



## **Party pans idea of Angels**

**Maori Party pans idea of Guardian Angels- co-leader Pita Sharples says NZ has Maori Wardens**

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The Maori Party has panned the idea of Guardian Angels on New Zealand's streets, claiming it is the wrong approach to crime.

Members of the American group are in New Zealand recruiting members and promoting its activities.

But Maori Party co-leader Dr Pita Sharples says the current approach to crime is to prosecute, rather than rehabilitate.

He says we need to start putting the onus back on families to discipline their own.

He says the long-term solution is to create an environment where people take responsibilities for their family members.

The party is questioning the need for the Angels, when there are Maori Wardens.

Dr Sharples has been involved with Maori wardens since the seventies.

He says they are a positive influence and have long been underresourced.

He says the wardens are a useful tool as they focus on rehabilitating and putting the onus on the family to discipline their children.