




Probation Risk Assessment Downunder:
Lessons learnt from New Zealand
 Webinar presentation to CEP - 15 November 2023


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*Kotahi anō te Kaupapa,
 ko te oranga o te iwi -
 There is only one purpose to our work:
 The wellness and wellbeing of our people*

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Our Context

Community Probation

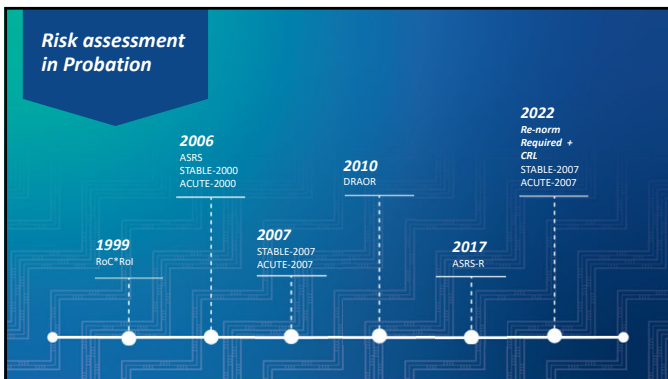
- 1460 Probation Officers in 105 locations
- 26,742 individuals are currently being managed in the community :
 - Community Supervision (46%)
 - Community Work (25%)
 - Home Detention (13%)
 - Parole / Release On Conditions (15%)
 - Extended Supervision Orders (1%)

Prison network consists of

- 15 ♂ and 3 ♀ prisons
- Prison muster: 9026
- Majority of treatment programmes are prison based, pre-release.



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Probation Risk Assessment Practice Standards

For most rehabilitative sentences/orders the Probation officer must complete:

- ✓ a DRAOR assessment at each contact.

And/or

- ✓ Where applicable, a STABLE-2007 annually followed by an ACUTE-2007 at each contact.

This must be completed on the same day as the Report-in and recorded in IOMS.

A three-monthly risk review 'Manager Check' needs to be completed and recorded in case notes.

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Lessons Learnt

DRAOR vs STABLE-2007 / ACUTE-2007

A tale of two measures

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Lesson 1:

Frontline Probation Officer 'buy in' and ownership is key

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Lesson 2:

You need to embed sufficient training capacity and practice supervision from the beginning

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Lesson 3:

The infrastructure and system support for practice can not be underestimated.

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Lesson 4:

Specialist teams were a short-term win but ultimately undermined the capability of the wider workforce

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Articles of interest

Grace R. C., Wilson N. J. (2018). *Automated sex offender recidivism scale-revised (ASRS-R)*. Department of Corrections.

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Serin, R. C. (2015). *The dynamic risk assessment for offender re-entry (DRAOR)*. Unpublished user manual.

Shelton A., Riley D., Wales D., Vess J. (2006). Assessing risk for sexual offenders in New Zealand: Development and validation of a computer-scored risk measure. *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, 12, 277-286. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13552600601100326>

Tamatea, A., & Wilson, N. (2009). *Dynamic risk assessment for offender re-entry (DRAOR): A pilot study*. New Zealand: Department of Corrections. Unpublished government report.

Yesberg, J. A., & Polaschek, D. L. L. (2014). Assessing dynamic risk and protective factors in the community: Examining the validity of the Dynamic Risk Assessment for Offender Re-entry. *Psychology, Crime, & Law*, 21, 88-99. doi: 10.1080/1068316X.2014.935775

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