

Aide-mémoire

Appointments to the Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministerial Advisory Group – Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee

Date	8 May 2026	Ref	2026/132413
To	Hon Karen Chhour, Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence		
From	Pheona Hurley, Acting Manager, Office of the Chief Executive, 9(2)(a)		
Appendices	Appendix 1: Talking Points Appendix 2: Candidate Summaries		

Purpose

1. You are attending the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee (APH) from 4.00-4.30pm on Tuesday 12 May 2026. This paper provides you with talking points and candidate summaries to support discussions regarding your paper *Appointments to the Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministerial Advisory Group*.

Background

2. On 24 October 2025, Cabinet endorsed your proposal to establish a new advisory group [refer CAB-25-MIN-0378 and SOU-25-MIN-0147]. The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention (the Centre) received 86 expressions of interest between 10 November 2025 and 16 January 2026.
3. You shortlisted 19 candidates for interview (ref 2026/129159 and 2026/130068), and the independent interview panel made 10 recommendations for you to consider (ref 2026/124933).
4. After considering those recommendations, you are proposing to appoint:
 - i. 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)
 - ii. Debra 'Debbs' MURRAY (Deputy Chair and Member)
 - iii. Matthew 'Matt' BROWN (Member)
 - iv. Peter Anthony 'Tony' CHAMBERLAIN (Member)
 - v. Caroline HEREWINI (Member)
 - vi. Patricia 'Trish' MCMURTIE (Member)
 - vii. Chystal 'Chrystal' WALKER (Member).

5. This group will provide you with high-quality, independent advice that will include policy, strategy and legislative responses to family violence and sexual violence. Advice will inform Ministerial decision-making and help build systems that support prevention, elimination, response and healing.

Ministerial consultation

6. The draft paper for APH was circulated amongst your Ministerial colleagues. This included all members of APH. No feedback was received.

Next steps

7. The table below shows key milestones to have the advisory group meeting by the end of May 2026.
8. You may wish to note your intent to publicly announce the advisory group shortly following confirmation from Cabinet.

Milestone	Date
APH considers the paper	12 May 2026
Cabinet confirms APH's decision	18 May 2026
Letters of appointment sent to successful appointees	19 May 2026
Advisory group announced / terms of appointment officially start	20 May 2026
Advisory group meets for first time	27-28 May 2026

Appendix 1: Talking points

Purpose of the paper

- I am seeking APH's noting of my intention to appoint seven members to the new Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministerial Advisory Group, including a Chair and Deputy Chair, for two-year terms (20 May 2026 to 19 May 2028).

Why an advisory group is needed

- Family violence and sexual violence remain significant issues in New Zealand, requiring strong, independent advice to inform decisions.
- The group will strengthen Ministerial decision-making by providing expert, independent, and community-informed perspectives. It complements existing advice from government agencies and the wider sector.

Role and scope of the group

- The advisory group will:
 - Provide advice on legislation, policy, and strategic direction.
 - Bring together lived experience, sector expertise, and insights from communities.
 - Highlight system issues, emerging risks, and opportunities for improvement.
 - Offer a long-term view on prevention, response, and elimination.
 - Operate independently, with advice informing but not directing Ministerial decisions.

Appointments and capability

- I have selected proposed appointees that bring a mix of expertise across frontline services, advocacy, lived experience, and system leadership.
- Proposed members have expertise in areas such as victim/survivor support, working with people who use violence, kaupapa Māori services, and rural/community service delivery.
- The proposed membership provides diverse perspectives, including communities disproportionately affected by family violence and sexual violence.
- The group is designed to be small but balanced, able to reflect a range of perspectives within limited membership. The group can also consult with other relevant experts and groups as needed.

Appointment process and integrity

- We have followed a robust and transparent process, led by the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention. This included:
 - 86 expressions of interest received
 - 19 candidates shortlisted and interviewed
 - 10 recommended by an independent interview panel
 - 7 selected for appointment
- Standard probity checks have been completed, including declarations, referees, and criminal record checks. Members must declare and manage conflicts of interest.

Costs and value

- The advisory group has been designed as a cost-effective way to improve decision quality, and will be funded from within existing baseline funding, with a capped operating budget of \$100,000 per year. Fees are aligned with the Cabinet Fees Framework (Chair \$825 per day; Members \$680 per day).

Governance and accountability

- The group is independent and confidential, with advice provided directly to me as Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence.
- Secretariat support will be provided by the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention.

Closing

- The appointments reflect a credible, balanced, and experienced group that will support better-informed decisions and strengthen the Government's response to family violence and sexual violence.
- Once approved, I intend to issue a statement announcing these appointments, and for the advisory group to meet shortly thereafter.

Appendix 2: Candidate Summaries

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

18(d)

18(d)

18(d)

IN CONFIDENCE