

Keynote address

'Should we extend the pegs of our tent' - or pack up and go home? - the travails of psychology in the criminal justice system

Tā Kim Workman reflects on psychological practice within prisons and the criminal justice system over the last thirty-seven years, from 1985 to the present. He concludes that the advancements made in recent years have been achieved at considerable cost to those advocating change over the years, whether within or outside the profession. Unless lessons from the past are factored into future development, the discipline of psychology in the criminal justice system will lack relevance.

Bio

Robert Kinsela (Kim) Workman KNZM QSO

Kim Workman (of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Rangitaane) is a retired public servant, whose career spans roles in the Police, the Office of the Ombudsman, State Services Commission, and the Department of Māori Affairs. He was Head of the Prison Service from 1989 – 1993.

In 2000, Kim was appointed National Director, Prison Fellowship New Zealand (PFNZ), and retired from that position in 2008. In 2005, Kim was the joint recipient (with Jackie Katounas) of the International Prize for Restorative Justice. In 2006 Kim joined with the Salvation Army, to launch the “Rethinking Crime and Punishment” (RCP) Project. In 2011 he formed Justspeak, a movement that involves youth in criminal justice advocacy and reform.

In 2016, Kim was awarded the degree of Doctor of Literature (DLitt Well) by the Council of Victoria University, and in 2017, the same degree by the Council of Massey University. In February 2018, Kim was awarded Senior New Zealander of the Year, under the New Zealander of the Year Awards Scheme. He was appointed a Companion of the Queens Service Order in 2007, and as a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2019.

Kim was recently appointed to the Human Rights Review Tribunal and the NZ Parole Board. He represents the Kingitanga as co-chair on the Kawenata Governance Board, which manages a Memoranda of Understanding between the Kingitanga and the Department of Corrections. He also chairs the Independent Panel which oversees the ‘Understanding Policing Delivery’ project.

Kim has six children, 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. He enjoys listening and playing jazz.