

Aide-mémoire

Next steps for the new Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministerial Advisory Group

Date	22/01/2026	Ref	2025/129159
To	Hon Karen Chhour, Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence		
From	Cam Sherley, Acting Chief Executive, Ph: 9(2)(a)		
Appendices	Appendix 1: Expressions of interest list		

Purpose

1. This aide-mémoire provides you with a list of people who have expressed interest in being part of the new Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministerial Advisory Group. It also gives information about the interview panel, and next steps.

Background

2. Expressions of interest for the new Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministerial Advisory Group opened on 10 November 2025 and closed on 16 January 2026.
3. The full list of names is attached as Appendix 1.

Shortlisting and interviewing

4. From the complete list of applicants, the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention (the Centre) will assess eligibility and generate a long list for the interview panel to consider. The interview panel will then shortlist and interview enough applicants to make initial recommendations.
5. It is suggested that the interview panel will comprise Emma Powell, Chief Executive of the Centre, and two trusted sector representatives.
6. From 2 February 2026, the Centre will start approaching these people to confirm availability and identify any potential conflicts of interest. The Centre has identified back-up panellists to call on if required.

Next steps

7. Interviews will be conducted by the panel, and are expected to be completed by the middle of March 2026.
8. Once the panel has interviewed candidates, it will make recommendations for you to consider. If you agree with those recommendations, the Centre will draft a Cabinet paper seeking approval from the Appointments and Honours Committee (APH).

9. Should you have any input or feedback throughout this process, please raise this at the regular officials' meetings.
10. The proposed timeframe is shown below.

Milestone	Expected
Start contacting panellists; confirm panel	2 February 2026
Panel meet to shortlist candidates	20 February 2026
Panel to conduct interviews and refine list of preferred candidates; vetting and referee checks as necessary	12 March 2026
You will receive a Ministerial briefing with the panel's recommendations	31 March 2026
Draft Cabinet paper and go through Ministerial consultation ahead of APH approval	23 April 2026
Issue formal appointments and notify candidates in writing; make any public announcement	30 April 2026
Expected date for the first in-person meeting	29 May 2026

Appendix 1: Expressions of interest list

#	Name	Listed current occupation or most recent role
1	9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)	
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5	Caroline Herewini	Chief Executive at Te Whare Tiaki Wāhine Charitable Trust
6	9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)	
7	Chrystal Walker	Family Violence and Sexual Violence Practice Leader at Family Focus Rotorua
8	9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)	
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10	Debbs Murray	Founder, Director and Facilitator at ECLIPSE
11	9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)	
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9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)

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IN CONFIDENCE

9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)

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47 Matt Brown

Co-founder and Creative Director of She Is Not Your Rehab

48 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)

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Patricia McMurtrie

Manager and Social Worker at West Coast Women's Refuge

61 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)

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IN CONFIDENCE

62	9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)		
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79	Tony Chamberlain	Executive Trustee at Tautoko Tāne Aotearoa	
	9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)		—
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81			—
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84	9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)	—
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