

NICOLA BRENNAN-TUPARA

Modelling the prison violence offence process of male gang members

The aim of this master's research project is to build a descriptive model of gang members' involvement in violence in Aotearoa's prisons. This research is part of the wider Ngā Tūmanakotanga Turning the tide on prison violence project that aims to understand and reduce prison violence in Aotearoa by examining the environmental/ecological causes and solutions for violence. The offence process model developed in this research will contribute to a better understanding of the function of Prison Violence Events (PVEs) involving gang members and will explore the extent to which these events differ when they are carried out for—or on behalf of—a gang. In doing so, we will uncover the extent to which PVEs committed by gang members can be termed 'gang violence'—that is, violence committed on behalf of a gang—and will gain deeper insight into the inner workings of gangs in Aotearoa's prisons. This information may highlight opportunities for interventions to help reduce prison violence and make prisons a safer environment for both staff and tāne in the care of Ara Poutama, Department of Corrections.

Outputs: Full draft of thesis produced

Supervisor - Professor Devon Polaschek & Dr Armon Tamatea

