

In Confidence

Office of the Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence

Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee

Appointments to the Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministerial Advisory Group

Proposal

- 1 This paper outlines my intention to make seven appointments to the new Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministerial Advisory Group (the advisory group).
- 2 I am proposing appointments of:
 - 2.1 **9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)**
 - 2.2 Debra ‘Debbs’ MURRAY (Deputy Chair and Member)
 - 2.3 Matthew ‘Matt’ BROWN (Member)
 - 2.4 Peter Anthony ‘Tony’ CHAMBERLAIN (Member)
 - 2.5 Caroline HEREWINI (Member)
 - 2.6 Patricia ‘Trish’ MCMURTIE (Member)
 - 2.7 Chystal ‘Chrystal’ WALKER (Member).
- 3 These are inaugural appointments to the advisory group and the terms will be for two years; from 20 May 2026 to 19 May 2028.
- 4 I attach the completed organisation form and summaries of the candidates’ curricula vitae for the Committee’s consideration as **Appendices 1 and 2**.

Background

- 5 In October 2025, the Cabinet endorsed my proposal to create a new advisory group.¹ Cabinet approved up to eight members, and this paper seeks appointments for seven of these vacancies.
- 6 This advisory group will provide me with independent expertise and advice about family violence and sexual violence in my capacity as Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence.

¹ CAB-25-MIN-0378 and SOU-25-MIN-0147.

- 7 As set out in the terms of reference, the advisory group's core functions include:
- 7.1 providing independent expertise, oversight and advice about family violence and sexual violence legislation, policy and strategic direction
 - 7.2 drawing from the lived experiences of victim/survivors and people who have used violence
 - 7.3 representing, where possible, a range of diverse communities.
- 8 Appointments to this advisory group are at my discretion. This advisory group is not governed by any particular legislation nor subject to particular external requirements.

Comment

- 9 The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention (the Centre) received 86 expressions of interest to join this advisory group. Expressions of interest were received from a wide variety of demographics, including those disproportionately affected by violence and from cohorts that are often overlooked. I shortlisted 19 candidates to progress to interview.
- 10 The panel made ten recommendations for me to consider, and I have selected a final list of seven for appointment. These candidates have been assessed on their skills, experience, diversity, judgement, and their ability to work effectively as a balanced, credible and effective advisory group.
- 11 The Centre has conducted the usual probity checks, which includes seeking statutory declarations from all applicants,² speaking with referees, and checking criminal records. This process did not reveal information that would jeopardise any appointments.

Candidates

- 12 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)
- 13 Debra 'Debbs' MURRAY (Deputy Chair/Member) – Founder, Director, and Facilitator of ECLIPSE Family Violence Services. Debbs has contributed to analysis, design, and workforce development across government and community sectors. Debbs has relevant qualifications in psychology and trauma studies.
- 14 Matthew 'Matt' BROWN (Member) – Co-founder and Creative Director of the anti-violence movement 'She Is Not Your Rehab'. Matt has created and facilitated a barbering programme in men's prisons. His work focuses on trauma-informed engagement with men (particularly Māori, Pasifika, and men from marginalised communities) to disrupt intergenerational violence.

² The declaration asked about citizenship/residence status, criminal convictions, bankruptcy, disciplinary investigations or proceedings, professional disqualifications, financial security, and tax default or debt.

- 15 Peter Anthony ‘Tony’ CHAMBERLAIN (Member) – Executive Trustee and Pou Whakahaere at Tautoko Tāne Aotearoa. Tony has more than a decade of experience in sexual violence policy, strategy and advocacy, including a specific focus on male survivors of sexual violence.
- 16 Caroline HEREWINI (Member) – Kaiwhakahaere (Chief Executive) of Te Whare Tiaki Wāhine Refuge. Caroline has experience developing trauma-informed kaupapa Māori services, services for crisis intervention, emergency housing and long-term support for wāhine Māori and their whānau.
- 17 Patricia ‘Trish’ MCMURTRIE (Member) – Manager of the West Coast Women’s Refuge. 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i) her career has included frontline advocacy, service development, and rural service delivery. She is a registered social worker.
- 18 Chystal ‘Chrystal’ WALKER (Member) – Family Violence and Sexual Violence Community Practice Leader at Family Focus. Chrystal is an active leader of local multi-agency responses, and contributes to workforce development, education and survivor-centred practice. She is a registered social worker and has a relevant post-graduate diploma.
- 19 Please see **Appendices 1 and 2** for more details.

Representativeness of appointments

- 20 My advisory needs are best met by a small group of experts who can represent a broad range of perspectives; to the extent that seven people can reflect the rich diversity of New Zealand’s population. I am satisfied the proposed appointments are well balanced and cover a range of perspectives, including lived experience from communities most affected by family violence and/or sexual violence. This will be supported by wider engagement as required.
- 21 Members have been chosen for their family violence and sexual violence expertise, including lived experience of violence, grassroots advocacy, clinical qualifications, service design skills, trauma-informed practice (including with victim/survivors and people who use violence), and organisational leadership. All appointees are well-regarded in their respective fields.

Remuneration

- 22 Remuneration has been assessed in line with the Cabinet Fees Framework and this advisory group falls within Level 3, Group 4 being ‘all other committees and bodies’.
- 23 I propose the Chair be paid \$825 per day and members receive \$680 per day. I will also be nominating a Deputy Chair who will perform those duties if the Chair is unavailable. On any such days, the Deputy Chair will be paid at the Chair’s rate.
- 24 I expect the group to meet at least once per quarter and no more than every two months. Remuneration for 1.5 days per meeting will cover meeting attendance and necessary preparation, which equates to annual remuneration for at least six days and no more than nine days.

- 25 Members will be reimbursed for actual and reasonable travel, meal and accommodation costs when meetings are held in person.
- 26 Fees and other expenses will be funded from the Centre's baseline appropriation as set out in SOU-25-MIN-0147.

Appointment process and consultation

- 27 I can confirm that a robust appointment process has been followed to select the proposed appointees; in line with the Public Service Commission appointment guidelines. This included seeking expressions of interest via public advertising; writing to coalition Chiefs of Staff and the main opposition spokespeople for this portfolio; reviewing curricula vitae, interviewing a comprehensive longlist, conducting probity checks, and discussing matters with officials and my advisors.
- 28 In drafting this paper, I have sought feedback from Ministerial colleagues within the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee.
- 29 This process appropriately reflects my intention to find a small group of experts who can represent family violence and sexual violence perspectives.

Conflicts of interest

- 30 The advisory group's terms of reference require members to declare any conflicts of interest before each meeting and take any appropriate mitigating measures. Ahead of the first meeting, members will be asked to declare any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest. At the start of every subsequent meeting, members will be asked to confirm or update that initial declaration. Any conflicts that arise will be recorded by the Centre's secretariat and managed in a proportionate and appropriate way. For example, members may recuse themselves from certain discussions.
- 31 Please see paragraph 11 for confirmation regarding probity checks.

Communications

- 32 Once the Committee and Cabinet has endorsed these appointments, I will write to each person confirming the terms of their appointment. After appointees have been notified, I will issue a press statement. I expect this to happen swiftly once Cabinet endorses the Committee's decision.

Recommendation

33 I recommend the Committee note my intention to:

33.1 make **seven appointments** to my Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministerial Advisory Group for two-year terms:

- i. 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i)
- ii. Debra ‘Debbs’ MURRAY
- iii. Matthew ‘Matt’ BROWN
- iv. Peter Anthony ‘Tony’ CHAMBERLAIN
- v. Caroline HEREWINI
- vi. Patricia ‘Trish’ MCMURTIE
- vii. Chystal ‘Chrystal’ WALKER.

33.2 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i)

33.3 assign Debra ‘Debbs’ MURRAY the role of **Deputy Chair** to perform such duties if the Chair is unavailable.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Karen Chhour

Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence