



DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS
ARA POUTAMA AOTEAROA



Thinking about moving to New Zealand?

If you're considering the move to Aotearoa New Zealand, here's a quick guide to what it's like to live here and some of the main things to consider.



Working for Corrections

Ara Poutama Aotearoa (the Department of Corrections) is one of the largest government organisations in New Zealand, with around 10,000 staff.

Each week our teams, along with numerous volunteers and service providers, collaborate in prisons and communities to ensure public safety and provide opportunities to positively change the future of those we work with. We aim to give those under our management the tools to live offence-free lives, which helps to keep the New Zealand public safe.

We have teams at [18 prison sites](#) around the country, along with numerous community corrections sites and corporate offices. As well as your direct team, we also have health and safety advocates, welfare officers, helplines, and external partners to offer care and support.

There are many different employee-led networks available as a source of connection and community. These are staff-led groups that run activities and events, support each other, and provide an avenue for staff voices to be heard.

Examples include our women's network, rainbow network, veterans network, disability network, Asian employee network, neurodiversity network, Pasifika networks, Māori networks and more. We will share information about all our employee-led networks during your on-boarding.

Living and working in New Zealand

Living in New Zealand offers plenty of unique benefits, with nature and beaches never far away, a relatively mild climate and a welcoming culture. Our country is diverse, with each of our regions presenting different lifestyle opportunities.

You can learn about what it's like to live in New Zealand at the [Live and Work New Zealand website](#). There's lots of information on settling here with family, and information about housing, schooling, healthcare and more. The website also has [region specific information](#) so you can explore what's available in different locations.

Accommodation

It's worth exploring your accommodation options before making the move over here. You could rent an entire property if coming with family or you may consider a flatting situation if you are coming on your own. Flatting is renting a room in a house with others, where you share the facilities. Whether you are looking at either option, it's a good idea to have a referee that the landlord can contact, as this may be part of the process to rent a property or a room.

Renting in larger cities can be competitive, especially for certain properties in popular areas. There are other options for shorter term accommodation that you could also consider, before you decide on the best option for you. Some examples are backpackers, serviced apartments or motels that often offer special rates if you are staying for a few weeks or longer.

[TradeMe](#) is the most common resource for finding a property or room across the country.

Things to consider when choosing where to live:

- Distance to work– for those working in a prison, you will be required to reside 100kms from your workplace
- The cost of rent - you can find information about renting including Tenancy Agreements and [rental costs across NZ here](#)
- Access to public transport – you can find [more information on this here](#)
- Distance to schools/school zones
- Distance to essential services such as supermarkets, health care, petrol stations etc

Getting around

New Zealand has many roads connecting places all over the country. You can use public transport in the larger towns and cities, but you will likely need a car to travel outside of them. Keep in mind that New Zealanders drive on the left side of the road.





Not all prisons or corrections sites are accessible by public transport, so it's worth investigating your options first. Public transport timetables may also be reduced during nights and weekends, which may be a consideration for shift workers.

Immigration New Zealand has a guide to transport, including public transport and information on buying or renting a car, which [you can read here](#).

Some of our roles will require you to have a full New Zealand Driver Licence. For guidance on converting an international driver licence, [visit the VTNZ website](#).

Cost of Living

What it costs to live in New Zealand may be quite different from your home country.

The New Zealand Government provides [cost of living information](#) to help give you an indication. This includes information about the housing, food, and other costs you'll likely need to factor in.

Some costs, such as petrol, can vary in price between regions. For example, in August 2024, petrol prices ranged from \$2.08 per litre to \$3.62.

Taxes and Levies

Income Tax (PAYE) and ACC levies (coverage if you have an accident) will be deducted by the New Zealand Government on your gross income, and you will receive the net amount each pay period. This is a percentage of your earnings, and the percentage is based on the amount you earn.

Example income (www.paye.net.nz)

	Annual	Weekly
Gross Pay	\$65,019	\$1,250
Less PAYE	\$11,206	\$215
ACC Levies	\$1,040	\$20
Take Home Pay	\$52,773	\$1,015

[More information on taxes](#) in New Zealand can also be found on the Immigration New Zealand website.

Want to know more?

We know that a move overseas can be both exciting and daunting, with lots to organise. If you're at the stage where you've received an offer of employment, we provide all new staff from overseas with a settlement booklet with more information, to support them in settling into New Zealand.

Have a question or need a hand?

Learn more at

careers.corrections.govt.nz

Call +64(4)460-6101

Email careers@corrections.govt.nz



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