



## **Is seventeen years long enough for Moko's killers?**

### **The issue:**

The story of Moko Rangitoheriri's (or "Little Moko" as he came to be known by the media) tragic death shocked the nation. His killers each recently received a sentence of 17 years. However, it has become known that both of Moko's killers have appealed their sentence for a reduced jail time.

In a recent poll, we asked New Zealanders to tell us if they believed that the 17-year sentence that Moko's killers received was enough, or if they deserved more, or less.

The poll was conducted with a nationally representative sample of 500 adult New Zealanders in August 2016.

### **The poll question:**

The following question was asked:

**Q1. Moko's killers were recently jailed for 17 years for their role in his death. Both have appealed their sentence. Do you believe 17 years is enough, or should their sentence be shorter or longer?**

1. More
2. Enough
3. Less
98. Don't know
99. Refused



## Key results:

The key results are as follows:

- ◆ Almost two-thirds of respondents (63 percent) believed that Moko's killers deserved a longer sentence. Another 26 percent felt that the sentence was long enough.
  - ◆ In comparison, a very small proportion of respondents (one percent) stated that they believed the pair deserved a shorter sentence.

Table 1: Opinions relating to the length of the sentence for Moko's killers

	Base =	Total 500 %
More		63
Enough		26
Less		1
Don't know		9
Refused		2
Total		100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



## Demographic differences:

We also analysed the results to this question by a number of demographic variables, including: age, gender, income, region and educational achievement. The results are as follows:

- ◆ There are no significant differences when the results are examined by gender or income.
- ◆ There are, however, significant differences by **age**. For example:
  - ◆ **Older** respondents were **less likely** to say that Moko's killers deserved **more** jail time (54 percent, compared with 67 percent of those aged 35 to 54 years, and 71 percent of those aged 18 to 34).
- ◆ There are also significant differences by **region**. For example:
  - ◆ Respondents living in the **Lower/central North Island** were **less likely** to say that Moko's killers deserved **more** jail time (53 percent, compared with 67 percent of those living in the upper North Island, and those living in the South Island).
- ◆ There are also significant differences by **educational achievement**. For example:
  - ◆ Respondents with a **bachelor's degree or higher** were **less likely** to say that Moko's killers deserved **more** jail time (49 percent, compared with 70 percent of those with a secondary school qualification, 67 percent of those with a polytechnic qualification or trade certificate, and 76 percent of those with no qualifications).

## Comment:

"These results are emphatic; by a large margin, New Zealanders believe Moko's killers are lucky to have the sentence they received", said Research New Zealand Director, Emanuel Kalafatelis.

*The Research New Zealand poll of 500 people aged 18 and over was conducted by telephone from 9 August to 1 September 2016. The maximum margin of error for the sample as a whole is +/-4.9% (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted by gender and age to ensure it is an accurate representation of the general population of New Zealand. The poll was not taken on behalf of any organisation, but is part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.*

**Contact:** Emanuel Kalafatelis  
Director  
Research New Zealand Limited  
P O Box 10-617  
Wellington 6143  
Ph. 04-462-6401 (DDI); 027-500-4401 (M)



## TABULATIONS

Table 2: Opinions relating to the length of the sentence for Moko's killers (by age)

	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
Base =	500	62	140	298
	%	%	%	%
More	63	71	67	54
Enough	26	16	26	32
Less	1	3	1	0
Don't know	9	10	5	11
Refused	2	0	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 3: Opinions relating to the length of the sentence for Moko's killers (by region)

	Total	Upper North Island	Lower/Central North Island	South Island
Base =	500	193	154	153
	%	%	%	%
More	63	67	53	67
Enough	26	25	31	22
Less	1	2	0	0
Don't know	9	6	10	9
Refused	2	0	5	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 4: Opinions relating to the length of the sentence for Moko's killers (by level of educational achievement)

	Total	NCEA, School Certificate, or other secondary school qualification	Polytechnic qualification or Trade Certificate, or	Bachelor's degree or higher	None / No qualifications
Base =	500	165	123	155	55
	%	%	%	%	%
More	63	70	67	49	76
Enough	26	23	22	36	13
Less	1	1	1	1	0
Don't know	9	6	8	11	9
Refused	2	0	2	3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.