



Family Violence and Sexual Violence Work Programme Update

November 2019

Nau mai, haere mai. This edition of the Joint Venture newsletter updates you on recent cross-government work to eliminate family violence and sexual violence.

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Under-Secretary Jan Logie's Update

Ending family violence and sexual violence in this country is going to take all of us, working together.

That's why it was a real pleasure to open the Challenging Conversations – Complicated Spaces Conference in Wellington in September. Having specialists from both the family violence and sexual violence sectors come together to collaborate and learn from each other was great to see.

It was also an important moment for the family violence sector, launching the new National Coalition of Domestic Violence Specialist Service Providers. The Coalition brings together the National Collective of Independent Women's Refuge and Te Kupenga Whakaoti Mahi Patunga/National Network of Stopping Violence Services to collaborate, advocate for best practice, and provide unified, specialist national leadership.

In my opening address, I acknowledged the refuges and rape crisis centres, and kaupapa Māori organisations like the Māori Women's Welfare League, who were the first to respond to violence, especially against women and children. These organisations led the way when government, law enforcement, and mainstream society didn't see, or want to see, a problem.

I acknowledged the contribution of Māori women, and the history of striving for Te Tiriti-based relationships across these sectors. Genuine Te Tiriti partnership can be challenging for Pākehā working in Pākehā environments. But that is a challenge all of us have to be willing to take on.

The relationship between the interim Te Rōpū and the Crown is central to developing our draft National Strategy and Action Plan. Te Rōpū are bringing a whole set of fresh challenges to our thinking. They're asking us to put whānau and families at the centre and respond to people in their social group or context, not just as individuals. They are asking us to consider how government will share power and support and promote rangatiratanga, building a strong sense of agency within whānau and communities to provide the foundations for our future. That's a big shift for government, that promises to benefit everyone.

And we aren't starting with a blank slate. People working in these areas have been really clear about the priorities for action on family violence and sexual violence. We have heard from victims and survivors, and those wanting to stop using violence too. We are weaving in the research and recommendations from a huge number of reports over the last 30 years - and soon, we'll be engaging with you on the draft Strategy. Watch this space!



Integrated Safety Responses Show Collaboration is Making a Difference

The evaluations of the Integrated Safety Response (ISR) pilots, established in 2016 in the Waikato and Christchurch, have shown significant benefits for families when agencies work together to deliver coordinated family violence responses.

Key features of the ISR model include dedicated staff, funded specialist services for people, families and whānau impacted by, or using, violence and an intensive case management approach to collectively work with whānau and families at risk.

The integrated model brings together specialist family violence non-government providers and specialist Kaupapa Māori services to support victims and their whānau and families. They work alongside Oranga Tamariki, local District Health Boards, courts and prisons, schools, relevant parts of the Ministry for Social Development, ACC, and Police.

Under-Secretary Logie and Minister Williams, on behalf of Minister Nash, launched the evaluation at Ngā Hau E Whā Marae in Christchurch. The evaluations reinforce the importance of effective collaboration between agencies, focused on the needs of families/whānau. The findings will inform the development of safe, consistent, and effective responses to family violence in every community.

They show that ISR has supported:

- An increased sense of safety.
- Māori impacted by violence living within one of the ISR sites had an 18 percent reduction in family violence offence related re-victimisation compared to matched controls from non-ISR sites.
- A 48 percent reduction in children witnessing or being exposed to family violence.
- Rapid responses routinely being made to victims, families, and whānau, enabled especially by the 7 days a week triage, multi-agency participation, and efficient sharing of information.
- More effective outreach by specialist ISR workers offering greater opportunity for individuals, families, and whānau to consider and accept support.
- Better access to the support services, brought about through improved relationships and connections among ISR partners (community and government).
- Significant reductions in self-reported exposure to all forms of family violence post-ISR, including victim's experiences of physical harm, and children witnessing family violence.
- Evidence of reduced risk of continued use of violence amongst perpetrators receiving support, reflected in their confidence in their ability to manage anger and maintain respectful relationships.

There are powerful opportunities and lessons that ISR provides us while continuing to meet its deliverables and outcomes as collaborative integrated intervention. However, the Under-Secretary emphasised that “just rolling out ISR” isn't a practicable solution for the rest of New Zealand, as each community has its own circumstances and needs, and this was reinforced by the evaluation.

The evaluations are available online [here](#).



New report: Attrition and Progression: Reported Sexual Violence Victimisations in the Criminal Justice System

A new report by the Ministry of Justice provides an important baseline for measuring the Government's work to address and end sexual violence in New Zealand.

[*Attrition and progression: Reported sexual violence victimisations in the criminal justice system*](#) analyses 23,739 sexual violence victimisations reported to Police between July 2014 and June 2018.

The report was commissioned by Under-Secretary for Justice, Jan Logie, to contribute to our understanding of the experience of victims and the criminal justice outcomes of sexual violence complaints to Police.

"For every 100 sexual violence incidents reported to the Police," Jan Logie says, "the figures show only 31 made it to court, 11 resulted in a conviction, and 6 in imprisonment.

"We also know from other data that the vast majority of incidents aren't reported in the first place. This means we can effectively estimate that across all sexual violence, including what isn't reported, we have around a 1% conviction rate.

"This clearly isn't good enough, and demonstrates the importance of our Joint Venture approach to ending family violence and sexual violence. No single agency or department can fix this on their own. We have to work together, work differently, and work across the whole justice system so every person harmed can get the resolution they need.

"This report does not make for happy reading, but it is crucial that we have good data to measure our progress against, and it does affirm our focus on creating a whole-of-government response to sexual violence."

The analysis was undertaken by the Ministry of Justice's Sector Group: Analysis and Modelling team and is a welcome addition to our evidence-base. It provides evidence of the level of attrition through the justice system for all reported sexual violence victimisations. No large-scale analysis of this type has ever been undertaken in New Zealand, so the analysis, establishes an important benchmark against which [improvements](#) can be measured.

Key findings

The analysis of 23,739 sexual violence victimisations reported to Police between July 2014 and June 2018 found that by early 2019:

- 31% of victimisations reported to Police resulted in court action for the perpetrator
- 11% resulted in a conviction
- 6% had a prison sentence imposed
- a 21% increase in the number of victimisations reported from 2014/15 to 2017/18
- a 34% increase in the proportion of investigations resulting in court action in the most recent year



- a substantial decrease (from 17% to 2%) in the proportion of victimisations deemed to not be a crime likely, due to changes in Police practise
- a large proportion of victimisations continue to remain unresolved, and
- there are differences in progression for children and young people, adults reporting historic childhood offences, different offence types, Māori, and different perpetrator relationship types.

Sexual Violence Service Development: Implementing Budget 2019 Update



Hon Poto Williams, Assoc. Minister for Social Development

The specialist sexual violence sector has struggled to meet demand for its services with a number of funding and service gaps.

Budget 2019 has moved to address this with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) being allocated \$90.3 million in additional funding over four years to enable greater support across a range of areas in the sexual violence response area.

For 2019/20 this funding will ensure service continuity for victims/survivors and perpetrators of sexual violence with MSD now focusing on developing a programme of work that ensures the sexual violence services it funds, procures and contracts sustain services for the long term.

MSD is committed to working closely with the sexual violence sector and other key stakeholders to develop a sustainable procurement approach that ensures that sexual violence services are available for all people affected by sexual violence.

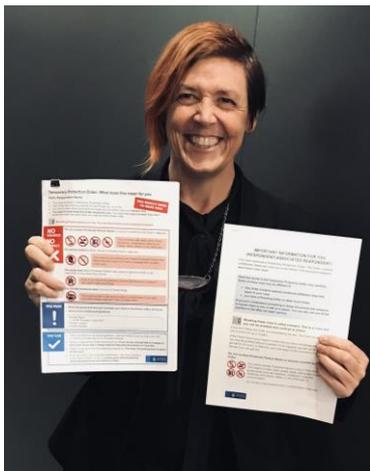
Since the Budget 2019 funding announcement MSD has made the following progress:

- **Sexual Harm Crisis Support:** *Visits to crisis support providers have been completed to better understand what services are currently in place around New Zealand and to help identify key areas of focus for the future work programme.*
- **Harmful Sexual Behaviour and Concerning Sexual Ideation:** *Contracts for the 2019/20 are now in place and work with providers will begin shortly on the development of new service guidelines.*
- **Male Survivors of Sexual Assault:** *Contracts for the 2019/20 are now in place, and work is underway to identify key areas of focus for the future work programme.*



- **Court Support Services:** *Contracts for the 2019/20 are now in place. MSD have recently held two hui with providers to commence the further development of service guidelines and evaluation requirements for 2019/21.*
- **Kaupapa Māori services:** *MSD have developed an approach to the four-year work programme and will be seeking feedback from their current specialist Kaupapa Māori sexual violence support providers this month.*

Protection Order Information at Service Pack launched



Under-Secretary Jan Logie visited Dunedin early in October to meet with staff implementing new information packs for people with Protection Orders.

Ms Logie met with Police and court staff who are implementing the new packs, as well as representatives from provider organisations who work with respondents and protected people and will be involved in gathering feedback about the packs.

The Protection Order Information Service Packs were developed by the Ministry of Justice in collaboration with service providers, people with lived experience, Police, and court staff. They were launched in Dunedin in August.

The two packs, one for respondents and one for protected people, include a simple, easy to understand personalised information sheet, as well as a more detailed plain-English information guide.

The respondent pack is served with the Protection Order and highlights the requirements and consequences of the order in an easy-to-understand format including visual clues. It is expected to result in fewer breaches of orders because respondents will have the information they need to obey the conditions and will have a better understanding of what they can and can't do.

The pack for protected people provides similar information and is aimed at helping people understand what a Protection Order is, and how to use it.

"In the past, respondents have told us they didn't know what the Protection Order meant and often no-one explained it to them," said Lison Harris, Ministry of Justice programme manager for Family Violence Law Implementation.

"We anticipate the new pack will increase the sense of safety for protected people because both parties will be better informed," she said.



Dunedin City was chosen to launch the pack because Police serve all Protection Orders in the Dunedin Police District. The roll out will be extended to include Invercargill and the wider Southland district.

Providers will collect feedback from respondents and protected people they work with as to how useful they found the packs. This will give the opportunity to monitor the packs' success and make any required adjustments.

A further extension of the roll out will include two North Island areas before a national rollout, expected in February 2020. For more information, contact familyviolencelaw@justice.govt.nz

Videos Capture Experiences of Violence

Men and women speak candidly about their experiences of family violence in a suite of videos now available on the Ministry of Justice YouTube channel.

The videos help people understand the different types of family violence, and how they are used to control and frighten others.

Victims talk about the lasting effects of the violence, how hard it was to leave, and the value of help from friends and family.

People who have been violent talk about the way they controlled their family, how they made the decision to stop using violence, and the valuable support they got from others.

Two videos focus on Protection Orders from the perspectives of protected people, respondents, and Police.

The videos replace a DVD called Talking About Family Violence that was made in 2010. They include some original interviews along with new ones that reflect types of abuse that have become more common, such as via social media.

Thanks to the men and women who courageously agreed to speak about their personal experience of family violence to help others.

The videos can be viewed [here](#). They will be available for order, please contact publications@justice.govt.nz for more information.

These videos may be triggering or upsetting for some viewers, and we encourage people to use their discretion when viewing them.



Ministry of Justice investment in workforce capability

The Ministry of Justice is a member of the Joint Venture, which has responsibility for transforming how we respond to family violence and sexual violence. The capability of government workforces is critical to transforming the response system.

The Ministry of Justice has taken steps to ensure that staff and people engaging with the Ministry can get support if they are affected by family violence and/or sexual violence.

In 2018, the Ministry of Justice was the first government agency to be awarded the Shine DVFree Tick, which recognises that an employer has taken meaningful steps to create a family violence-free workplace. The Tick was renewed in 2019.

To achieve the Tick, a family violence policy was launched, and all managers received family violence training. Clear pathways to help have been established for staff including trained first responders within the Ministry. The Ministry also offered 10 days domestic violence leave, which became compulsory for all employers when the Domestic Violence – Victims’ Protection Act took effect in 2019.

In addition, a training programme is now underway for all Ministry of Justice staff who interact with the public. The focus is on how to respond safely and appropriately to any client showing signs of, or disclosing, family and/or sexual violence - whether they are victims or perpetrators.

The main component of the training is a face-to-face workshop co-delivered at each court by a sexual violence specialist and a family violence specialist.

Feedback on the training has been extremely positive. Participants in particular appreciate that the training is delivered by specialists on family violence and sexual violence and being given clarity about what they can and can’t do for clients in the short interaction they have with them.



Comments from staff include:

That it's not expected for us to solve all problems and listening can be enough

Understanding strategies to engage with clients who may present distressed – being able to provide an empathetic ear

Staff have welcomed being given a printed resource (pictured) which they can give to clients, with contact details for family violence and sexual violence support services in the community.

For more information, email familyviolencelaw@justice.govt.nz



E Tū Wāhine, E Tū Whānau – Māori Women Keeping Safe in Unsafe Relationships

The Taupua Waiora Research Centre at AUT will host a symposium looking at the findings of new research into how Māori women keep themselves and their tamariki safe, on 28 November in Auckland.

The research was supported by the Royal Society Te Āparangi Marsden Fund, and highlights the need for government agencies and family violence services to explore new ways of working with whānau Māori. The symposium will offer insights into helpful approaches and narratives.

When: 9.30am-3pm, Thursday 28 November – RSVP by 15 November.

Where: Ngā Wai o Horotiu Marae, Cnr Symonds and Wellesley Streets, AUT.

Registration is free, but places are limited.

Through this newsletter you will receive updates on current Joint Venture work on family violence and sexual violence. We welcome your feedback, so please email us at familyandsexualviolence@justice.govt.nz

New Zealand Government

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