

Briefing

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

Recommended appointments for the Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministerial Advisory Group

Date 19 March 2026

Ref 2026/124933

Action sought

Timeframe

Note	the recommendations made by the interview panel for membership of the Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministerial Advisory Group	As soon as practicable
Decide	up to eight people who should proceed through the appointment process, including a nominated Chair	As soon as practicable

Contact for discussion

Name	Position	Mobile	First
Cam Sherley	Chief Executive	9(2)(a)	☒
Liz Tanielu	Chief 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| ☐ Seen | ☐ Withdrawn | ☐ Not seen by Minister |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 presents the panel's recommendations following interviews with the 19 candidates you recently shortlisted for appointment to the Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministerial Advisory Group (ref 2026/130068).
2. You are now being asked to identify up to eight people for proceeding to the next stage, which is seeking final approval from the Cabinet's Appointments and Honours (APH) Committee.

Background

3. The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention (the Centre) received 86 expressions of interest for eight vacancies on the Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministerial Advisory Group (the advisory group).
4. On 19 February 2026, you confirmed the 19 applicants who would progress to interview. Interviews were conducted over three days from 10-12 March 2026.
5. The interview panel comprised:
 - a) Dr Kim McGregor QSO, sexual violence specialist; former Executive Director of Rape Prevention Education Whakatu Mauri; and former Chief Victims' Advisor (2015-2024)
 - b) Alana Ruakere, Chief Executive at Tui Ora; current Chair of the Crown Response Ministerial Advisory Group; and former Director of the Crown Response Unit
 - c) Liz Tanielu, Chief Advisor, the Centre.

Recommended candidates

6. As set out in the terms of reference, the advisory group's core functions include:
 - a) providing independent expertise, oversight and advice about family violence and sexual violence legislation, policy and strategic direction
 - b) drawing from the lived experiences of victim/survivors and people who have used violence
 - c) representing, where possible, a range of diverse communities.
7. Candidates have been assessed on their skills, experience and judgement, and their ability to contribute to a balanced, credible and effective advisory group.
8. The panel has made ten recommendations for you to consider up to eight appointments, including Chair.

9. **Appendix 1** provides brief biographies for each of the recommended candidates. ^{9(2)(g)(i)}
- i. ^{9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)}
 - ii. Debbs MURRAY (2nd recommendation for Chair)
 - iii. ^{9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)}
 - iv. Caroline HEREWINI
 - v. Tony CHAMBERLAIN
 - vi. ^{9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)}
 - vii. Matt BROWN
 - viii. Patricia MCMURTIE
 - ix. ^{9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)}
 - x. Chrystal WALKER
10. Collectively, any mixture of eight individuals from this list would provide an excellent breadth and depth of expertise across the family violence, sexual violence, child protection, and violence prevention spheres. This list includes candidates who can offer a complementary mixture of lived experience, frontline practice, policy, research, workforce development, and system leadership.
11. The list includes people who are well placed to provide survivor-centred and trauma-informed advice that is grounded in decades of experience in national advocacy, legislative and policy reform, government advisory roles, and community leadership.
12. All remaining interviewees are listed in **Appendix 2** for reference. Officials can provide detailed advice if you have questions about the selection process or individual decisions.

Appointment of the Chair

13. The role of Chair is critical to an effective advisory group, and requires someone who is an effective leader, skilled facilitator, and measured enough to navigate strongly-held differences of opinion while also ensuring diverse perspectives are heard. The Chair also acts as the primary point of contact for you as Minister.
14. During the interviews, candidates were asked whether they would be willing to take on the role of Chair. The panel has also considered whether candidates have the necessary leadership, facilitation, and engagement expertise described above.

^{9(2)(g)(i)}

15. The panel has recommended three candidates for the role of Chair. 9(2)(g)(i) they are:

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

Debbs MURRAY

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

16. Given the relatively small size of the advisory group, officials recommend choosing a single Chair rather than appointing co-Chairs.

Next steps

17. Ministerial appointments are entirely discretionary and you are now being asked to confirm the final list of names to proceed with appointment.
18. Once you have confirmed your preferences and indicated your decision about the role of Chair, officials will conduct necessary background checks and can start drafting a Cabinet paper to seek formal agreement from the APH Committee.
19. Subject to approval from the APH Committee, the advisory group's first meeting is expected to be convened in person in May 2026.

Recommendations

Officials recommend you:

1. note recommendations made by the interview panel for membership of the Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministerial Advisory Group, including for the role of Chair	Noted
2. choose up to eight people from Appendix 1 and/or Appendix 2 who should proceed through the appointment process, including the nominated Chair	Please circle names in the appendices
3. identify your preference for the role of Chair 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(b)(i)	Please write



Cam Sherley

Chief Executive, the Centre for Family Violence & Sexual Violence Prevention

Date: 19 / 03 / 2026

APPROVED / SEEN / NOT AGREED



Hon Karen Chhour

Minister for the Prevention of Family & Sexual Violence

Date: 25 / 3 / 2026

Appendices

Appendix 1: Brief biographies of recommended appointees

Appendix 2: Brief biographies of all other interviewees

Appendix 1: Brief biographies of recommended appointees

Candidates recommended for appointment, including recommended Chair

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

Name	Current role	Chair?
9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)		
Debbs MURRAY	Founder, Director and Facilitator at ECLIPSE	Yes
9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)		
Caroline HEREWINI	Chief Executive at Te Whare Tiaki Wāhine Charitable Trust	No
Tony CHAMBERLAIN	Executive Trustee at Tautoko Tāne Aotearoa	No
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	No
Patricia MCMURTRIE	Manager and Social Worker at West Coast Women's Refuge	No
9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)		
Chrystal WALKER	Family Violence and Sexual Violence Practice Leader at Family Focus Rotorua	No

Brief biographies of recommended candidates

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

18(d)

1

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

18(d)

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

Matt BROWN – Co-founder and Creative Director of She Is Not Your Rehab. Matt lives in Christchurch and launched the mental health app called InnerBoy. He has led national campaigns such as 'Love U Bro'. Matt's work focuses on trauma-informed engagement with

18(d)

es

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

18(d)

Appendix 2: Brief biographies of all other interviewees

All other candidates interviewed

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

Brief biographies of all other interviewees

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

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