



Family Violence and Sexual Violence Work Programme Update

April 2019

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

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Under-Secretary's Update: PSO risk and needs assessment services and Family Violence Agencies



We know that transforming our response to family violence and sexual violence as a government, and a country, is a big job with a lot of moving parts. It can be difficult to get a sense of progress – so in this update I want to focus on one significant piece of the puzzle.

In recent weeks I've been visiting sites piloting the new risk and needs assessment service, developed as part of the implementation of the Family Violence (Amendment) Act and the Family Violence Act 2018. These new Acts give priority to the safety of victims, including children, and preventing people from inflicting further violence.

So from 1 July, Police Safety Orders (PSOs) will be extended to ten days and Police will be able to [direct a person bound by a PSO to attend a risk and needs assessment](#).

The aim of the assessment is to work with the person who has used violence to change their behaviour so that families, women and children can live safely. It was co-designed with people who have used violence, and their whānau.

Three pilot sites are now testing the service in Manukau, Hastings, and Christchurch. Through these pilots, Police and non-government providers can safely identify any issues and refine the service before a national roll-out, which is likely in 2020.

I've enjoyed participating in workshops with the people piloting the service, to hear what they're learning. It's encouraging to talk with people who are at the forefront of testing new ways of working, and optimistic about the difference they will make.

I'm really looking forward to the final reports on the pilots so that we can ensure we've got an effective service ready to go as part of the integrated system we're building.

Ahead of 1 July, the government agencies and social service providers named as [Family Violence Agencies](#) in the new law will receive information about the expectations they're now under to work together to identify, stop, prevent and respond to family violence. They'll also receive guidance on how to share family violence information safely and appropriately. This is a big first step in our efforts to enable and improve workforce capability.

In the February edition of this newsletter, I talked about how challenging it is for everyone to think and act differently, the need to reimagine the system and better understand our roles and



responsibilities so we're meeting the needs of people affected by family violence and sexual violence. Our new family violence laws are enabling us to improve our systems, and I look forward to continued progress.

In closing, let's remember that school holidays can be a stressful time for parents, especially when juggling paid work with childcare, or needing to find ways to keep the kids busy on a limited budget. It's a good time to reflect on the importance of community as a protective factor for families, and how we connect with those around us to ensure people have what they need to nurture their children and maintain healthy relationships.

Kia kaha tō mahi mo ngā whānau.

Introducing Fiona Ross, Director



The new Director of the Joint Venture Business Unit, Fiona Ross, will take up her role on 29 April.

Fiona is currently Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Secretary Strategy, Performance and Engagement at the Treasury. She brings with her a wealth of experience in the public sector, particularly developing and delivering on strategy with a systems view.

Fiona will lead the Joint Venture Business Unit. The Unit is supporting the Joint Venture Board and agencies to coordinate change across the sector and lead the whole-of-government effort to eliminate family violence and sexual violence.

Fiona is excited about the promise and potential of the Joint Venture way of working. She says her priorities will be partnership with Māori, the national strategy and action plan on family violence and sexual violence, and enabling people to work differently across government and in partnership with communities.





Farewell Sarah Holden

The Joint Venture Business Unit’s outgoing Director, Sarah Holden, is both contemplative and optimistic as she looks back on her time with the JVBU. Reflecting on almost a year and a half at the helm, she’s careful to first acknowledge the contributions of others from grassroots through to the highest levels of government –

“I have so much respect for the work done within this sector. At a community level, with very little resource, they’ve given the most vulnerable a voice and, importantly, government have listened. At each end of the system, we have good people working very hard.”

Joining the Multi-Agency Team in December 2017, Sarah led the establishment of the JVBU and along with a small team, embraced the opportunity to lead the whole-of-government response to family violence and sexual violence “this is a long-term transformational programme of work, and many people have worked very hard to get us to this point. It’s challenging work – by its very nature it challenges - and there were many obstacles along the way. I look at it now like a relay race; I was handed the baton and ran with in. I’ll now safely hand it off to Fiona, and cheer her on from the side lines. I know she will do an incredible job.”

The most challenging and rewarding piece of work, Sarah noted, was the JV Budget bid - “Getting 10 agencies to agree to a funding framework that puts those in need at the centre of the thinking is not only a first, it’s something we can all be proud of”.

Sarah’s last day is 26 April. After a short break which will combine her love of travel and horses, she’ll return home to work on establishing her new start-up business Centaured, a device which provides horse riders with real-time feedback on their balance and performance -

“I had just had a prototype developed when I was asked to take this role, and although it wasn’t at all what I’d planned, I’m very happy I was asked. I’m proud of the work we’ve done. It’s life changing, it’s good work, and I feel very lucky to have had a chance to play my part.”



High level of interest in Whānau Resilience services

A great response has been received from organisations interested in co-designing and delivering Whānau Resilience services for people affected by family violence.

The Ministry of Social Development received 309 applications from 201 different organisations and collectives throughout New Zealand in response to a Registration of Interest.

Whānau Resilience services are nationally procured but regionally designed – enabling family violence service providers and communities to shape the services available.

A shortlist is now being compiled by a national panel of evaluators and shortlisted providers will be invited to participate in open regional presentations between May and August.

The open presentations are an opportunity for providers to connect and hear from each other and are a shift towards being more open and transparent, and working in a more collaborative way for the benefit of whānau.

Successful applicants will be advised progressively, as the regional panels progress across the country. The regional co-design process will commence from September.

[Find out more about Whānau Resilience](#)

Expert Design Groups start work

Earlier in the year, expressions of interest were called for Expert Design Groups (EDGs) to work with the Joint Venture Business Unit on its workforce capability workstream. We received 45 applications and appointed 18 successful candidates; nine for the Kaupapa Māori group and nine for the Taulwi group.

The aim of the EDGs is to design shared organisational standards for specialist non-governmental organisations working on family violence and violence within whānau, and an 'entry to expert' specialist practitioner framework.

The EDG participants are representatives from the Family Violence and Sexual Violence NGO sector, representing Māori, Iwi, Pacific, Refugee, Disability, LBGTQI sectors. The first meeting took place on 17/18 April and the next meeting is 30 April/ 1 May.



Evaluation of MSD-funded sexual violence services

A three-year evaluation of sexual violence services funded by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) is now moving into the second phase.

This follows the completion of the 'formative evaluation' phase by Malatest International which described the current state of the sector and changes that resulted from additional funding in Budget 2016. The report is available on MSD's [website](#).

The next phase will assess the services delivered by providers and changes in provider capability and capacity. It will track and provide feedback on progress.

During this phase, Malatest will provide MSD with reports every six months until December 2020. The first draft process evaluation report has been compiled and a summary will be released when the report's key findings are finalised.

The next process evaluation report is due in September 2019.

[Find out more about the evaluation of sexual violence services](#)

Breaking the Silent Codes Hui - To Hikoitanga



On 11 – 14 April the Te Whare Tiaki Wāhine Refuge held a hui in Porirua to mark 125 years of women's suffrage. The theme of the hui was Breaking Silent Codes, and speakers and attendees attended from Aotearoa, Australia and throughout the Pacific.

While the focus was to bring Silent Codes into the open, a key feature of the three-day hui was the robust discussions around solutions and their applications across the family and sexual violence sectors.

Silent Codes is a term used to describe behaviours that cover-up violence. Examples include throwaway comments like "what does she expect dressed like that" through to isolating behaviours, such as withholding a person's cell phone.

Kim Aiomanu-Bagley, and Puawai Rudman from the Joint Venture Business Unit were on hand to answer questions about the role of the unit. Kim explains further "It's important for indigenous women to have these discussions. Many of the people in the room were frontline practitioners and



it's valuable for people to have the chance to reflect on their practice with women, tamariki and whānau. It was a very affirming space – there was a shared understanding of the values and experiences – we didn't need to relitigate or explain ourselves."

Racism was also covered at the hui, particularly by the rangatahi in attendance. One of the biggest issues for them was the denial of historical white privilege and the ways in which colonisation has impacted indigenous populations. With the fresh perspective of youth, the links between racism and rates of family violence and sexual violence were carefully laid out for deeper discussion and analysis, juxtaposed with the traditional, peaceful ways whānau once lived.

Puawai Rudman described the hui as "a safe space or āhurutanga for wahine to share their experiences and hopes for a future of equality and liberation. It was a space for wāhine to articulate their cultural identity – be it through korero, poetry or art – which in itself is considered by many wāhine to be a form of resistance to the violence they experience. This hui was powerful... a true space for men and women to freely express their insights and give voice to their own cultural narrative."

One of the core themes to emerge through the hui was the shared understanding that family and sexual violence must be understood at whānau level, community level, and national level in order to truly address this complex issue "through this hui, we – in government - were asked to allow and encourage more conversations, and listen to the people who have been doing the real mahi for decades, particularly Māori and Pacific people. They are the real experts," Kim concluded.

Deborah Morris-Travers from the Ministry of Justice also attended keynote speaker Professor Tagaloatele Peggy Dunlop's presentation on the multi-faceted nature of gender-based violence and the need to change community attitudes. "It was good hearing about the Samoan inquiry into family violence and how ground-breaking it was to place family violence issues in the public domain. One of the silencing dynamics is the perception that family status needs to be protected at all costs, and that 'good girls' don't talk about sexual abuse or other forms of violence. Girls are taught that it's their fault for tempting men. I think these codes are present in a range of cultures. We need to challenge our hierarchical, patriarchal societies. Professor Dunlop says women need to be at decision-making tables, but they are formally or informally discouraged from taking up leadership roles at the matai, or village administration, level," said Deborah.

Pictured: Under Secretary Jan Logie, at Te Whare Tiaki Wāhine Refuge hui

Mangakino whānau proud of their journey

In January this year, a group of Kahungunu ki Wairarapa whānau gathered in Tamatea Pokai Whenua, their wharenuī on Mangakino's Pouakani marae, to assess progress made since their first involvement with E Tū Whānau three years ago.



They talked of children in Oranga Tamariki care reunited with whānau. Young pakeke questioned the roots of their own violent behaviour.

They talked of rejecting dodgy lifestyles, embracing good jobs and healthy ambition. Others spoke about trusting each other to solve problems collectively, of breaking the silence that festers when people feel they must keep their struggles to themselves.

They talked with pride of their history, of the courage and resilience of their tīpuna and the profound impact colonisation has had on them as a people and as individuals. They're on a journey and they all agreed that they're going in the right direction.

Powerful wānanga

It was a powerful and uplifting end to a three-day hui that started with a community wide decolonisation wānanga facilitated, at their personal invitation, by Tuhoe artist and activist, Tama Iti. A handful of Pākehā with homes in the village joined them on the first day because, as one of them put it, 'I knew that I knew so little, and how right I was!'

Day one was a textbook example of 'cross-cultural community building'. Māori simply call it manaakitanga.

[Read more of this story](#)

Through this newsletter you will receive updates on current work, including the implementation of the Family Violence Act and the Family Violence (Amendments) Act.

We welcome your feedback so please email us at familyandsexualviolence@justice.govt.nz

New Zealand Government

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