NEW SURVEY SHINES LIGHT ON NEW ZEALAND CRIME

The results of New Zealand’s largest-ever survey of crime were released today, giving important insight into New Zealanders’ experiences of crime in the past 12 months.

“The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NSCVS) is the most comprehensive report ever undertaken into the true nature of crime in Aotearoa,” says Ministry of Justice Chief Executive and Secretary for Justice Andrew Kibblewhite.

“A major finding is that 71 percent of New Zealanders had not experienced crime last year. However, what the survey revealed to us was the extent of what is known as ‘shadow crime’, which is essentially the amount of crime that goes unreported to Police. The survey revealed that 77 percent of crime is not reported to the Police.

“This survey is a vital piece of information to help us understand the true volume and nature of crime in New Zealand, and who it affects.”

More than 8,000 people over the age of 15 were interviewed face-to-face between March and October 2018 and asked about any incidents of crime they’d experienced in the previous 12 months.

The survey shows that many people didn’t even know a crime had been committed against them, James Swindells, Manager Research and Evaluation at the Ministry of Justice says.

“They thought that whatever happened was just normal behaviour,” says Mr Swindells. “This information is extremely valuable for the Ministry, Police, Corrections, Oranga Tamariki, Ministry of Social Development and many other government agencies as we look at reducing crime and its impact.

“The insights we will gain in the next two years, as we compare results, will provide even greater clarity on the nature of crime, and the impact current policy and programmes have.”

The 148-page report is the first of three annual surveys costing $3.7 million in total. The next round of interviews for the 2020 report are already underway.

“We had a great deal of public support in carrying out the survey and we would like to thank everyone who told us about their experiences of crime,” says Mr Kibblewhite.

The NZCVS replaces the previous NZ Crime and Safety Survey (NZCASS). As a different methodology has been used, the NZCVS results cannot be compared to previous NZCASS results.

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