

Hon Karen Chhour, Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence

Confirming shortlist of people who will be invited to interview for the Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministerial Advisory Group

Date 19 February 2026

Ref 2026/130068

Action sought

Timeframe

Agree	the shortlist of 16-20 people who will be invited to interview for the Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministerial Advisory Group	26/02/2026
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Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Phone	First
Emma Powell	Chief Executive	9(2)(a)	☒
Liz Tanielu	Chief Advisor Partnerships	9(2)(a)	
Laura Ranger	Principal Advisor	9(2)(a)	

Minister's office to complete

☐ Noted	☐ Approved	☐ Overtaken by events
☐ Referred to...		
☐ Seen	☐ Withdrawn	☐ Not seen by Minister

Minister's comments

Purpose

1. This briefing seeks your direction and asks you to approve the shortlist of 16-20 applicants who will be invited to interview for the Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministerial Advisory Group (the advisory group).

Background

2. The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention (the Centre) received 86 expressions of interest for the advisory group's eight vacancies.
3. On 22 January 2026, you received an aide-mémoire explaining next steps for the shortlisting and interviewing process (ref 2025/129159).
4. The Centre has since received further advice from the Ministry of Justice's Appointments and Specialist Functions team in the Office of Legal Counsel. 9(2)(h) further to conversations with your Office, you are now being asked to exercise Ministerial discretion and formally approve the shortlist of applicants who will be interviewed.
5. The interview panel will comprise:
 - a. Emma Powell, Chief Executive of the Centre
 - b. Dr Kim McGregor QSO, sexual violence specialist; former Executive Director of Rape Prevention Education Whakatu Mauri and former Chief Victims' Advisor 2015-2024
 - c. Alana Ruakere, Chief Executive at Tui Ora; current Chair of the Crown Response Ministerial Advisory Group and former Director of the Crown Response Unit.
6. Interviews will be conducted over three days from 10-12 March 2026. After this, the panel will provide you with advice and make recommendations for the eight appointments, including the Chair or co-Chairs. When you are comfortable with the final list, the Centre will prepare a Cabinet paper for formal endorsement by the Appointments and Honours Committee (APH).

Advice to consider when deciding the shortlist

Appointment of public servants

7. The Centre's advertisement for expressions of interest did not specify whether public servants would be eligible to sit on the advisory group; approximately five such individuals have submitted an application. The Public Service Commission (PSC) has said¹ that public servants *can* be part of advisory groups and *can* receive reimbursement for travel expenses but they must *not* receive payment under the Cabinet Fees Framework in addition to their base salary. If chosen, an individual's manager would

¹ This advice was given to Oranga Tamariki, which had an MSD employee on its Ministerial Advisory Board.

also need to approve leave for them to perform the advisory group's required duties, which might be a barrier for some.

8. While PSC's advice allows public servants to, in principle, be appointed to government advisory groups, choosing to do so will introduce additional complexity and conflicts of interest – particularly if public servants working for any of the Executive Board's member agencies were to be considered for appointment.
9. In the interests of simplicity and maintaining public confidence in the independence of the advisory group, officials recommend *against* appointing public servants. If you are interested in hearing the perspectives of public servants – for example, those in frontline roles with NZ Police or Health NZ – this information can be requested via the Executive Board. The Centre's officials are happy to support such a request outside this appointment process.

Complementary perspectives and overall group balance

10. As you're aware, advisory group appointments are made at the discretion of the appointing Minister. In exercising this discretion, you may wish to consider the applicants' individual merits as well as how their skills, qualifications, experience and perspectives would complement that of other applicants to create a balanced, effective and well-regarded advisory group.
11. To that end, names listed in the appendices have been tagged under the following categories: people with frontline experience; organisational leaders; researchers with relevant qualifications; people with lived experience of violence; and representation of diverse perspectives.
12. By way of reminder, the advisory group's main functions are to provide independent expertise, oversight and advice about family violence and sexual violence legislation, policy and strategic direction; draw from the lived experiences of victim/survivors and people who have used violence; and represent, where possible, a range of diverse communities.²

Refining the recommended longlist

13. For eight vacancies, a panel would normally conduct at least 16 interviews. Following discussions with your Office, and with regard to the skills matrix³, four officials from the Centre have separately reviewed all applications and cross-referenced those reviews to mutually agree a longlist of 25 recommendations.

² This includes groups disproportionately affected by family violence and sexual violence and/or whose needs are overlooked by traditional responses to family violence and sexual violence, Māori, women, male survivors, Pacific peoples, disabled people and tangata Whaikaha Māori, children and young people, older people, migrant and ethnic communities, and members of the LGBTQIA+ rainbow community.

³ The skills matrix is designed for help the interview panel assess candidates against the requisite skills and experience.

14. **Appendix 1** provides brief biographies for each of the recommended candidates. You are asked to identify a shortlist of 16-20 from this longlist of 25 recommended candidates and/or from the list of all other applicants.

Alternative candidates

15. **Appendix 2** lists all remaining candidates not in the recommended list, and gives key details about current or recent roles. You may wish to consider any of these alternative applicants for including on the shortlist – either in addition to or instead of people in the recommended longlist.⁴

Other matters of note

16. The shortlist you decide will determine the range of perspectives that make up the final membership. You are being asked to choose 16-20 people; interviewing fewer than 16 may reduce the panel's ability to test overall group balance, depth of expertise, and diversity of perspectives; interviewing more than 20 will exceed the panel's capacity.
17. The Official Information Act and Privacy Act apply to advice given and received during this appointment process. Depending on who the requester is, some information generated during this decision-making process could be withheld under sections 9(f)(iv) and 9(g)(i) of the Official Information Act.⁵ If individual applicants were to request information held about them under the Privacy Act, these same withholding grounds could not be applied. The Centre is mitigating associated risks with clear documentation and process, and statutory compliance; supported by the application of Ministerial discretion.

Next steps

18. Ministerial appointments are discretionary. Once you have considered the advice in this briefing, and any other information at your discretion, please confirm the shortlist of 16-20 applicants you would like to be interviewed for the advisory group.

⁴ The panel has capacity to interview 16-20 people so, if choosing 16 applicants from the recommended longlist that has 25 people, please choose no more than four alternative candidates from Appendix 2.

⁵ Respectively relating to confidentiality of advice tendered and free and frank expression.

Recommendations

20. It is recommended that you:

a. **note** the brief biographies and key details given for applicants in Appendices 1 and 2.

Noted

b. **agree** a shortlist of 16-20 people from the recommended longlist and/or from the list of all other applicants. The recommended applicants are:

Please circle
or cross out
names

- i. Matt BROWN
- ii. Debbs MURRAY
- iii. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
- iv. Caroline HEREWINI
- v. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
- vi. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
- vii. Patricia MCMURTRIE
- viii. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
- ix. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
- x. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
- xi. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
- xii. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
- xiii. Tony CHAMBERLAIN
- xiv. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
- xv. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
- xvi. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
- xvii. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
- xviii. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
- xix. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
- xx. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
- xxi. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
- xxii. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
- xxiii. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
- xxiv. Chrystal WALKER
- xxv. 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)

- c. **identify** any alternative or additional candidates in **Appendix 2** who you wish to be included on the shortlist (up to a maximum of 20 names in total):

Please list
here or
circle in
Appendix 2



Emma Powell
Chief Executive, the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention

Date: 19/02/2026

APPROVED / SEEN / NOT AGREED

Hon Karen Chhour
Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence

Date: / /2026

Appendices

Appendix 1: Recommended longlist with brief biographies

Appendix 2: All other applicants with key details

Appendix 1: Recommended longlist with brief biographies

NB: Tags are intended to support shortlisting decisions. Brief biographies are after the table.

Recommended longlist

Name	Role	9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
Matt BROWN	Co-founder and Creative Director of She Is Not Your Rehab	
Debbs MURRAY	Founder, Director and Facilitator at ECLIPSE	

9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)

Caroline HEREWINI

Chief Executive at Te Whare
Tiaki Wāhine Charitable Trust

9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)

Patricia MCMURTRIE

Manager and Social Worker at
West Coast Women's Refuge

9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)

Name	Role	9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)		

Tony CHAMBERLAIN	Executive Trustee at Tautoko Tāne Aotearoa	
9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)		

Name 9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)	Role	9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)
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Chrystal WALKER 9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)	Family Violence and Sexual Violence Practice Leader at Family Focus Rotorua
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Brief biographies for recommended longlist

Matt BROWN – 18(d)

Debbs MURRAY – 18(d)

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

Caroline HEREWINI – 18(d)

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

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

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

Patricia MCMURTRIE – 18(d)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tony CHAMBERLAIN – 18(d)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chrystal WALKER – 18(d)

18(d)

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

Appendix 2: All other applicants with key details

Name	Role	9(2)(g)(i)
9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)		

Name	Role	9(2)(g)(i)
9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)		

Name	Role	9(2)(g)(i)
9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)		

Name 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)	Role	9(2)(g)(i)
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Name	Role	9(2)(g)(i)
9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)		