	32.5	27.6
2013	31.2	26.4
2014	30.6	27.0
2015	32.7	28.0
June 2017 Target (%)	22.5%	22.5%

Note: Results are as at June 2015

⁶⁴ State Services Commission. Result 4 – Reducing Crime

⁶⁵ Ministry of Justice, n.d.

⁶⁶ Ministry of Justice, 2015.

Annual reductions made by Māori are insufficient to reach the 22.5 percent target in two years. The re-offending rate for the total population in this area has almost returned to what it was in 2011.

It is unlikely either group will achieve the target. For Māori, an increase of 2.1 percent occurred between 2014 and 2015 and for the Total, a 1.6 percent increase has occurred since 2013.

More work needs to be done in this area by the Ministry of Justice and relevant agencies for both groups to achieve the 2017 target of a 25 percent reduction in re-offending.

Rationale for target

Reducing re-offending has obvious benefits for those who have served time in the prison system, their whānau and for society as a whole. Financially, the savings and resources that would be freed up could be used in areas that will deliver the highest benefits to society.⁶⁷

Comment

An article published in April 2016 describes New Zealand as being a highly imprisoned country, with much higher imprisonment rates than Australia, the United Kingdom and Canada. The purpose of the article was to emphasise the disproportionate rate of Māori imprisonment and suggests that, if Māori were imprisoned at the same rate as non-Māori, the total prison population would reduce by almost half, producing a transformative effect. On the other hand, if the entire population were to be imprisoned at the same rate as Māori, the article argues that numbers in our prison system would explode, possibly reaching 30,000.⁶⁸ As at June 2016, New Zealand's prison population numbered 9,495.⁶⁹



⁶⁷ The Treasury, 2013:9

⁶⁸ Gilbert, 2016

⁶⁹ Department of Corrections, 2016.

Concluding comments

Progress has been made for Māori in the majority of targets as seen in convergence between the two groups and the number of targets Māori are tracking positively towards. Some targets are tracking particularly positively towards achievement for Māori, i.e. total and violent crime, immunisation, rheumatic fever and substantiated abuse of tamariki. Numbers of cases of abuse of tamariki Māori have reduced, meaning that progress for Māori is greater than for the total population. However, other targets are not faring so well.

The degree of disproportionate representation in most targets found in the analysis of data suggests experiences of inequity and inequality for Māori are likely to continue on into the next generation, expressed in high rates of poverty, poor educational outcomes and high rates of criminal offending and re-offending.

Tracking the progress of Māori in the Better Public Services programme remains a priority for Te Puni Kōkiri, given the variable results highlighted in this report and the social and economic costs associated with lack of progress.

The report also provided background information relevant to Māori over-representation in statistics related to socio-economic circumstances that impact negatively on health and wellbeing.

Key points include:

- (a) Treasury points to a strong link between the education system and the continual inequalities and inequities in society that result in Māori being under qualified and under-represented in employment.
- (b) The Ministry of Health considers socioeconomic deprivation to be a contributing factor in some serious health issues.
- (c) Factors, for example, poverty, unemployment, drugs, family breakdown, parental neglect, and being abused as children are said to contribute to or be key in determining criminality.

- (d) The State Services Commission identifies the link between early childhood experiences and adult mental health and social, educational and employment outcomes. They state that 'early intervention' has longterm benefits for social and economic health and in reducing crime.
- (e) Identifying and measuring quality provision of early childhood education, particularly for Māori, appears to be very difficult.
 Poor quality ECE provision can also have lasting negative impacts on the children experiencing this, particularly for the vulnerable among them.
- (f) Māori women, including teen parents, in receipt of the Sole Parent Support benefit are over-represented in both categories. They face potentially greater hardship based on the fact that Māori women (compared to other ethnicities) have more children, poorer education and training, fewer qualifications and lower wages, as well as poorer health and social connectedness.
- (g) Whether or not beneficiaries, in particular Māori and, within that, Māori women who must find employment do so and are socioeconomically better off is unknown.

The underlying theme in the report refers to the ongoing social inequities and inequalities experienced by Māori that must be addressed by the lead Ministries and relevant agencies. Targets need to be achieved for Māori, representation of Māori in these statistics needs to equate with that of the total population, and progress towards closing the gaps between Māori and non-Māori needs to be faster. To accomplish this, significant improvement in the effectiveness of government policy is needed.

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