

Examining the Association between the Register & Outcomes for Registered Persons

*By Mackenzie Auld, Dr Nichola Tyler, Dr Caleb Lloyd,
Dr Louise Dixon, and Inspector Margaret-Anne Laws*



The results presented in this paper are the work of the authors. All claims expressed are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of New Zealand Police.

Poll Question One

***Yes or No: Is registration beneficial
as a harm prevention strategy?***



252-335-318



Poll Question Two

Yes or No: Can registration and human services work in partnership?

The field of Human Services is broadly defined as interventions that focus on meeting human needs through an interdisciplinary knowledge base, focusing on prevention as well as remediation of problems, and maintaining a commitment to improving the overall quality of life of service population.

National Organization for Human Services

Background

Registration is one global response to high prevalence rates of sexual harm

- ▶ The collection & storage of information pertaining to individuals convicted of sexual offences
- ▶ Part of criminal justice systems internationally
- ▶ Operation varies considerably

Previous research

- Significant body of research conducted overseas, primarily in United States
- Research suggests monitoring-only approach does not reduce recidivism (e.g., Zgoba & Mitchell, 2021; Letourneau et al., 2010)
- Community notification arguably isolates and forces registered persons underground, leading to a possible increase in risk (Kemshall & Maguire, 2002; Hiller, 2011)
- UK research suggests human services approach more effective, underpinned by active risk management plans and inter-agency cooperation (McCartan et al., 2017; 2022; Peck, 2011)

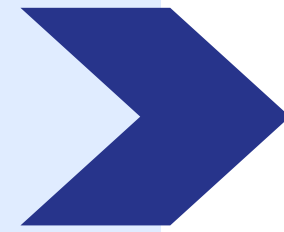
The NZ Register

- Established on 14th October 2016
- Reduce sexual reoffending against children and risk posed by those committing child sexual offences

Novel approach informed by international best practice

- No community notification scheme
- Jointly administered by Police and Ara Poutama Aotearoa
- Employed a Risk Management Framework (RMF) to reduce recidivism

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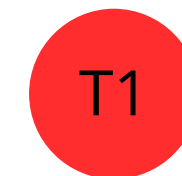
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(Prescott & Rockoff, 2011; Peck, 2011; Wood & Kemshall, 2010).

RMF

Risk-Need-Responsivity Model
(Bonta & Andrews, 2016)

- Managed according to risk level rather than class of offence
- Static and dynamic actuarial risk assessments & responsive to person's needs
- Three-tier risk management system



Good Lives Model
(Ward, 2002)

- All humans seek primary goods, but internal and external obstacles interfere with acquisition
- Holistic, human services approach to case management - thorough understanding & identify strengths

Examining the Association between the NZ Register and Outcomes for Registered Persons

- I The Register & Recidivism
- II Identifying Factors associated with Incidents of Reoffending
- III Understanding the Experiences of Registered Persons

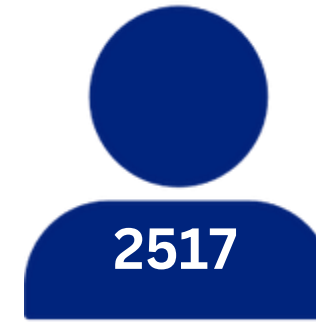
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Participant Demographics



Control group:
individuals who have served sentences for qualifying offences that did not lead to registration

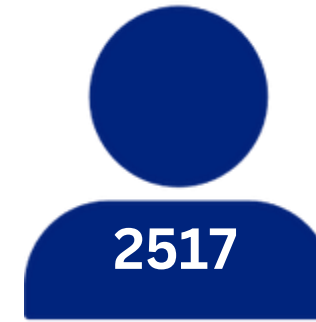


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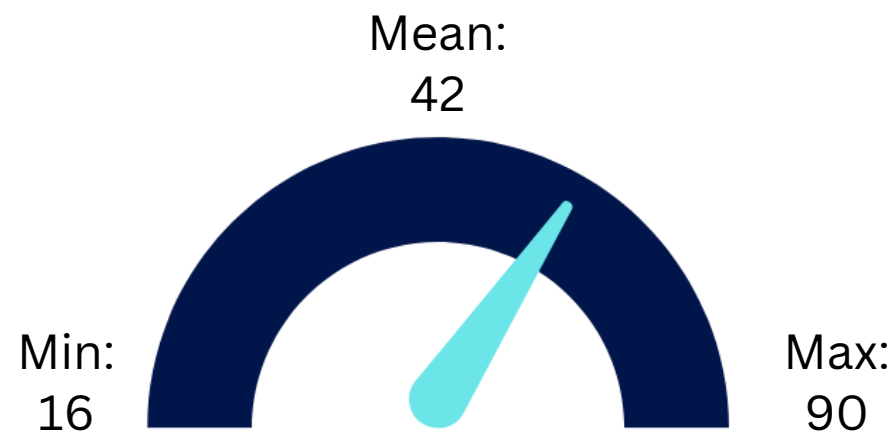


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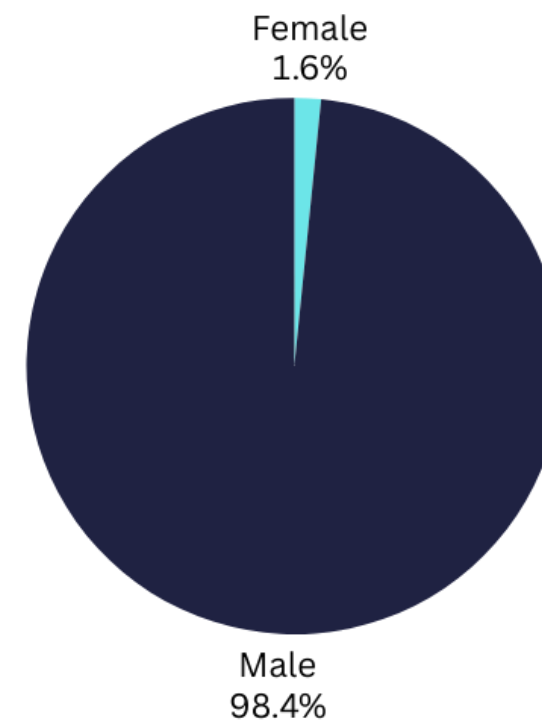


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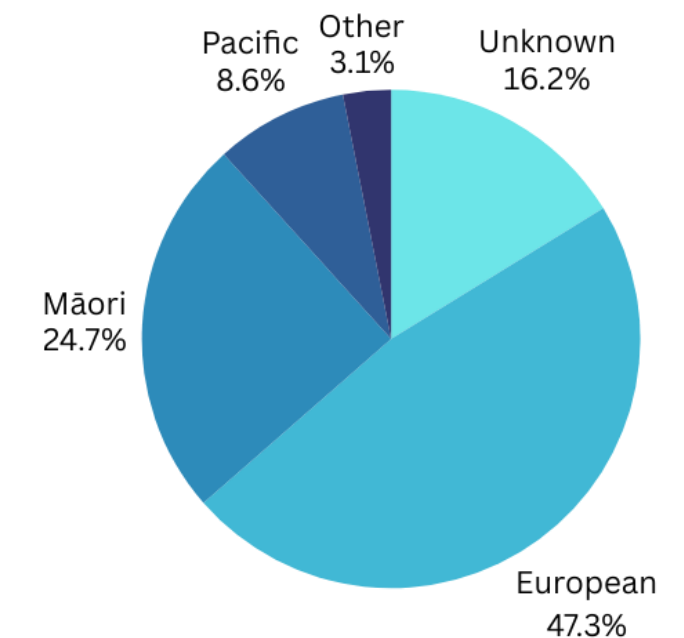
Age



Gender



Ethnicity



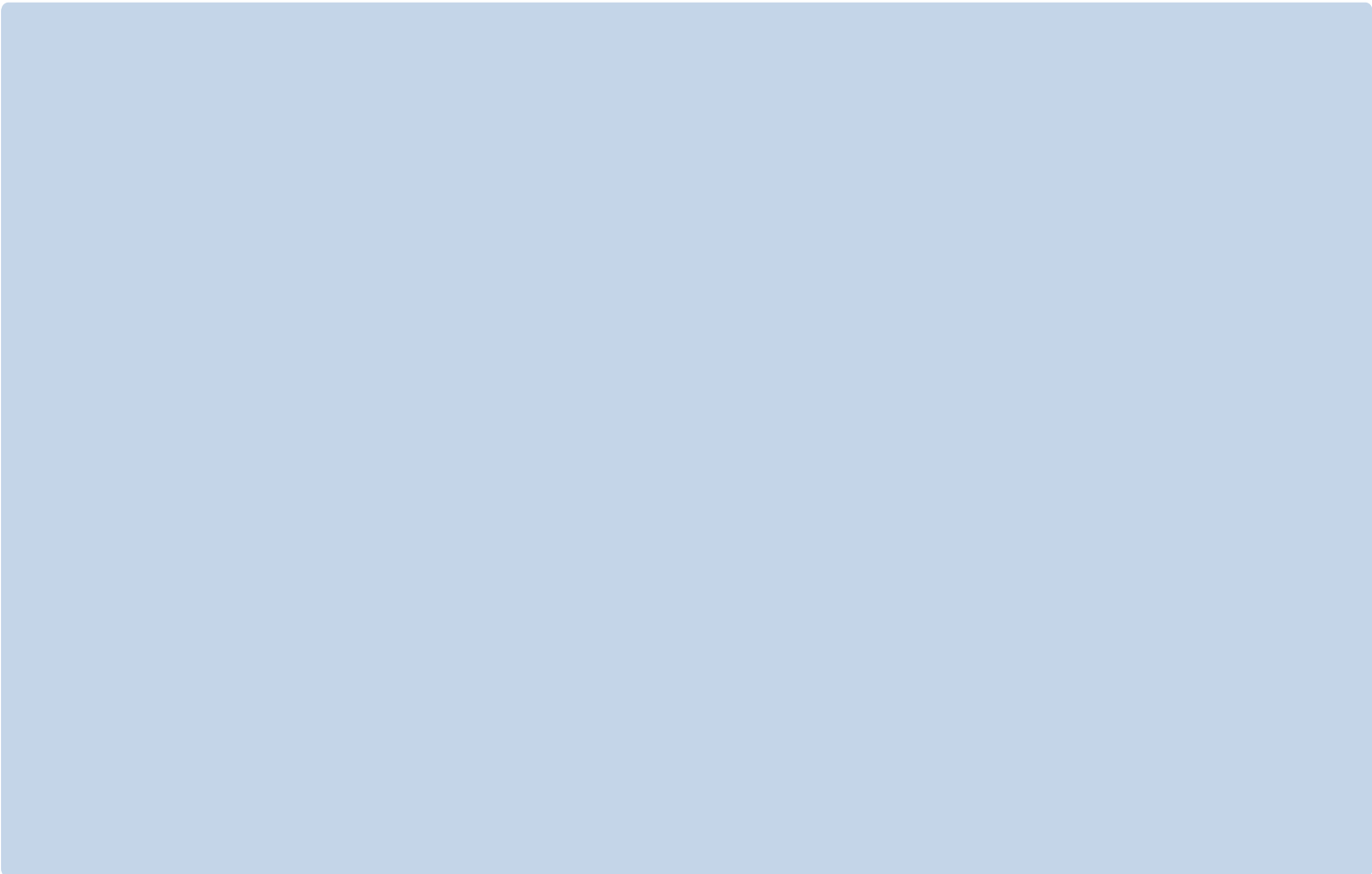
Method

- 7,084 individuals in total
- Recurrent events Cox regression survival analysis
- Average 8 years 7 months follow-up, ~4 years on Register
- Time-varying predictors - registration & correctional supervision orders
- Recidivism outcomes – sexual, violent, & general

Risk and Prior Offending

Index:

- 87.8% were convicted of a contact offence
- 13.3% were convicted of CSEM
- 2.6% had other internet-based offences
- 7.7% had index violence



Sexual risk (ASRS-R)

0.31 vs 0.55

Overall Average vs Register Score

General risk (RoC*RoI)

0.22 vs 0.25

Overall Average vs Register Score

Risk and Prior Offending

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- 87.8% were convicted of a contact offence
- 13.3% were convicted of CSEM
- 2.6% had other internet-based offences
- 7.7% had index violence

Prior Offending

- 12.5% had prior sex offence
- 10.2% had prior contact offence
- 0.4% had prior CSEM
- 28.8% had prior violence

Sexual risk (ASRS-R)

0.31 vs 0.55

Overall Average vs Register Score

General risk (RoC*RoI)

0.22 vs 0.25

Overall Average vs Register Score

Reoffending Rates

	Registered Individuals	Non-Registered Individuals
% any new offending	32.7%	38.1%
% new violence	7.5%	14.8%
% new contact sex	2.0%	3.1%
% new child sex	1.2%	1.6%
% new CSEM	1.3%	0.07%
% new other qualifying	0.4%	0.2%

Registered persons had lower raw rates of non-violent, violent, and contact sexual recidivism.

Reoffending Rates

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% new CSEM	1.3%	0.07%
% new other qualifying	0.4%	0.2%

Key Question: Does being on the Register predict whether people are more or less likely to reoffend?

All Offending Model

Model	β (SE)	Exp(β) [95%CI]	c-index
Register	-0.199* (0.03)	0.82 [0.77, 0.87]	0.72

*p < .0001

All Offending + Risk Model

Model	β (SE)	Exp(β) [95% CI]	c-index
Register	-0.32*(0.03)	0.72 [0.68,0.77]	0.68
Static Risk Scores for Sexual Recidivism	0.28*(0.009)	1.33 [1.30, 1.35]	-
Static Risk Scores	0.52*(0.72)	1.68 [1.45, 1.93]	-

*p < .0001

NB: The analysis accounted for multiple recidivism events per person, and also compared times when a person was on the registry to times when they were not.

All Offending - Summary

- Findings demonstrated individuals were 18% less likely to commit any type of recidivism at the time they were on the Register
- After correcting for static risk scores for general and sexual recidivism, the Register is associated with a 28% lower likelihood of recidivism
- When only comparing people with the same static risk (and with more high-risk people being on the registry), the Register is even more strongly related to lower recidivism

Recidivism & Register Summary

Outcome	Model	β	$\exp(\beta)$	c-index
Violent	Register + Static Risk Scores	-0.52*	0.59	0.80
Any sex	Register + Static Risk Scores	-0.71*	0.49	0.92
Child sex	Register + Static Risk Scores	-1.13*	0.32	0.95
CSEM	Register + Static Risk Scores	-0.32	0.72	0.99

*p < .0001

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CSEM	Register + Static Risk Scores	-0.32	0.72	0.99

*p < .0001

- For all other outcomes besides CSEM and controlling for risk scores, being on the Register was related to approximately 40-70% reductions in likelihood of recidivism
- Being on the register was not associated with reductions in CSEM to a statistically significant degree

ESOs, Register & Recidivism

Any sexual reoffence

Model	β	$\exp(\beta)$	c-index
ESO	-0.61*	0.55	0.94
ESO + Register	-0.48*	0.62	0.94

*p < .0001

ESOs, Register & Recidivism

- Individuals on ESO are assessed as high-risk – reflected by higher risk scores
- Being on an ESO is associated with lower recidivism
- Both registration and ESO were simultaneously related to lower recidivism to a statistically significant degree when examined together, suggesting their combination was associated with an enhanced reduction

Implications

- NZ's approach to registration appears to be having a positive effect on general, violent, and contact sexual offence recidivism but not internet-based offending
- Human services approach may offer some explanation as to why we are seeing different outcomes compared to other studies
- Registration may be more effective for individuals at higher risk of reoffending
- Supports the combined use of ESOs and registration, particularly for high-risk individuals
- However, findings should be interpreted with caution:
 - Short follow-up period
 - Low recidivism rates
 - Conviction only data

Poll Question Three

What might be driving the recidivism-reduction effect, or the mechanisms of change?

Identifying Factors Associated with Reoffending Committed by Registered Persons

*By Mackenzie Auld, Dr Nichola Tyler, Dr Louise
Dixon, & Inspector Margaret-Anne Laws*



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Background

- Proximal factors related to recidivism committed by registered persons & implications for register practice & training
- Previous research looked at factors associated with sexual recidivism – custodial release & post-treatment (e.g., Hanson & Bussiere, 1998)
- Current study examining individual, case & risk management factors for registered cohort

Background

- Factors related to sexual recidivism include sexual preoccupation & deviance, difficulties in intimate relationships, substance abuse & lack of cooperation with supervision (Hanson & Bussiere, 1998; Hanson, 2006)
- Social rejection & loneliness also identified as a risk factor (van den Berg et al., 2022)
- Positive supervisory relationship reduces risk of recidivism (Chamberlain et al., 2018; Kennealy et al., 2012)
- Employment, constructive leisure activities & strong support network empirically related to desistance (de Vries Robbé et al., 2015)

Method

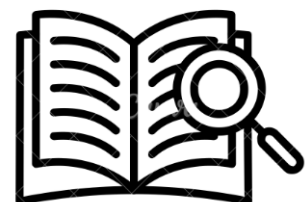
Research Question: *What factors are associated with sexual reoffending incidents committed by registered persons?*



22 registered persons convicted of a new child sexual offence



Case files held by Police & Corrections



Temporal order thematic trajectory analysis (Spencer et al., 2021)

➤ 12 months leading up to reoffence

Case example - John



When John was first released from custody, he gained full-time employment as a builders labourer. John was happily employed for six months until he sustained an injury that led to reduced hours, followed by termination of his employment. Up until this point, John had appeared engaged with his case manager and seemed to be coping well. Since John did not have many hobbies, he found himself having a considerable amount of free time and was not motivated to return to work. John's case manager was completing fewer visits with him as time went on. Conversation during supervision visits largely focused on wellbeing checks and John's life updates. A few months after becoming unemployed, John committed a contact reoffence against a child.

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Case example - John



Loss of
employment



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Case example - John



Loss of
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Lack of
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Standards of
practice not met

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Case example - John



Loss of employment



Lack of hobbies



Standards of practice not met



Limited risk assessment



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Case example - Michael



Michael and his case manager, Tim, had a seemingly strong relationship. Michael had gone to Tim on several occasions in the past when he felt low or was struggling. One day Tim notified Michael that he was going on extended leave for a few months and gave Michael a contact number for one of his colleagues if he needed anything. Michael did not make contact with this second person the entire time Tim was away and there were no proactive visits made by the temporary case manager. When Tim returned from leave, it was discovered that Michael experienced a difficulty in his personal life while Tim was away and had spiraled and gone on to reoffend.

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Case example - Michael



CM
=
Support Person



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No handover



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Case example - Michael

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**Standards of
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Case example - Michael



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No handover



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Lack of
rapport



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Preliminary observations

- Individual factors
 - Loss of employment
 - Adverse life events
 - Lack of support

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- Case management factors
 - Frequent rotation
 - No handover
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Preliminary observations

■ Individual factors

- Loss of employment
- Adverse life events
- Lack of support

■ Case management factors

- Frequent rotation
- No handover
- Positive relationship = protective

■ Risk management factors

- Standards of practice not met
- Misguided overrides to management tier
- Lack of risk related conversation

Implications

- Often combination of individual, case & risk management factors
- Ongoing analyses looking at temporal order of factors
- Drift highlights need for adherence to RNR principles
- Inform staff training and resource allocation

Poll Question Four

What operational or resourcing challenges have you come across in your line of work?

Community-based Case Management & the Experiences of Registered Persons in New Zealand

By Mackenzie Auld, Dr Nichola Tyler, Dr Louise Dixon, & Inspector Margaret-Anne Laws



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Study Three

Research Question: *What are registered persons' experiences and perceptions of being on the Register and receiving Police-led case management in the community?*

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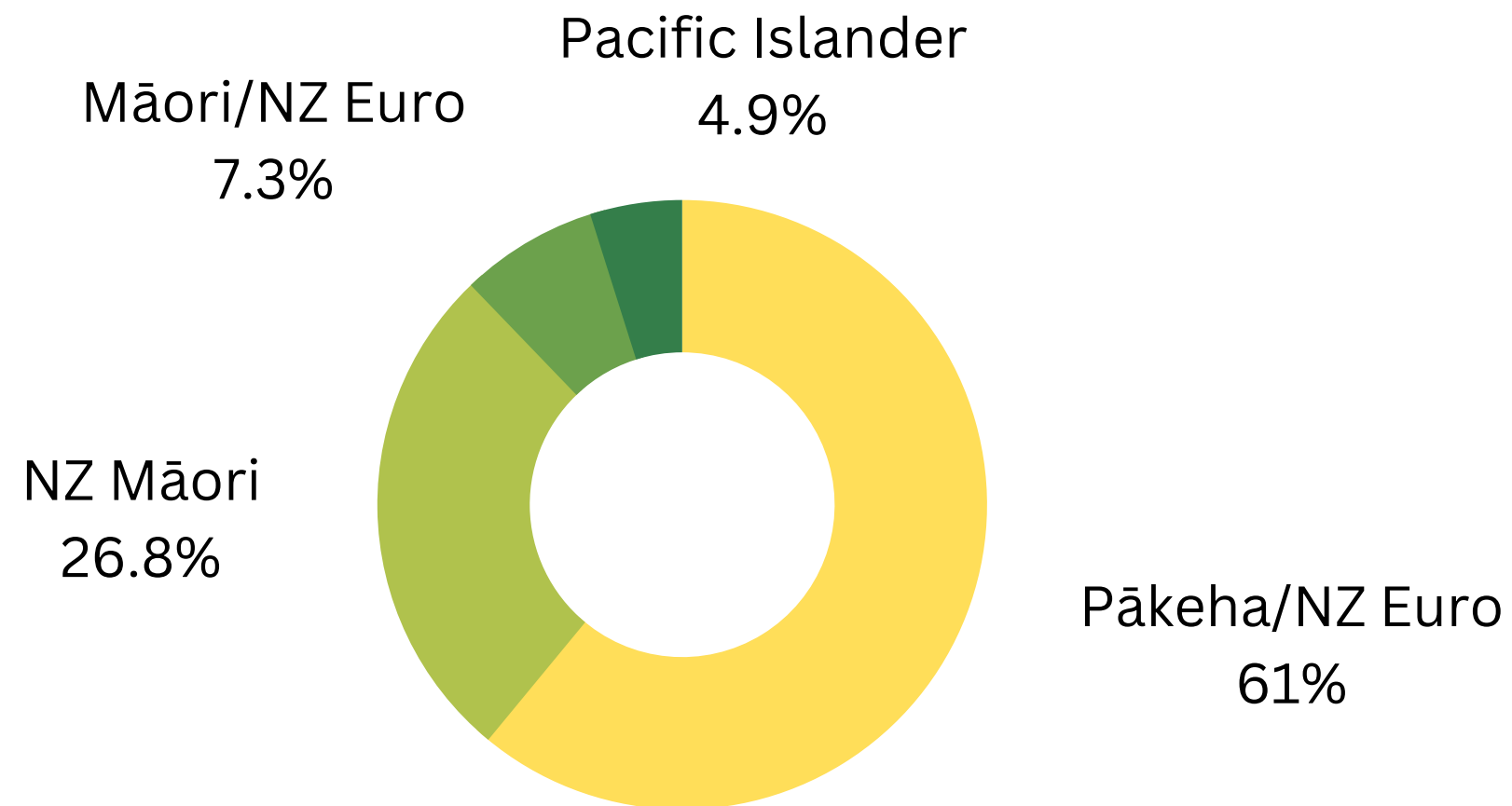
41 participants from throughout Aotearoa NZ

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41 participants from throughout Aotearoa NZ

Avg. age 54

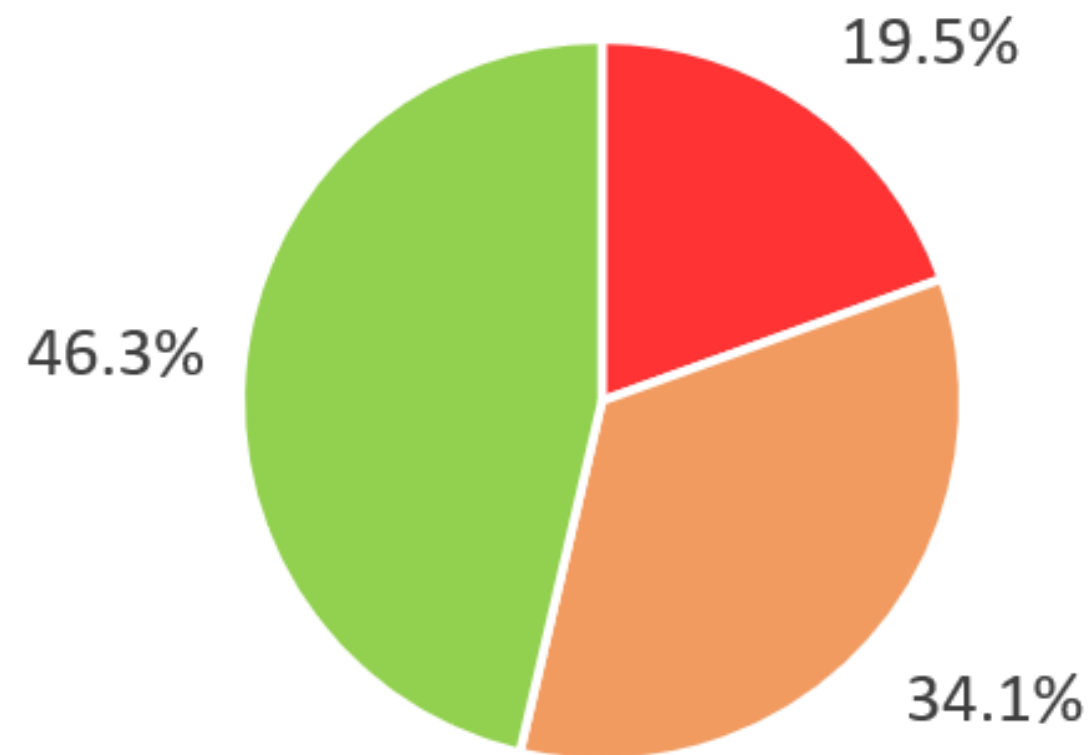


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■ Tier 1 ■ Tier 2 ■ Tier 3

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Semi-structured interviews

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Reflective Thematic Analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006)

Study Three - Findings

Stigma
associated with
sexual
offending

Barriers to
moving on

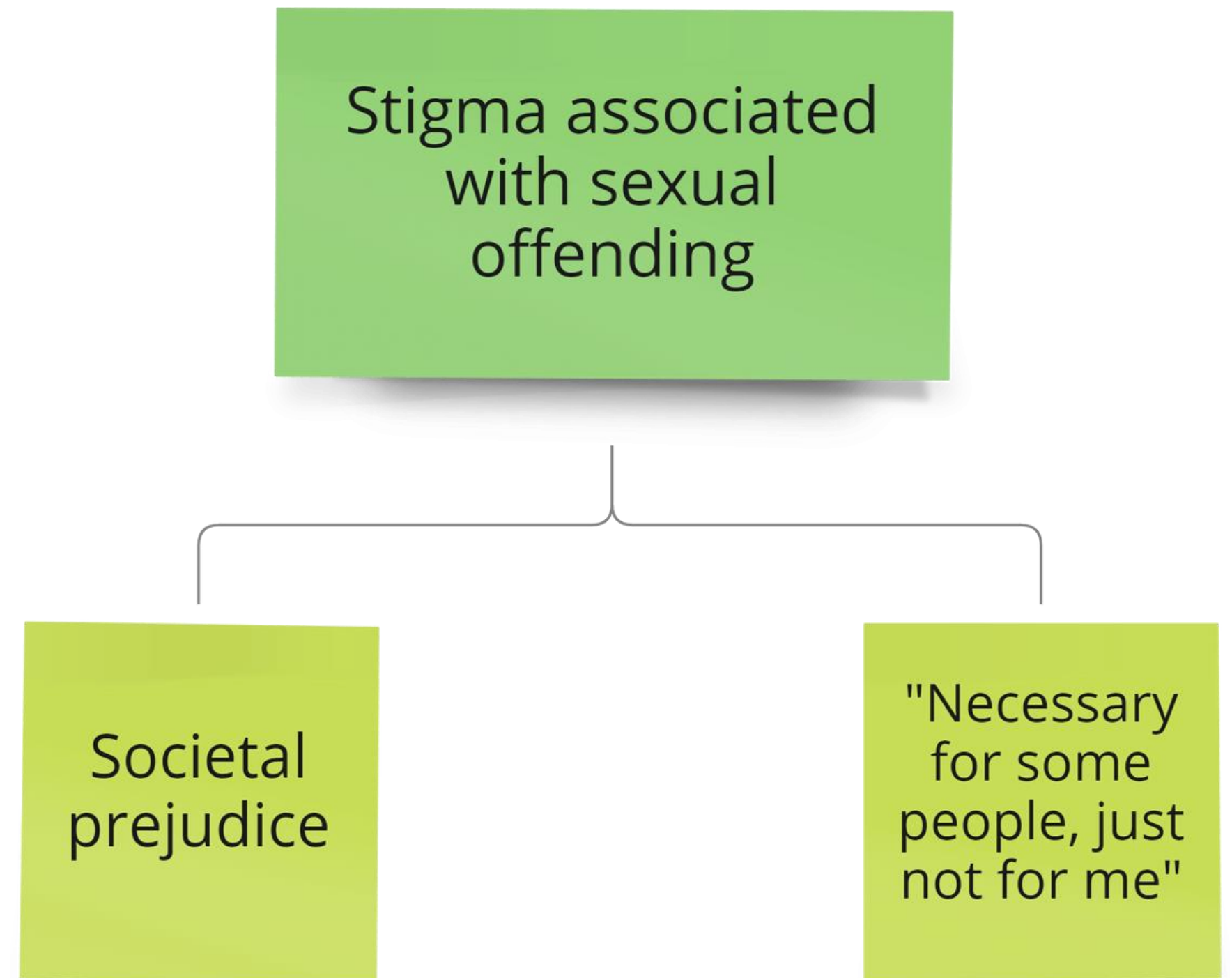
Case
management
style integral to
experience on
register

Factors that
facilitate
adjustment &
reintegration

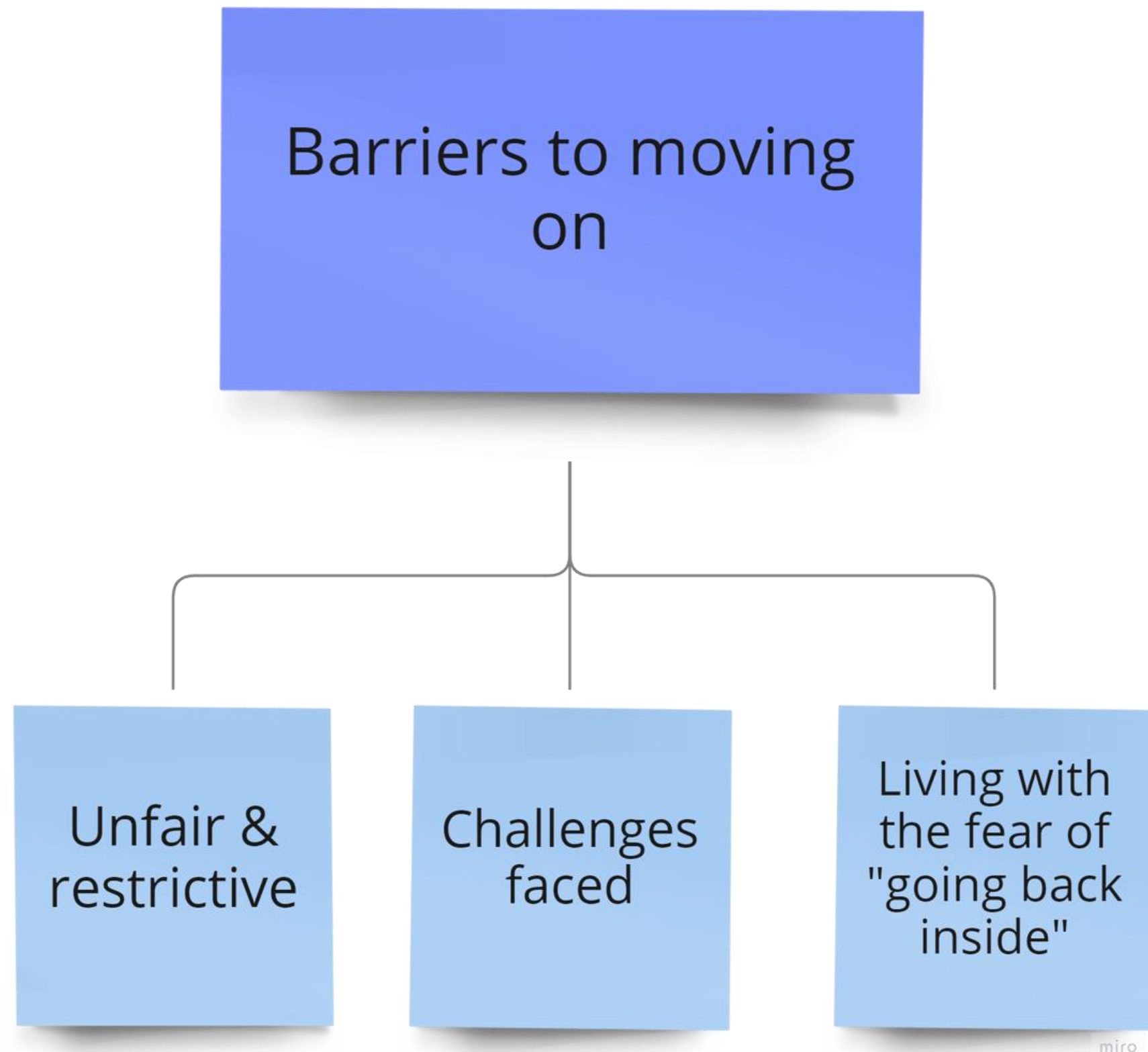
With 15 sub-themes across all four
themes

Theme One

- Perceived prejudice by both public & authority
- Misconceptions - an understanding of child sex offending needed
- Belief that register is designed for “predatory” individuals
- Perception that own risk is low



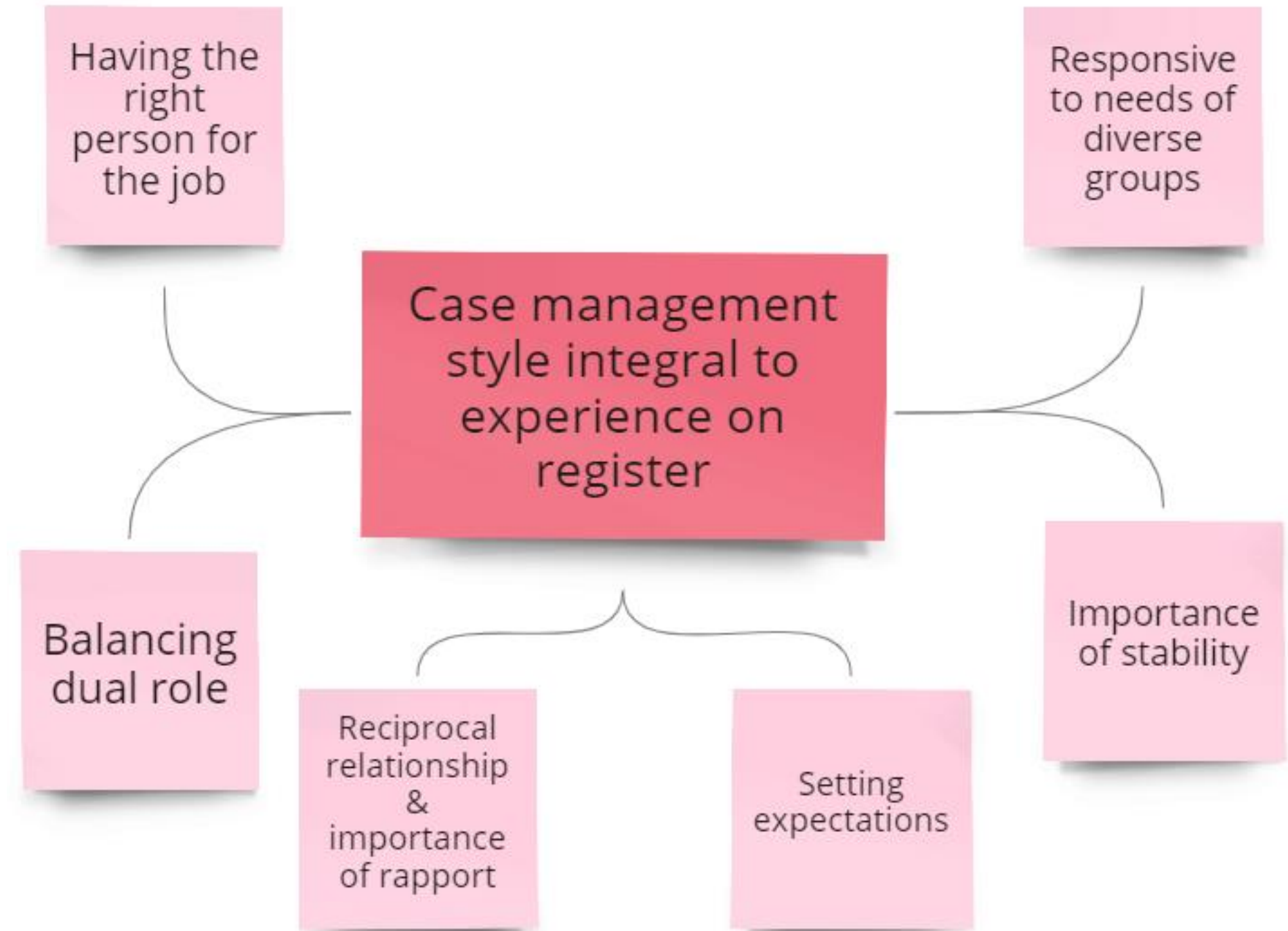
Theme Two



- Unfair, disproportionate continuation of punishment
- Invasive & inhibits ability to move on
- Practical challenges & mental toll
- Fears of false allegations resulting in social isolation
- Register seen as a safety net

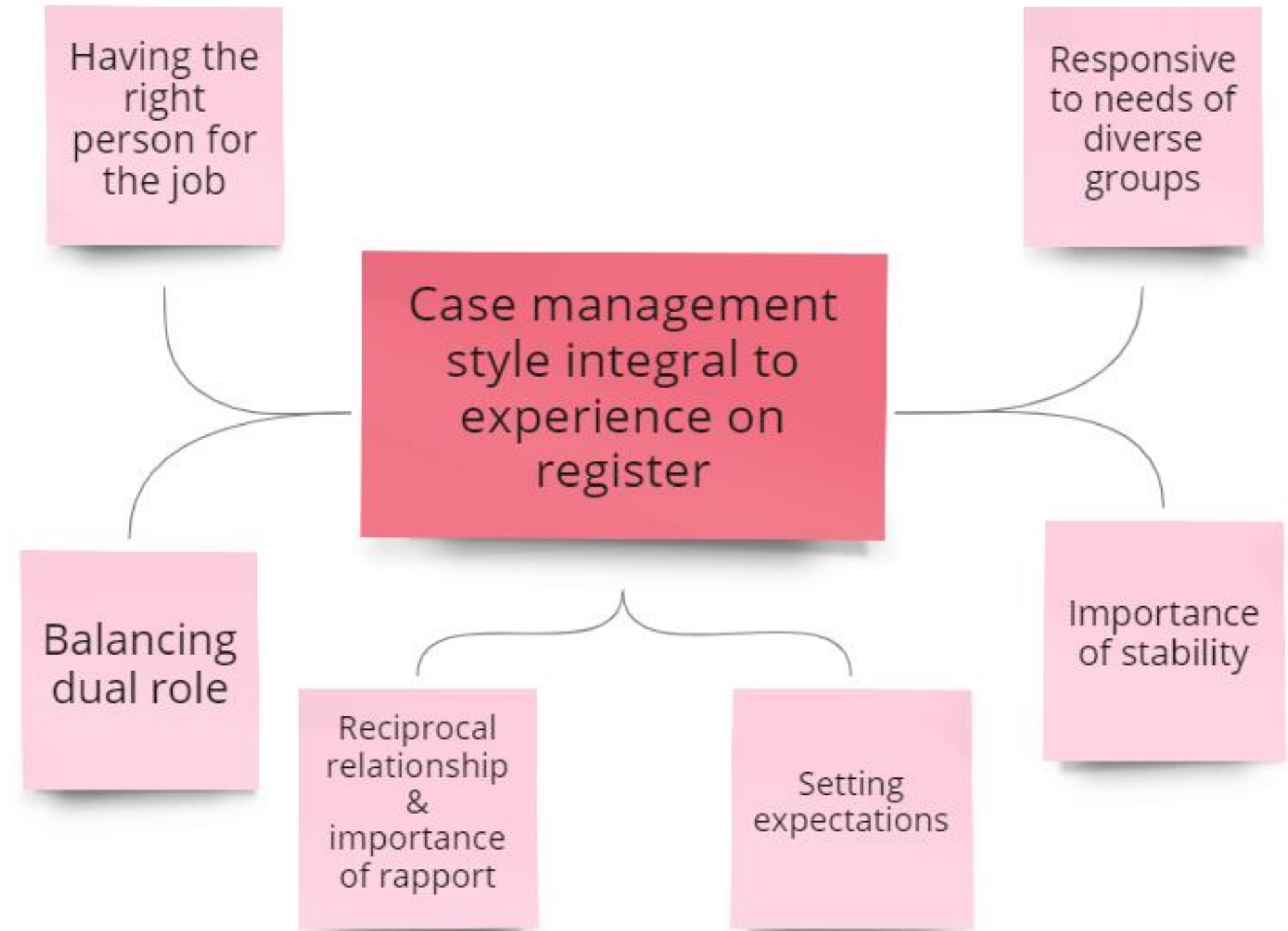
Theme Three

- Empathy, transparency, "leaving the uniform behind"
- Perceive supportive element to role - important to strike balance
- A heavy-handed, domineering approach to supervision impacts the relationship
- Reciprocal relationship built on mutual trust and respect



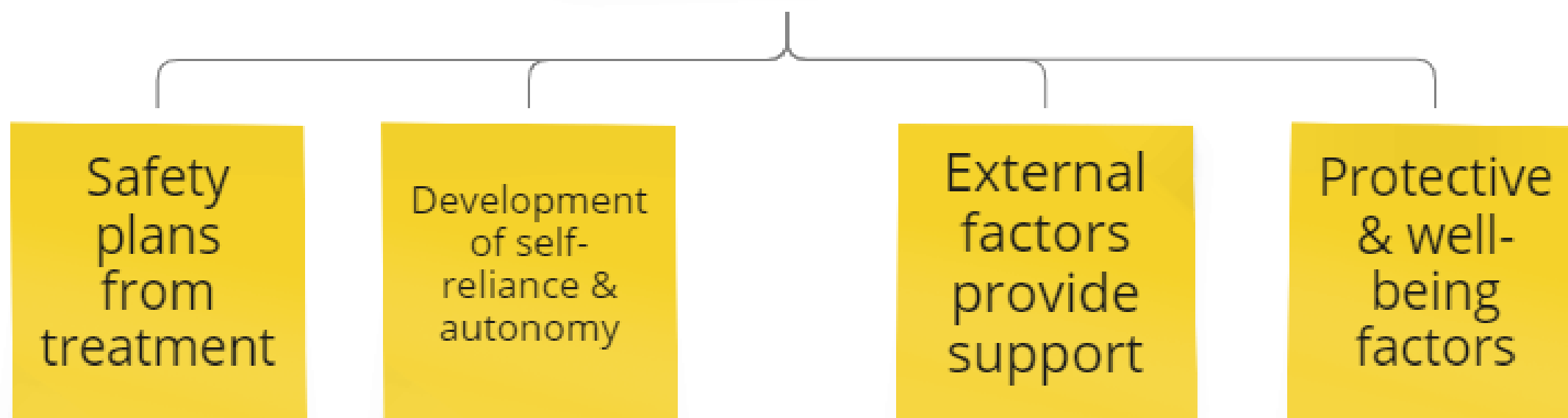
Theme Three

- Setting expectations eases transition
- Lack of understanding contributes to fear/distrust
- Perception that CMs are under-resourced & need for continuity
- Understanding of Te Ao Māori & wellbeing models
- Consider barriers such as low literacy levels or intellectual disability



Theme Four

Factors that facilitate adjustment & reintegration



- Attribute risk management awareness and strategies primarily to therapy *but* register is a reminder to keep self safe
- Self-managing risk/disclosure & mental health
- Support networks, access to resources, external agency support
- Hobbies/work, inner peace, and reclaiming agency pivotal to well-being
- Resilience, taking accountability, and cultural interconnectedness

“

What has been the most positive part of being on the register?

*Probably the fact that you know somebody is there, you've got a point of contact. That's probably the biggest thing. Why is that important? When I saw the arresting officer at the door, I thought two things: First, "oh sh*t" and then, "Thank god you're here". Because I knew I had a problem. Instead of having the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff, it would've been good to have someone there when I needed them. And now I do.*

– Participant 31

”

Implications

- Registered persons still facing stigma and community re-entry challenges
- Highlights need to boost the strengths-based, human services approach and improve engagement with registered persons including diverse groups
- Inform staff training and resource allocation
- **Help the Register achieve its goal of reducing recidivism**

Discussion

How do we balance the benefits and reconcile some of the problems faced by registered persons?

Thank you for listening!

Any questions?

Contact email: Mackenzie.Auld@police.govt.nz



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POLICE
Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa

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