

ARDEN TANNER-DEMPSEY

Do changes on tools designed to measure dynamic risk factors and psychopathology predict recidivism for men graduating from Tai Aroha?

The aim of this research is to investigate whether psychometric scores, including change scores on several psychometric scales used extensively at Tai Aroha over many years, are predictive of recidivism. This study will increase research on the validity of tools and measures used by psychologists in Ara Poutama, with a more general aim to produce better outcomes for Māori and their whanau in line with Ara Poutama's Hōkai Rangi strategy.

Tai Aroha is a special treatment unit currently based in Huntly with a strong focus on the needs of tāne Māori. It is designed as an intensive residential programme for high-risk violent offenders and operates using a Community of Change approach. This research focusses on the idea that changes in dynamic risk factors are associated with a reduced likelihood of recidivism is central to the Risk-Need-Responsivity Model (Bonta & Andrews, 2016). This idea underpins many rehabilitation approaches both within Ara Poutama and elsewhere that are informed by psychological science.

Outputs: (1) completion of proposal, (2) ethics approval obtained, (3) Draft introduction and literature review provided to supervisor

Supervisor - Professor Devon Polaschek

