

TARGET

3

Reduced child and youth offending

15% reduction in the total number of children and young people with serious and persistent offending behaviour.

LEAD MINISTER

Hon Karen Chhour, Minister for Children

LEAD AGENCY

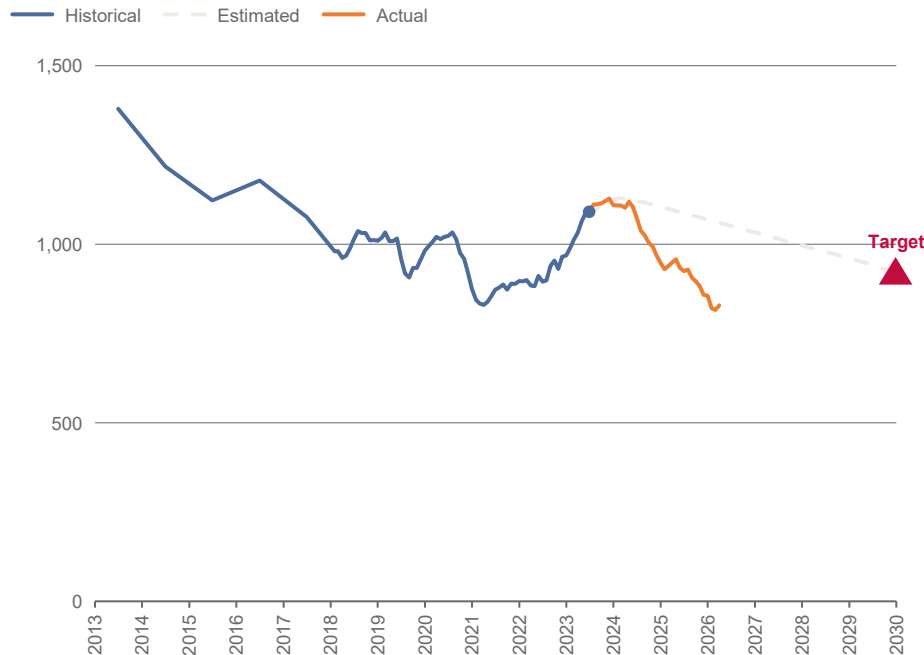
Oranga Tamariki, Secretary for Children,
Amanda Malu

TARGET DELIVERY PERFORMANCE - QUARTER ENDING MARCH 2026

Target	Baseline (June 2023)	Current (March 2026)	Status
15% reduction (<900)	1,100	829	On Track

PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGET

Total number of children and young people with serious and persistent offending behaviour



Target 3 figures now use the Oranga Tamariki RCOS data feed. There are minor cohort variances compared with Ministry of Justice sourced figures due to differences in the calculation of age at offence and Cabinet rounding of baseline / target values. Trends remain consistent. Percentage reductions calculated against the Cabinet-agreed baseline will appear slightly larger than reductions against the prior Ministry of Justice baseline.

TARGET DELIVERY ACTIONS

The Government is focused on restoring law and order, to ensure all New Zealanders feel safe in their communities.

Target continues to be met, with a 25% reduction from baseline in the number of children and young people with serious and persistent offending behaviour. Regional operational responses led by Oranga Tamariki and Police continue to deliver positive impacts.

The Government is focused on:

- **Strengthening the response to serious and persistent child and youth offenders** - ten young people with serious and persistent offending behaviour are taking part in the next military-style academy programme for 18 weeks from 9 March 2026. This will be followed by six to twelve months of community supervision and support - building on the lessons from the 2025 pilot programme.
- **Improving operational responses and youth justice processes** to better target those who are offending. Intensive Case Management Teams are continuing to work with the identified serious and persistent cohort, providing intensive case management and coordination of cross-agency supports to help reduce offending in Christchurch, Rotorua and Hamilton.
- **Rapid response (Fast Track)** continues to drive integrated timely operational response across six expansion sites in Counties Manukau, West Auckland, Central Auckland, Hamilton, Rotorua and Christchurch. Analysis of Fast Track re-offending completed by Oranga Tamariki in December shows positive progress in preventing escalation through the youth justice system.
- **Preventing offending and reoffending** through locally-led initiatives to deliver community-based, cross-agency responses with improved identification of and support for health, mental health, disability and education needs.
- **Getting children and youth attending school regularly** (see Target 6, Increased Student Attendance).

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information on youth crime rates, please go to New Zealand Police's website: <https://www.police.govt.nz>

For more information on the Government Targets go to www.dpmc.govt.nz