



New Zealand
POLICE
Nga Pirihimana O Aotearoa

New Zealand Police **Illicit Drug Strategy to 2010**



"E tū ki te kei o te waka....."

Commissioner's Foreword



This is the first Illicit Drug Strategy for the New Zealand Police. It serves as a foundation document for us to build upon in order to provide safer communities to all New Zealanders. Illicit drugs damage the lives of individuals, families and communities. Every day front-line Police come into contact with the harm caused by illicit drugs. Our daily work includes dealing with individuals under the influence of drugs, responding to the burglaries committed by drug users as well as targeting the drug dealing carried out by organised criminal groups.

Police cannot solve the problem of illicit drugs alone. That is why we are committed to working with communities and other agencies to reduce the harm illicit drugs have on New Zealanders. The Police Illicit Drug Strategy provides a framework for us to do this successfully. Our approach reinforces New Zealand's National Drug Policy by aiming to reduce the supply, demand and harm of illicit drugs.

Core Police work focuses upon reducing the supply of illicit drugs through law enforcement. The Police Illicit Drug Strategy builds on this by acknowledging that long term, effective reduction of drug harm is achieved

through a combination of supply and demand reduction initiatives. Addressing drug abuse in its early stages is extremely important and holds the potential to reduce harm to individuals, their family and the wider community. It also has the potential to reduce the overall level of crime in New Zealand.

The Police Illicit Drug Strategy to 2010 is designed to build a clear national picture on illicit drug harm. In order to reduce drug harm, we need to know where resources are best targeted. Police Districts, Police National Head Quarters and partner agencies will be working together over the next twelve months, bringing together information on illicit drug harm in New Zealand.

With increased capacity from our National Intelligence Centre, we will be gathering information to inform how we can best reduce illicit drug use and the crime associated with it. The Illicit Drug Strategy will then be reviewed alongside the Police Strategic Plan in 2010. We want a society free from the harm caused by illicit drugs. The Illicit Drug Strategy provides a clear message that we are committed to working with communities, government and non-government agencies to make New Zealand a safer place.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Howard Broad'.

Howard Broad

Commissioner of Police

New Zealand Police Illicit Drug Strategy to 2010

**Improving Police Ability to Reduce and Prevent
Drug Related Harm by:**

1. Reducing Supply



**interventions targeting
dealers, traffickers and
manufacturers**

2. Reducing Demand



**interventions aimed at
discouraging use**

3. Reducing Harm



**forging partnerships with
local communities**



Contents

Introduction	6
--------------	---

Key Focus areas

Methamphetamine	7
Cannabis	7
Groups at Risk	8

Strategic Context

Diagram of Strategic Context	9
Police Strategic Plan to 2010	10
National Drug Policy 2007 - 2012	10
Whole of Government Organised Crime Strategy	10
International Obligations	10

Strategic Goals

Reduce Supply	12
Reduce Demand	14
Reduce Harm	16

Challenges and Opportunities

Working with communities to reduce drug harm	18
Addressing the link between drugs and crime	18
Proactively responding to drug harm	18

Co-ordinated Approach

National Intelligence Centre	19
Organised and Financial Crime Agency	19
National Drug Intelligence Bureau	19
Police Districts and Areas	20
Strategic Oversight and Monitoring	20

Introduction

The use of illicit drugs costs New Zealand an estimated \$1.31 billion each year.¹ The Police Illicit Drug Strategy provides a framework for Police to work with communities and other government agencies to actively confront illicit drug harm and the associated social costs. This strategy reinforces the framework provided by the National Drug Policy by aiming to reduce the supply, demand and harm of illicit drugs.

Supply reduction includes interventions that target those people who deal, traffic, manufacture and cultivate illicit drugs. Daily Police work involves reducing the supply of illicit drugs available within New Zealand. This is done through conducting investigations, utilising surveillance and arresting individuals involved in illegal drug activity.

Demand reduction interventions are aimed at discouraging the use of illicit drugs. Police work closely with other government agencies, non-government organisations and communities to prevent youth encountering illicit drug harm. Addressing drug abuse in its early stages holds the potential to reduce harm to individuals, their family and the wider community.

Harm reduction focuses on strengthening existing partnerships and forging new ones with key stakeholders in the community. Community policing focuses on responding to the needs of the community as required. It involves problem solving and working with government and community groups in a co-ordinated way to reduce crime and increase community safety.

The Police Illicit Drug strategy focuses on methamphetamine and cannabis as these are the two illicit drug types that cause the greatest amount of harm. Methamphetamine has a concentrated level of harm to the user and to those around them, with frequent users being more likely to pay for their drug use with criminal activity and more likely to access health services related to their drug use. The prevalence of cannabis combined with the young age of first use contributes to the level of harm it has upon New Zealand communities.

The New Zealand Police Illicit Drug Strategy facilitates a co-ordinated national focus on illicit drug harm, both internally for Police and with our external partners. Internally, a greater degree of co-ordination between the Police National Intelligence Centre and the Criminal Investigation Branch will be achieved. Externally, working with key community stakeholders, other government agencies and non-government organisations will assist those at risk to receive appropriate treatment.

It is through effective daily Police work that Police Districts and their respective Areas will enable this strategy to be effectively implemented. Reducing the supply, demand and harm of illicit drugs holds the potential to reduce the overall level of crime in New Zealand. Police are committed to working alongside our partners to make it happen.



The 2007-2008 National Crime and Cannabis Operation destroyed over 124,000 cannabis plants.

¹ New Zealand Drug Harm Index, 2008

Key Focus Areas

The Police Illicit Drug Strategy focuses upon the substances that cause the most harm and takes into account the social groups that are at greatest risk of incurring harm. The National Drug Policy 2007 - 2012 has identified three specific population groups that are at greater risk of drug related harm than other New Zealanders: Māori, Pacific and young people. The Police Illicit Drug Strategy recognises that these groups are important to reach when focusing initiatives to reduce drug-related harm.

The two illicit substances that cause the greatest amount of harm in New Zealand are methamphetamine and cannabis. The Police Illicit Drug Strategy includes specific initiatives aimed at reducing the level of harm these drugs inflict on New Zealand communities.

Methamphetamine

New Zealand has seen an increase in methamphetamine production during the past ten years which has recently stabilised. The number of clandestine laboratories dismantled by Police increased from 5 in 1999 to 211 in 2006. This increase has stabilised since 2006, with 190 clan labs being dismantled in 2007 and just 133 in 2008.

The 2007 Illicit Drug Monitoring System linked the growth of methamphetamine production to an increase in violent offending and dishonesty offences. Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring data indicates that a methamphetamine user earns on average \$5,623 from crime each month. Methamphetamine production is also strongly linked to organised crime and is therefore addressed by the Police Organised Crime Strategy. Further detail on the Police Organised Crime Strategy is provided on page ten.

Methamphetamine has a concentrated level of harm to the user and those around them. Frequent methamphetamine users interviewed for the Illicit Drug Monitoring System in 2007 spent higher dollar amounts on methamphetamine, were more likely to pay for their drug use with criminal activity and more likely to access health services related to their drug use.

Police actively seek to reduce the supply of methamphetamine by targeting dealers and dismantling clandestine laboratories. Police National Clan Lab

Response Teams are based in Auckland and Wellington. They support all Police Districts to tackle the problem of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories. Police are also a party to the Methamphetamine Action Plan, a government-wide strategy that aims to reduce methamphetamine harm.

Cannabis

Cannabis is the most widely used illicit drug in New Zealand. The young age of first use coupled with the increased potency of cannabis contributes to the level of harm this drug has upon New Zealand communities. The Drug Harm Index found that cannabis is responsible for almost one third (\$431 million) of the total social cost of illicit drug use, largely due to its prevalence.

The Illicit Drug Monitoring System, Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring data and New Zealand Household Drug Use Survey data have highlighted that the age of first use of cannabis has become increasingly younger. In addition, a recent World Health Organisation study found that New Zealand had one of the highest levels of reported cannabis use for those over the age of 15 years.



Large scale commercial indoor cannabis cultivation.

Recent research from the National Drug Intelligence Bureau has indicated that the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) potency of cannabis is likely to have increased in line with international trends. Environmental Science and Research studies demonstrated that the potency of cannabis in New Zealand from 1994 to 1996 was at an average of 3.4 percent THC content in resin. Recent studies conducted by Police indicate that hydroponically-produced cannabis has further increased its potency.

One of the methods Police use to control the supply of cannabis is through the National Cannabis and Crime Operation which targets the commercial cultivation and distribution of cannabis during the growing season.

Police work to reduce the demand of cannabis by working with communities through drug education and by supporting initiatives such as Community Action on Youth and Drugs (CAYAD). CAYAD aims to promote community ownership of illicit drug issues by drawing on existing community resources to reduce illicit drug harm.

Groups at Risk

The National Drug Policy 2007 - 2012 identified Māori, Pacific and young people to be at greater risk of encountering harm from drugs. Police work closely with stakeholders in the community to ensure that those at risk are referred to appropriate services, where available.

Māori Pacific Ethnic Services (MPES) have responsibility for advising, monitoring and co-ordinating implementation of the Māori, Pacific and Ethnic Peoples Responsiveness strategies. In addition, liaison officers work with local drug and alcohol service providers. In some instances Iwi Liaison Officers are able to make direct referrals to Māori-focused drug and alcohol treatment programmes.

In providing an effective response to meet the changing demographics of NZ society, the focus for Police will be to employ ethnic staff to improve Police capability to prevent and reduce drug harm to ethnic communities.

Iwi-led Crime Prevention Plans (ICPP's) facilitate the development of Iwi-led crime prevention plans throughout the country. Drug and alcohol abuse has been noted in the first Iwi-led Crime Prevention Plan

as an underlying facilitator of crime that needs to be addressed in order to improve Māori criminal justice outcomes. Subsequent iterations of ICPPs will include a specific focus on cannabis and methamphetamine.

Māori Wardens will receive improved training through the support of the Royal New Zealand Police College. Their skills will be developed to assist community problem-solving techniques across a wide range of social outcome areas such as health, education and community safety. The main avenue for these interventions is through the community patrol functions with a special focus on youth. As this programme rolls out, Māori Warden patrol activity will operate at an enhanced level with stronger linkages to existing health, education and justice processes. Examples of opportunities for early intervention include drug and alcohol abuse referrals as well as graffiti reduction initiatives, truancy services and restorative justice processes.

Police Youth Services undertake a number of initiatives that contribute to reducing demand for drugs amongst children and young people. These initiatives involve not only illicit drugs but also alcohol and tobacco, which can be a precursor for illicit drug use.

Youth Aid Officers are employed nationally to work with children and young people who come to Police attention for offending, are in need of care and protection, or are showing at-risk behaviour. Youth Aid officers play an important role in Family Group Conferences, which can include referral to drug or alcohol counselling, and in some cases ongoing drug testing has been included.



Strategic Context

The Police Illicit Drug Strategy has a dual function: it contributes to the delivery of goals outlined in the Police Strategic Plan to 2010; and it co-ordinates the Police contribution to wider government policy on illicit drug harm.

The Police contribution to reducing drug harm is delivered within the framework of wider government policies and international obligations as illustrated below. The three key external influences on the Police Illicit Drug Strategy are: the National Drug Policy; the Whole of Government Organised Crime Strategy; and New Zealand's international obligations.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT FOR NZ POLICE ILLICIT DRUG STRATEGY



Police Strategic Plan to 2010

The mission of the New Zealand Police is to be a world class service that works in partnership with citizens and communities to prevent crime and road trauma, enhance public safety and maintain law and order. The Illicit Drug Strategy contributes to creating 'Confident, Safe and Secure Communities' and having 'Less Actual Crime and Road Trauma, fewer Victims'.

Police work closely with communities to reduce drug harm. Community Policing initiatives, CAYADs and the work undertaken by Police Youth Services are but a few examples of how Police are committed to working closely with communities in order to assure their safety and reduce drug harm.

The Illicit Drug Strategy is also focused on reducing actual crime and the number of victims of crime. Illicit Drug Monitoring System data indicate that illicit drugs are a driver of property crime amongst other offending. By focussing on reducing the supply and demand of illicit drugs, we also aim to reduce the levels of actual crime and the number of victims who suffer as a result.

National Drug Policy 2007 - 2012

The Ministry of Health National Drug Policy 2007-2012 (NDP) sets out the Government's policy for tobacco, alcohol, illegal and other drugs within a single framework. The objectives of the Police Illicit Drug Strategy reflect the wider goals of the NDP: supply reduction; demand reduction; and problem limitation. The NDP recognises that there is no single approach or strategy that can fully address illicit drug harm in New Zealand. Police is one of many agencies that work together in order to reduce the harm drugs have upon New Zealand society.

Whole of Government Organised Crime Strategy

This Strategy provides a multi-faceted approach to the problem of organised crime networks, gangs and groups. It builds on the work currently underway in many agencies and local communities to combat organised crime and is designed to ensure there is a robust process for identifying and addressing organised crime risks as they emerge.

Police has developed an organised crime strategy that delivers upon our obligations under the New Zealand Whole of Government Organised Crime Strategy. The manufacture, trafficking and supply of illicit drugs are key components of both the Police and Whole of Government strategies.

The Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Bill will assist Police to target organised criminal groups that traffic, cultivate and manufacture illicit drugs and their precursors. This Bill, introduced in 2007, will enable Police to strip organised crime groups of their assets without necessarily having to gain a conviction for an offence. This will assist Police to target the gains made from supplying illicit drugs at the source.

International Obligations

New Zealand Police is involved at a number of levels, alongside other New Zealand government agencies, to reduce drug harm on a global scale and prevent illicit drugs from reaching the shores of New Zealand.

United Nations Conventions

New Zealand has ratified three United Nations Conventions. Each convention provides that New Zealand is bound to adopt appropriate legislation and to introduce necessary administrative and enforcement measures as specified:

1. Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961
2. Convention on Psychotropic Substances 1971
3. Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 1988.

International Precursor Control

The chemicals used to manufacture illicit drugs such as methamphetamine, amphetamine and ecstasy, are known as precursors. Precursors have legitimate application within industry despite their potential abuse in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

New Zealand co-operates with Australia, Asia and other Pacific countries in order to form a government and industry response to domestic precursor management. The shared goal is to impact upon domestic illicit drug manufacture from precursor chemicals. Comparatively few Pacific nations are parties to international drug and precursor control treaties which provides a significant opportunity for movement of illicit substances through the Pacific.

New Zealand Police participates in the following international representative groups in order to restrict the production, distribution and use of illicit drugs and precursors:

- Australian National Chemical Diversion Congress
- Australian National Working Group on Precursor Control
- Asian Collaborative Group on Local Precursor Control
- South Pacific Precursor Control Forum.

Interpol operates a secure global police communications system which provides police around the world with a common platform through which they can share crucial information about criminals and their activities. New Zealand is one of the 186 countries that are members of Interpol.

The scope of Interpol's involvement ranges from receiving and forwarding criminal intelligence from overseas law enforcement agencies to facilitating formal Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act requests and the extradition of serious drug offenders from and to New Zealand. Interpol works closely with the National Drug Intelligence Bureau on international illicit drug issues.

The overseas police liaison network

operates to further New Zealand's law enforcement interests internationally. New Zealand Police International Liaison Officers are posted in London, Sydney, Canberra, Washington DC, Apia, Jakarta, Beijing and Bangkok. Police also participates in the US-sponsored Joint Interagency Task Force - West based in Hawaii, a multi-law enforcement partnered entity targeting transnational organised criminal activity in the Asia-Pacific region, especially that which is drug-related.

The International Service Group has established formal links with police services from other countries where there is benefit to New Zealand policing from the perspective of threat, shared interest and liaison requirements. Police Liaison Officers gather and share intelligence in regard to trans-national crime including drug manufacture, trafficking, and money laundering. They liaise with financial intelligence units and foreign law enforcement partners, including drug investigation agencies. Liaison Officers report on shifting international drug trends that assists drug intelligence gathering back in New Zealand.



Operation MAJOR in 2006 recovered firearms, ammunition, 95 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine and 155 kilograms of pseudoephedrine

Reduce Supply

Interventions that target those who deal, traffic and manufacture illicit drugs

WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS BY:

Daily Police Work includes frontline staff such as General Duties Officers, Police Drug Squads, Organised Crime Units and specialist clandestine laboratory teams who aim to seize drugs, arrest drug offenders and dismantle drug laboratories.

Investigations are conducted in a variety of ways and include human source intelligence, surveillance, electronic monitoring and covert deployments. While tactical and operational drug intelligence is owned locally, the Police National Intelligence Centre provides the ability to co-ordinate information from across the whole of New Zealand.

The National Clandestine Laboratory Response Teams support all Police Districts to tackle the problem of the clandestine methamphetamine laboratories. The teams are supported by analysts who work to identify the persons sourcing the materials used in drug manufacture and monitor their purchases.

The National Cannabis and Crime Operation targets commercial cultivation and distribution of cannabis during the growing season. The 2007 - 2008 operation resulted in over 124,000 plants destroyed, 780 offenders arrested, 147 firearms seized, over \$439,000 in stolen property recovered, 216 kilograms of dried cannabis plant material destroyed, and 9 methamphetamine laboratories discovered and dismantled.

The National Drug Intelligence Bureau (NDIB) has representation from Customs, the Ministry of Health and Police, with the prime focus of gathering and disseminating strategic intelligence on illicit drug use in New Zealand. The aim of the NDIB is to prevent drug related crime and to reduce the harm caused by illicit drugs. The NDIB completes national strategic assessments of all illicit drugs on a regular basis. These can be sourced at <http://www.police.govt.nz/service/drugs/>

Methamphetamine Action Plan provides a cross-agency approach to countering methamphetamine. Results delivered include:

- Changes to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 allowed increased powers for Police and Customs in relation

to precursor supply control;

- Reclassification of methamphetamine as a Class A drug in 2003 to provide Police officers with greater powers to search and seize without a warrant; and
- The maximum jail term for manufacturing or supplying methamphetamine increased to life imprisonment.

Specialised Responses to Illicit Drugs and Related Crime

Each District within Police responds accordingly to the illicit drug issues they are faced with. Auckland Metropolitan Crime and Operations Support (AMCOS), for example, is a region-wide service that incorporates a number of specialist police units including the National Clandestine Laboratory Response Team, the Regional Organised Crime Squad and the Drug Squad. The Drug Squad focuses on disrupting the supply of illicit drugs.

Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch have specialised units that focus on recovering the proceeds of crime. Assets, property and money gained from serious criminal offending are confiscated and illegal income generated from illicit drug sales is targeted.

Organised and Financial Crime Agency (OFCANZ) is a discrete service agency unit within Police. OFCANZ has a strategic focus on high end organised crime that will encompass illicit drug crime. OFCANZ will provide a whole-of-government approach to combating organised crime and will act as a point of contact for international agencies with similar aims. Police work closely with OFCANZ to reduce high-level organised crime.

Precursor Control by front line staff is crucial to reducing the supply of methamphetamine. The ingredients required to manufacture methamphetamine can be obtained through importing chemicals, buying chemicals here in New Zealand and by purchasing cold and flu remedies that contain pseudoephedrine or ephedrine.

The NDIB has an approved Code of Practice with the New Zealand Chemical Industry Council to manage

the sale of precursor chemicals that can be used in the manufacture of methamphetamine. Police also work with pharmacies at District level and protocols have been developed whereby pharmacy staff will alert Police if they encounter a customer attempting to purchase multiple packets of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine.

Overseas Police Liaison Officers work within the regions in which they have been deployed to reduce the flow of illicit drugs and precursors to New Zealand. Liaison Officers engage with local law enforcement and foreign partners, especially in Bangkok, Beijing and Jakarta to prevent precursors and other illicit drugs making their way to New Zealand.

Reducing Supply Success Indicators

By 2010:

- ✓ Implement the Organised Crime Strategy
- ✓ Strengthen domestic precursor control
- ✓ Strengthen international collaboration on precursor control
- ✓ Further develop supply reduction initiatives within the Methamphetamine Action Plan
- ✓ Integration of National Intelligence Centre: strengthening New Zealand wide collation of illicit drug intelligence
- ✓ Increase co-ordination between the National Cannabis and Crime Operation and District cannabis operations.



Methamphetamine can be manufactured with the use of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, commonly found in cold and flu remedies.

Reduce Demand

Interventions aimed at discouraging use

WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS BY:

Daily Police Work includes working with individuals and communities to reduce the demand for illicit drugs. Preventing today's young people from becoming tomorrow's drug users contributes to reducing harm as well as the overall crime rate in New Zealand. Drug education, community youth programmes and diversion are some of the mechanisms used by Police to reduce the demand for illicit drugs.

DARE to Make a Choice (Audience: 9 - 13 year olds) is designed to provide students with the skills and confidence to resist pressures to use drugs, and to make healthy, safe choices about their use of drugs. In this way, the decision of a young person to abstain from using drugs will be affirmed. Students who have already been exposed to drug use have the opportunity to re-examine their decision. Responsible choices and decision-making about drugs enable young people to develop healthy lifestyles and fulfil their potential as individuals, take an active role in their community and behave in ways that do not compromise the safety of others.

DARE - Reducing the Harm (Audience: Secondary school students, parents, and teachers) is an action plan to assist secondary schools and their communities reduce harm from illicit drugs. DARE - Reducing the Harm has been designed to support the National Drug Policy and has been used as an exemplar of how best practice can be incorporated into an education programme.

Police Youth Development Programmes are run by Police staff and most of the programmes also employ youth workers and social workers. Since 1997, Police have established 28 Youth Development Programmes throughout New Zealand. The majority of the Youth Development Programmes provide intensive wrap-around services to young people who are offending, or are at serious risk of offending, and to their families. Following thorough assessment, intervention plans are developed to ensure the right supports and services are put in place to create change in the life of the youth and their family.

Community Youth Programmes operate similarly to the Police Youth Development Programmes but are run by non-government providers. Police also jointly funds seven Community Youth Programmes with the Crime Prevention Unit at the Ministry of Justice. Two good examples of Community Youth Programmes specifically addressing the use of illicit drugs are Rubicon and Horowhenua Life to the Max.

Rubicon is a Community Youth Programme funded by the Police and the Crime Prevention Unit that specialises in alcohol and drug support with under 18 year old youth in the Whangarei District. The Horowhenua Life to the Max programme is also funded by the Police and the Crime Prevention Unit. A Police Officer has been seconded to the programme as Manager for a period of three years. The programme aims to provide a wrap-around intervention supporting youth and families dealing with drug and alcohol-related issues.

Youth Aid Officers are employed nationally to work with children and young people who come to Police attention for offending, are in need of care and protection, or are showing at risk behaviour. Youth Aid Officers play an important role in Family Group Conferences. Outcomes from Family Group Conferences can include referral to drug or alcohol counselling, and in some cases ongoing drug testing has been included.

Community Action on Youth and Drugs (CAYADs) utilise a community action framework that aims to promote community ownership of illicit drug issues by drawing on existing community resources to achieve the programme's overall goal and objectives. They promote problem-solving that fits the specific nature of each community. Police work within communities to support these specialised programmes.

Adult Diversion is a scheme that allows offenders who have been charged, to be dealt with outside of the court system. If the offender is eligible for diversion and completes the agreed conditions, the Prosecutor can seek to have the charge withdrawn and a conviction will not be recorded. Generally, diversion is only available for Class C drug offences, which includes

cannabis and BZP. However, it can also be considered for possessing a small amount of cannabis oil (Class B) and cultivating cannabis. The purposes of diversion are to:

- address eligible offenders in a proactive way
- balance the needs of the victims, the offender and their communities
- reduce re-offending.

Conditions of diversion can include referral to counselling, education programmes, addiction treatment or

other programmes that might help the offender deal with addressing drug abuse. Further information on eligibility for diversion is available at <http://www.police.govt.nz/service/diversion/>

The Methamphetamine Action Plan includes initiatives driven by the Ministry of Health aimed to reduce the demand for methamphetamine. Police anticipate working with the Ministry of Health to refer those in need to appropriate treatment.

Reducing Demand Success Indicators

By 2010:

- ✓ **Work closely with other agencies to refer arrestees to drug treatment services when required**
- ✓ **Work with government partners on the review of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975**
- ✓ **Work with partner agencies to review and implement demand reduction initiatives within the Methamphetamine Action Plan**
- ✓ **Strengthen relationships with community groups, government and non-government organisations**
- ✓ **Increase demand reduction initiatives that focus on youth and Māori.**



Drug education and community youth programmes are some of the approaches used by Police to reduce the demand for illicit drugs.

Reduce Harm

Forging partnerships with local communities

WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS BY:

The Mental Health / Alcohol and Other Drug

Watch-House Nurses Project was established under the Effective Interventions Work Programme and is being piloted at watch-houses in Christchurch and Counties Manukau. This initiative aims to enhance the mental health of offenders, assist in reducing their rate of alcohol and drug addiction and assist in reducing their offending. This will be done by placing four nurses who specialise in mental health, alcohol and drugs into two Police watch-houses. The nurses will:

- Assess and assist in the management of detainees who are experiencing drug, alcohol and mental health-related problems while in Police custody
- Reduce the risks of harm to detainees in Police custody and custodial staff through the appropriate clinical management of intoxication, withdrawal and mental health disorders
- Liaise with other service providers, and make referrals of detainees to treatment providers
- Develop training and guidelines for custody staff to assist Police in the management of arrestees with mental health, alcohol and drug issues.

Research and Data Collation on Illicit Drugs

Up-to-date information on illicit drug use in New Zealand enables Police to effectively target resources to reduce harm to the individual and community. Collated information on illicit drug use helps to inform police-led initiatives and ensures resources are well focused to reduce illicit drug harm. Research is made available to other government agencies for their own illicit drug research and policy development purposes. The research is also used by non-government agencies such as the Drug and Alcohol Helpline, counseling services and drug treatment services.

Examples of information sources utilised by Police and other agencies include:

- **The Illicit Drug Monitoring System (IDMS)** regularly interviews frequent drug users from the community in order to track trends in drug use and

drug related harm as well as detect new drugs and related problems. IDMS also documents the availability, price and purity of drugs, specific problems from drug use and the demand for drug treatment services. The study is conducted annually in three main centres (Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch) to provide regular snap shots of drug use and emerging problems. Regular reports are publically released by the Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation (SHORE) at Massey University.

- **New Zealand Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (NZ-ADAM)** measures drug and alcohol use among people who have recently been apprehended and detained in watch houses by Police. NZ-ADAM data collection is collated at four sites (Whangarei, Henderson, Hamilton and Dunedin).
- **The Drug Harm Index** research developed a way to measure the social harm caused by illicit drug consumption in New Zealand. Harms related to drug use include a wide range of tangible costs such as crime, lost output, health service use and other diverted resources. It also includes psychological or intangible costs such as reduced quality or length of life.

Possession of a Needle or Syringe

Both HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C are contracted through sharing needles and syringes. Police do not prosecute for offences pursuant to Section 13(1)(a) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 where a person is able to rely upon the exemption from liability pursuant to Regulation 7 of the Health (Needles and Syringes) Regulations 1987.

Although Police have a duty to investigate drug offences including the unlawful possession of instruments, Police policy requires Regulation 7 to be adhered to. This provides that no person shall be prosecuted for the possession of any needle or syringe if it was purchased by or on behalf of that person from any pharmacist, medical practitioner, or authorised representative. This policy functions to reduce the harm associated with needle and syringe use, in particular the spread of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C.

Reducing Harm Success Indicators

By 2010:

- ✓ Research base developed to target reduction of drug-related harm
- ✓ Effectively implement the Watch-House Nurses pilot programme
- ✓ Use the Drug Harm Index to quantify the harm avoided by implementing the Illicit Drug Strategy
- ✓ Strengthen Police and community links.



Community policing focuses on responding to the needs of the community as required.

Challenges and Opportunities

It is essential Police understand the environment in which we respond to illicit drugs and the associated social problems. This enables us to be prepared for the challenges we face as well as being able to capitalise on the opportunities available.

In the process of developing the Police Illicit Drug Strategy, workshops were held with Police Area Commanders and Crime Managers from all Districts within New Zealand. The input received during this initial consultation provided valuable practical information on how Police encounter and respond to illicit drugs. This information has been collated to reflect the areas where illicit drug harm impacts most.

The Area Commanders Conference 2008 and the National Crime Managers Conference 2008 identified several challenges and opportunities that confront the Police when responding to illicit drug harm. Three key themes emerged from the workshop sessions held: working with the community; addressing the link between drugs and crime; and making the shift to proactively respond to drug-related crime.



One of the challenges faced by Police is effectively targeting the link between illicit drugs and crime.

Working with Communities to Reduce Drug Harm

- Challenge

To achieve safe, confident and secure communities Police need to enhance community participation when working to minimise drug harm.

- Opportunity

Enhancing community partnerships will enable Police to gain intelligence and insight to resolve drug-related crime and reduce drug harm.

Addressing the Link between Drugs and Crime

- Challenge

The correlation between illicit drug use and crime is evident from the findings within the New Zealand Arrestee and Drug Monitoring (NZ-ADAM) and the Illicit Drug Monitoring System (IDMS). The challenge is to make an impact on high level illicit drug distribution, particularly focusing upon organised crime networks.

- Opportunity

Targeting high level drug offending holds the potential to reduce actual crime, particularly dishonesty and property crime.

Proactively Responding to Drug Harm

- Challenge

Effectively utilise the National Intelligence Centre in order to proactively target drug harm.

- Opportunity

By using intelligence to proactively identify and target areas where drug harm will impact, crime can be reduced and community safety can be strengthened.

Co-ordinated Approach

The national response to illicit drugs requires Police to operate in a co-ordinated manner and to work in alignment with other government agencies. Three levels of illicit drug offending can be identified as:

LEVEL 1: Local Area Occurrences
EXAMPLE: Illicit drug distribution markets
RESPONSIBILITY: Local Stations and Areas

LEVEL 2: Inter-District and regional offending
EXAMPLE: Organised crime groups manufacturing drugs
RESPONSIBILITY: Districts in co-ordination with neighbouring Districts, if required

LEVEL 3: International and national offending
EXAMPLE: Importation of illicit drugs and precursors
RESPONSIBILITY: OFCANZ, Areas, Districts, AMCOS, Police Liaison Officers, international partners and other New Zealand government agencies

Police National Intelligence Centre (NIC)

The creation of the new NIC will drive forward the modernisation of all Police intelligence systems and processes by:

- co-ordinating the strategic development of intelligence across Police in ways that will provide a more effective, efficient and connected approach to community-focused crime reduction work at every level;
- creating a motivated, highly skilled and professionally credible intelligence workforce that has a clear focus on helping decision-makers to better understand and deal with the criminal environment;
- revising national structures and improving working arrangements with key partner agencies, to enable Police to play a full part within the New Zealand and wider international law enforcement intelligence community; and
- creating an innovative, nationally co-ordinated and forward-looking intelligence unit.

Organised and Financial Crime Agency New Zealand (OFCANZ)

OFCANZ provides a whole-of-government approach to combating organised crime, acts as a point of contact for international agencies with similar aims and has capacity to address some level 3 (priority) and a limited amount of level 2 offending and to:

- Co-ordinate responses to serious organised and financial crime across multiple agencies' jurisdictions;
- Improve governance and the setting of strategic priorities;
- Enhance and co-ordinate the sharing of information across government and particularly critical law enforcement and intelligence agencies, both within New Zealand and internationally;
- Lead and undertake enforcement action against national priority areas of serious organised and financial crime, and work with international partners on trans-national organised crime;
- Recover assets obtained through organised crime activity; and
- Prevent organised criminal activity through disruption and deterrence.

Overseas Police Liaison Network

Police Liaison Officers are based in strategically important regions that are transit points for importations of illicit drugs and precursor substances to New Zealand. Police staff situated in Bangkok, Beijing and Jakarta play an influential role by liaising with local drug enforcement officials and foreign partners as a 'first line of defence'.

Other Police Liaison Officers, such as posts in the South and West Pacific, can also contribute in this area. There is a continuing need for liaison on synthetic drug investigations in the South and West Pacific. A high profile case was Operation Outrigger in 2004, a New Zealand Police supported operation which uncovered what was at the time thought to be the biggest 'clan lab' in the Southern Hemisphere.

National Drug Intelligence Bureau

The National Drug Intelligence Bureau (NDIB) is a multi-agency organisation comprising Customs, Health and Police that has responsibility to provide strategic intelligence and advice on illicit drugs. The NDIB synthesises information gathered from Police, Health

and Customs sources in order to develop a clear picture of drug-related harm in New Zealand. This information is used to reduce the supply, demand and harm of illicit drugs in New Zealand. The key areas focused upon are levels 3 and 2 offending.

Proceeds of Crime Units

Proceeds of Crime Units will work closely with a number of agencies to seize money, property and assets that have been obtained through illegal activities. The manufacture and cultivation of illicit drugs is the main form of income for organised criminal groups. A focused, multi-agency approach that targets the asset base of organised crime will strip future capability and act as a deterrent for potential offenders.

Districts

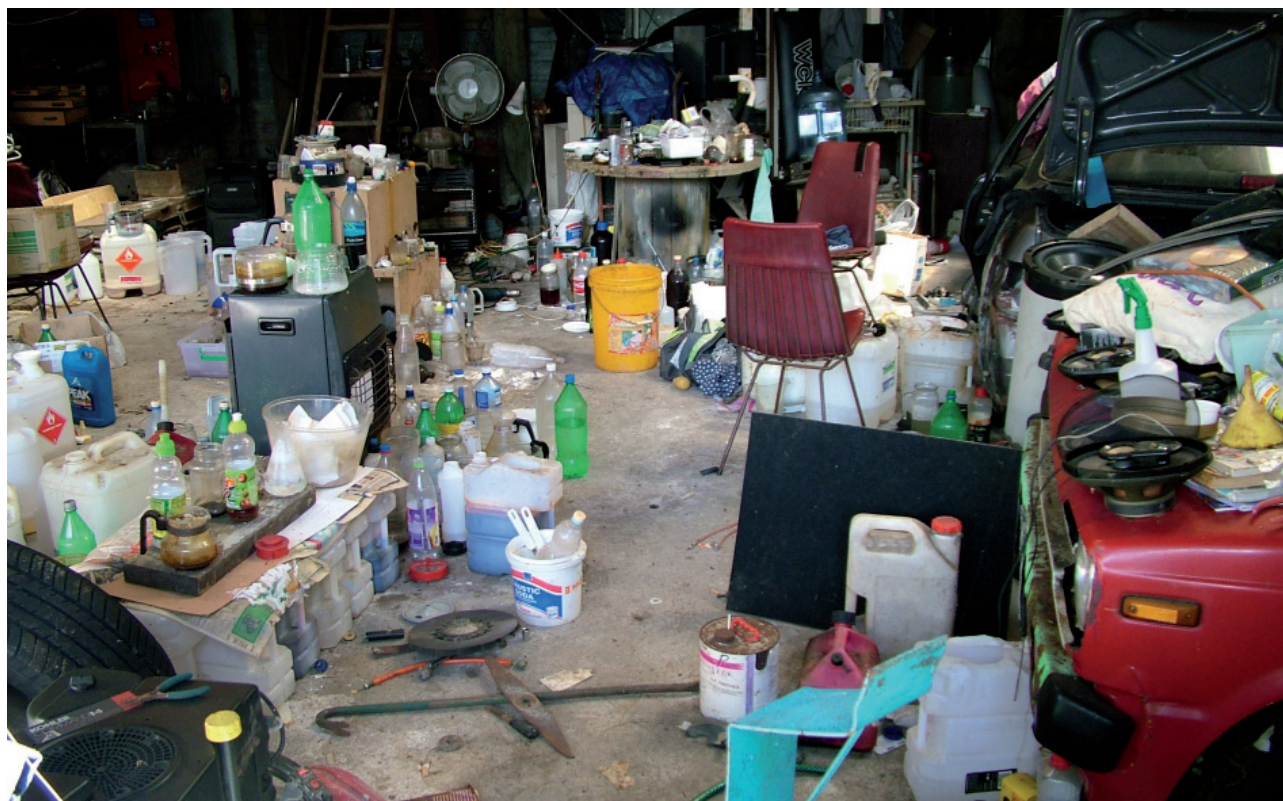
Districts have the responsibility to address level 2 (priority) offending in their District and liaise closely with neighbouring Districts and level 1 offending as it pertains to District priorities.

Areas

Areas have the responsibility to address level 1 (priority) offending in accordance with their local policing plans and assist in level 2 offending where offending that occurs in the Area has an impact or supports wider offending in other Areas or Districts.

Strategic Oversight and Monitoring

The National Crime Manager has the responsibility for the strategic oversight and monitoring of the New Zealand Police Illicit Drug Strategy, and the co-ordination of the Police response to illicit drug harm. The Police Executive Committee, National Managers, and Service Centre Managers will be responsible for aligning business practices and planning to this strategy.



Clandestine laboratory located in a domestic garage.

Linkages to Relevant Strategies

- **National Drug Policy 2007-12**
<http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/national-drug-policy-2007-2012>
- **Customs Drug Enforcement Strategy 2005-10**
<http://www.customs.govt.nz>
- **Crime Reduction Strategy**
<http://www.justice.govt.nz/crime-reduction/>
- **New Zealand Police Strategic Plan to 2010**
<http://www.police.govt.nz/resources/2006/strategic-plan-to-2010/>

- <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/national-drug-policy-2007-2012>

- <http://www.customs.govt.nz>

- <http://www.justice.govt.nz/crime-reduction/>

- <http://www.police.govt.nz/resources/2006/strategic-plan-to-2010/>



New Zealand
POLICE
Nga Pirihimana O Aotearoa