

SNAPSHOT

Family Violence Risk Assessment and Management Framework

New Zealand Government

JUNE 2017

Our current system must do better...

WHILE THERE'S GOOD PRACTICE IN PLACES, TOO OFTEN THE SYSTEM:

- is fragmented and doesn't provide consistent responses, or properly support people through the system
- makes it difficult for victims, perpetrators, families and whānau to find the help they need.

A NEW APPROACH

All agencies, services and practitioners proactively support individuals, family and whānau experiencing family violence

... to protect victims and stop perpetrators committing family violence

... by consistent, integrated and proactive screening, assessment and management of family violence risk

The Framework Core Service Concepts



SCREENING

Systematic and objective enquiry about personal history with family violence and violence within whānau. Identify those at-risk who need to go on for further assessment and potentially intervention.



RISK ASSESSMENT

Detailed process - examination of behaviours, circumstances and interactions to form a predictive risk profile. As risk can change very quickly, regular reviews are an essential part of managing and mitigating risk.



RISK MANAGEMENT

How service providers ensure victims' safety and change perpetrators' behaviour. A planned approach to identify and prioritise risk factors and remove, reduce, or mitigate them. Everyone in the system has a role to play in risk management.

WHO THE FRAMEWORK COVERS

Generalist service providers may encounter victims or perpetrators of family violence as part of their work providing health, education, or social services, but family violence isn't their core business (eg doctors, childcare providers).

Statutory service providers are agencies and individuals whose core or sole business isn't family violence, but that provide statutory or legal responses to victims or perpetrators as part of their work (eg police, probation officers, social workers).

Specialist service providers have a core mandate to respond to family violence, and practitioners have specialist knowledge and skills (eg women's refuges, perpetrator behaviour change services).

Risk assessment and management framework

Our practice values

①	Victim safety, especially of children, is paramount The safety of victims, especially children, takes precedence, and organisations and practitioners must ensure that safety.	Organisations and practitioners must proactively support victims' safety in collaboration with them, their family and whānau.
②	Practitioners must take responsibility and action Take responsibility and act to address family violence even when it's difficult.	Evidence shows people affected by family violence generally reach out for help, including to service providers, many times before getting that help.
③	Perpetrators are accountable Perpetrators are held accountable and supported to change their behaviour.	Accountability for the violence lies with the perpetrator. Further, abuse and violence must never be accepted, condoned, or colluded with.
④	Children's needs are provided for The needs and aspirations of children must be provided for in all decisions.	Organisations and agencies must take a child-centred approach to their practices when a child is a victim or perpetrator. Processes and policies must include early intervention and give children the opportunity to participate in decision-making.
⑤	Mana and autonomy are respected The mana and autonomy of all people is respected.	The autonomy, knowledge and experience of victims is recognised. Interactions must be designed to enhance the wellbeing of all people affected by family violence – victims, perpetrators, family and whānau.
⑥	Approach is whānau-centred A holistic whānau-centred approach is important to address family violence in whānau.	This focuses on improving the wellbeing of whānau and families by addressing individual needs in a whānau context. It is a culturally grounded, holistic approach providing whānau with safety first, support, education and advice to restore the mana in whānau. Services for Māori should recognise cultural needs and continue to shift to a whānau-based delivery model grounded in tikanga.
⑦	Responses are integrated Responses to family violence must be integrated and coordinated.	Actions will generally be effective only when they are part of an integrated approach with other agencies and the community. This is even more critical where people have complex needs and low capacity for self-help.

The family violence system delivers consistent, integrated and proactive risk assessment and management practice

Our focus areas



- 1 A common understanding:** a shared understanding of the nature of family violence, its forms and effects.
- 2 A consistent approach:** a consistent, evidenced approach is taken to screening, assessing and managing family violence risk.
- 3 Integrated response pathways:** a system that provides easy, safe and timely pathways to access support services and enables proportionate, versatile and coordinated responses using the principles of risk, need, and responsivity.
- 4 Effective information sharing:** an information sharing regime that allows for effective and safe practice amongst and between NGOs and government agencies.
- 5 Ongoing risk and case management:** a risk management approach that includes ongoing assessment of risk, and case management for families and especially children.
- 6 Responsive practices:** service practices, including kaupapa Māori, that respond to diversity and the needs of individuals and whānau in a timely way.

Supporting elements

Practice guides will be developed to help providers, practitioners and services implement the Framework.

Practice guide

1

- to screen for and identify family violence, make an initial response and manage risk
- aimed at general service professionals
- to be used when unsure whether someone is affected by family violence

Practice guide


2

- to carry out a preliminary risk assessment, respond to and manage risk
- aimed at statutory service professionals
- to be used when it has been established that someone is affected or has been affected by family violence

Practice guide

3

- to carry out a comprehensive risk assessment, respond to and manage risk
- aimed at family violence specialist professionals
- to be used when it has been established that someone is affected or has been affected by family violence



Family Violence,
Sexual Violence and
Violence within Whānau:
Workforce Capability Framework

THE WORKFORCE CAPABILITY FRAMEWORK

The Family Violence, Sexual Violence and Violence within Whānau Workforce Capability Framework is a system-level framework covering the breadth of different capabilities required to respond safely and respectfully to people experiencing, affected by, and perpetrating family violence, sexual violence and violence within whānau.

OTHER SUPPORT

- Induction and training
- Workforce updates and factsheets
- Contractual arrangements