

# THE PATIENTS' AND PRISONERS' AID SOCIETY

**The provision of aid and rehabilitation for prisoners began in Dunedin in 1877 with the formation of the Patients' and Prisoners' Aid Society.**

Religious instruction of prisoners was an early guiding principle. The society also offered prison visits, help with letter writing, clothing, and fares home for discharged prisoners.

From the 1860s, approved prison visitors were considered helpful in reforming prisoners. During the 1880s, the government placed an emphasis on prisoner rehabilitation.

By 1910, there was a wide range of assistance given around the country by many organisations. Over time these groups amalgamated and became the New Zealand Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Society (NZPARS).

However in March 2010, concerns over the financial viability and internal unity of NZPARS led to the withdrawal of its contract with the Department of Corrections. The future of the organisation became uncertain.

(Source: Ko Te Ara - The Encyclopedia of New Zealand)