

Hi Cam,

My name is Max Irving and I am a student at Tauranga Boys' College. I am apart of a Inquiry Learning Programme where we look into current problems in New Zealand or around the world. We then research into this problem, and come up with our own solution(s). For my current Inquiry, my question is: What should be done to minimise the impact of gangs on our society?

What is your opinion on this? Do you also recall any statistics of gang population in prison?

Thank you for your time,

Max Irving



Aug 13 (8 days ago)

Gangscene
<cam@gangscene.co.nz>

to me

Hi Max,

Sorry for the very slow reply. I've been away for work and I'm just catching up now.

Do you still want your questions answered and if you do, what date do you need them by. I think I can dig up some prison gang stats.

Cheers.

Cam.

From: Max Irving [mailto:mi17089@tbc.school.nz]

Sent: Wednesday, 9 August 2017 11:37 AM

To: cam@gangscene.co.nz

Subject: New Zealand Gangs.



Aug 14 (7
days ago)

Max Irving
<mi17089@tbc.school.nz>

to Gangscene

Hi Cam,

No worries for the late reply. I would appreciate the questions being answered. A good date for them to be answered would be this Wednesday.

Do you have a idea of how gang members and gangs contribute to New Zealand Crime Statistics?

Cheers Cam,
Max



Aug 14 (7
days ago)

Max Irving
<mi17089@tbc.school.nz>

to Gangscene

Hi Cam,

Wikipedia says "According to the book *Gangs* by [Ross Kemp](#), New Zealand has more gangs per head than any other country in the world,^[3] with about seventy major gangs and over 4,000 [patched](#) members^[4] in a population of 4 million people."

Do you think this is true?

When it says "70 major gangs", does that mean we actually have about 70 different gangs, or 70 major gang headquarters?

Sorry if I confused you.

Cheers,

Max.



Cam Stokes
<camstokes@xtra.co.nz>

Aug 15 (6
days ago)

to me

Hi Max,

NZ has about 30 major adult gangs with approximately 4000 patchmembers and prospects.

Adult gangs comprise of outlaw motorcycle gangs (such as the Hells Angels and Head Hunters) and gangs such as the Black Power, Mongrel Mob and Nomads.

The Mongrel Mob is our largest gang with about 1500 members followed by the Black Power with about 1200 members.

The Mongrel Mob has the largest presence in our prisons and makes up about 10% of the prison population.

There is no easy way of dealing with the gang problem as gangs are entrenched in many parts of NZ and gang membership often involves strong family ties including several generations of the same family.

A comprehensive gang plan involves a number of components including community involvement, prevention, intervention and suppression.

Key parts involve preventing people from joining gangs, assisting gang members who want to leave gangs and suppression (policing gangs- supported by legislation and adequate resources).

The NZ Govt created a whole of government action plan to reduce the harms caused by adult gangs. As part of this a multi-agency Gang Intelligence Centre was created and this brings together information held by Social Development, Customs, Corrections, Internal Affairs, Immigration and Police.

This link will give you some stats about gang offending.

<http://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/cabinet-paper-whole-government-action-plan-reduce-harms-caused-new-zealand>

I've attached a document from the MSD which gives you some stats on gang membership

including the age of NZ adult gang members and how much gets spent on them.

Hope this helps. Good luck with your project.

Cheers.

Cam.

From: Max Irving [mailto:mi17089@tbc.school.nz]

Sent: Monday, 14 August 2017 12:22 PM

To: Gangscene <cam@gangscene.co.nz>

Subject: Re: New Zealand Gangs.

Attachments area



Aug 15 (6
days ago)

Max Irving
<mi17089@tbc.school.nz>

to Cam

Hi Cam,

Thank you very much for this information. It will help a lot!

I've been thinking of banning gang patches all throughout New Zealand. This would take away intimidation on public I assume. Queensland, Australia introduced this law and saw around 25% of gang members hand their patches in and leave their gang. That is a good thing, but could this start tension and possible riot type events to happen? Do you think banning gang patches would be effective?

I've also found out schools in California (Particularly Los Angeles), are quite active in gang prevention. For example, removing gang graffiti and giving parents information on gangs. Should New Zealand introduce this and possibly educate students on the negatives of gangs. Below is the link to this information

https://web.stanford.edu/class/e297c/poverty_prejudice/ganginterv/gangsproblems.htm

And finally, does New Zealand have enough police?

Cheers,
Max Irving.



Aug 16 (5
days ago)

Cam Stokes

to me

Hi Max,

Gang members are already banned from wearing gang patches in Government Premises (due to the provisions of the Prohibition of Gang Insignia in Government Premises Act 2013). While I think that this is a good idea, I'm not in favour of a law totally banning gang patches. Gang members don't need gang clothing to intimidate. Patches add to the intimidation level but take them away and you've still got a gang member. Gang members do not wear patches in prison, but they still control the place. The behaviour of gang members is the issue, not the clothes they wear. If their behaviour is unacceptable it should be dealt with promptly by the police.

Gang clothing lets the public identify gang members. A family who sees a group of gang members may decide that they don't want to go anywhere near them. People seeing rival gangs near each other may choose to remove themselves from a potentially dangerous situation.

Gang clothing lets the police identify gang members and provides valuable intelligence. Gang members may be wearing crash helmets or balaclavas when they commit violence or other crimes but they can still be identified by their clothing. New Zealand Police have identified gang members for serious crimes purely by their gang clothing.

When there's an incident of serious violence, the sooner the police can identify that gangs are involved, the sooner they can identify potential suspects and take steps to catch them. Take the example of a gang fight where the offenders have taken off, leaving one person seriously injured. If none of the gang members are wearing gang clothing it will take much longer to find out who is involved. If the cops knew straight away that the Black Power and the Mongrel Mob had clashed they could immediately take steps to locate the offenders by checking gang addresses and looking for known vehicles. Time is often critical during the early stages of an investigation because offenders will destroy evidence (weapons and bloodstained clothing etc), arrange alibis or find somewhere to hide.

The problem with anti-gang laws that make gang members leave is that the only ones who generally leave are those more moderate members (including uncommitted members, those near retirement or with a weak heart) which means that the remaining members become more hardcore and no longer have the influence of the more moderate members to help keep them in line.

I think it is a good idea to have gang education in schools because it is much easier to keep

people away from gangs to get them out of the gang scene once they become involved.

Other initiatives such as free removal of gang tattoos are also a good thing as this helps former members move away from gang life.

There are many more police working in the gang/organised crime field than there were when I was in the cops but those that I know say that they are still very busy and feel that more police would result in more gang members being prosecuted.

Good luck.

Cam.

From: Max Irving [mailto:mi17089@tbc.school.nz]

Sent: Tuesday, 15 August 2017 1:52 PM

To: Cam Stokes <camstokes@xtra.co.nz>



Aug 16 (5
days ago)

Max Irving
<mi17089@tbc.school.nz>

to Cam

Hi Cam,

I am very appreciative of this information, thank you.

From what I found out in Queensland is when this gang patch law was introduced, 272 gang members handed in their patch, and left their gang. Do you not think this would happen here?

Although gang members wouldn't be as easily recognised, couldn't more police enable more surveillance?

Cheers,
Max



Aug 18 (3
days ago)

Max Irving
<mi17089@tbc.school.nz>

to Cam

Hi Cam,

If more police were introduced, do you think that a task force should be introduced focusing on the anti social behaviour of gang? This would alleviate the pressure on the existing police force.

Thanks



Cam Stokes

to me

Hi Max,

Sorry about another slow reply.

Police numbers have remained at about 8800 since 2008. (Interesting when you compare this with around 4000 gang members and prospects in NZ). Population growth over this time has seen the ratio of police to population shrink from 1 in 500 to 1 in 530, although both National and Labour are promising more police in the build up to the general election.

The main group of police who works on organized crime (including gangs) is now known as the National Organised Crime Group. (This was formerly known as OFCANZ)

Anti-social gang behavior (street disorder etc) isn't a big issue and regular frontline staff are usually well equipped to deal with it. Serious crime (including violence and major drug offending including manufacturing and selling methamphetamine) is much more difficult to police and requires considerably more time and resources. If you were wanting to reduce gang offending by adding more police, then the National Organised Crime Group would be probably the best place to send them.

There's no single "silver bullet" to fix our gang problem and any comprehensive gang plan involves a number of components, such as things that you've already mentioned like anti gang

programs in schools and programs designed to help gang members who are wanting to leave the gang environment, as well as policing gangs (which is generally known as suppression).

The book "Patched" by Jarrod Gilbert about the history of gangs in NZ is a very good reference point and is worth reading.

Cheers.

Cam.

From: Max Irving [mailto:mi17089@tbc.school.nz]

Sent: Friday, 18 August 2017 12:08 PM



7:31 AM (34
minutes ago)

Max Irving
<mi17089@tbc.school.nz>

to Cam

Hi Cam,

Just like to say a massive thank you for all the information you have supplied me with.
All of the information has helped so much and I have finally handed my report in.
I've referenced your information in my report. I'll let you know how I go.

Thanks,
Max