

What We Have Understood – He aha ta mātau

National Strategy and Action Plans to eliminate family violence and sexual violence



Eliminating family violence and sexual violence

Summary 3 : 9 June and 30 June

This paper provides a summary of submissions received between 9 June and 30 June 2021. Submissions were made through hui discussions, the Citizen Space website, emails and postcards. While engagement ended on 30 June, some submissions are still being processed and have not been included in this update. This update does not come to any conclusions about what should or should not be included in the National Strategy and Action Plans.

Quotes for ‘what we have heard’ were selected as representative of a range of submissions received between 9 June and 30 June. These quotes are the voice of contributors. They have not been edited or selected to reflect any government views.

If there are ideas in this summary that you agree with, or disagree with, please take the opportunity to provide that feedback by emailing submissions@violencefree.govt.nz

| Focus | What We Have Heard | What We Have Understood | Summary |
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| <p>Vision: Our vision is for the end of family violence and sexual violence in Aotearoa New Zealand – so that people are safe, well, and thriving</p> <p>This can only occur when there is a significant increase in prevention and when tangata whenua and communities have the power to lead solutions that meet their needs and aspirations</p> | <p>Marginalised/minority groups need to be named in strategy ie rainbow people with disabilities. Recognition of the different communities and the unique ways SVFV manifests. Specific communities need to be named or they will be forgotten in the process. [H/R]</p> <p>...inclusion of ‘across the life span’ [is needed in] the proposed vision. Family violence and sexual violence occur across the life span from young to old. Elder abuse is seen to be increasing in New Zealand... [H/O]</p> <p>We suggest adding the following words to the vision...”This can only occur when</p> | <p>Many submissions suggested wording changes to better reflect their communities and/or the dynamics and experience of FV and/or SV in their communities.[All]</p> | <p>Generally positive feedback was received on the vision.</p> |

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| | <p>there is a significant increase in prevention, the rights of marginalised people are upheld, all forms of structural oppression and discrimination are actively dismantled... [H/D]</p> <p>Change the vision to focus on what we want to see (ie safe, thriving, loving families), not what we don't want to see (family and sexual violence). [H/P]</p> <p>All people of Aotearoa New Zealand are safe, well and thriving, free of family violence and sexual violence. We would like to see the National Strategy lead with a positive vision for all and we believe that where there is wellbeing, it is unlikely that there will be family and sexual violence. [H/SV]</p> <p>"I think it's a great vision. Two things that I would love to see reflected is the acknowledgement that most violence happens against women and gender minorities- this hasn't been specifically</p> | <p>Some submissions agreed that the wording should be more positive and/or strengths-based. [H/P/FV/SV/ERM/O/R]</p> <p>Submissions were mixed about the inclusion of gender in the vision and/or a gendered analysis. [H/FV/SV/ERM/D/O/R/Y]</p> | |
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| | <p>stated by the government in the past.” [V/ERM/Y]</p> <p>Discourse needs to be less gendered. Narrative that men do to violence to women can be counter productive. Power analysis is central to all of this work. [H/R]</p> <p>“We remain disappointed that male survivors (again) remain invisible in another government endorsed publication. We view the...focus on gender-based violence as being unhelpful and discriminatory.” [SV]</p> <p>One of the other suggestions was that whānau/family should be at the centre of the strategy. From primary prevention to early intervention to crisis response, everything that we do should always be centred around building the wellbeing of whānau. It was also noted that there is little to no mention of children in the strategy documents. Children are often the hidden victims in the family violence space, as we know that children are present at the majority of family violence</p> | <p>Some submissions thought the voice of children should be more prominent in the vision and/or strategy. [H/FV/SV/D/Y]</p> | |
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| | <p>incidences and yet most will not receive any follow-up support or intervention. This can then perpetuate the cycle of abuse and trauma.[H/FV]</p> <p>“I strongly feel that hands are very inappropriate as the creative...Hands cause a lot of this damage so for me is more triggering than helpful.” [V/P]</p> <p>If you can't read English and see the picture they will be confused especially the cross can be misconstrued. [H/EMR]</p> <p>the draft vision...does not go far enough. The real challenge will be identifying and implementing the steps needed to achieve that outcome. The reality is that ending family violence (FV) and sexual violence (SV) in Aotearoa will take significant resource, political will, and collective commitment across society.[H/D]</p> | <p>Some submissions referenced the visual representations in the Strategy engagement material – all comments were negative. [H/TW/M/O/V/P]</p> <p>Many submissions raised concerns about how the vision would be implemented and measured [All]</p> | |
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| | Aspirational statements strike fear in my heart and we need to include realistic concrete action plans. [H/FV/SV/TW] | | |
| <p>Principle 1: Oranga whānau The safety and wellbeing of people, families, whānau, communities is at the centre of all we, as a country, do</p> | <p>“I would agree with them but frankly it's probably going to be an "all talk no do" sort of thing.” [V/D/Y]</p> <p>“Often people forget that they must also demonstrate these principles and just not expect them to be maintained by others.” [O/D]</p> | <p>As with the Vision, many submissions expressed concerns about how and/or whether the principles would be implemented. [H/V/R/EMR/TW/O/D/Y]</p> <p>Many submissions noted that guidance was required on how to interpret the principles. [H/V/EMR/TW/R]</p> | Views on the principles were mixed. |
| <p>Principle 2: Mauri ora Partnerships and the empowerment of tangata whenua, communities, whānau, and families</p> | <p>“These are all great principles, but they are very much open to interpretation, especially when using words like equity, inclusion and empowerment, and phrases such as healthy relationships and whanau ora. It will be critical that the meaning and particular perspectives at play are made explicit as the strategy develops. Language matters, and the words we use to describe specific concepts play a huge role in shaping how these are or can be utilized.” [V/R]</p> | | |
| <p>Principle 3: Healthy relationships Relationships are based on mutual respect and the mana of everyone involved</p> | | | |
| <p>Principle 4: Equitable and inclusive approaches To ensure that people are free from discrimination, receive culturally informed support, and</p> | | | |

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| <p>have their inherent dignity and mana upheld</p> | <p>“I think as long as there are clear guidelines on what the principles look like then they can work. For example healthy relationships and equity may be subjective depending on the person.”[V/EMR]</p> <p>“...the principles are good, but I think you need to specifically mention tamariki and mokopuna in Oranga Whanau, they otherwise become the forgotten voice.” [Y]</p> <p>“Oranga whanau – the safety and well-being of children, people, families, whanau, communities is at the centre of all we do.” [SV]</p> <p>“Accessibility is at the heart of equity.” [V/O/Y]</p> <p>..the words accessible and inclusive are not synonyms. Failure to provide basic accessibility is as much of a barrier to accessing support as how disabled people are treated while accessing</p> | <p>Submissions were mixed about what was missing from the principles, though there was some agreement that they needed to be more child-focused, particularly Principle 1. [V/R/TW/SV/Y]</p> <p>Some submissions ranked Principle 4 as the strongest and/or most important principle and linked it to the concept of accessibility – physically, culturally and linguistically. [V/O/Y/H/P/ERM/D]</p> | |
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| | support. We suggest rewording principle 4 to read “Equitable, inclusive, and accessible approaches. [H/D] | | |
| Wellness | Wellbeing is likely to have slightly different meanings for different communities and it will be important for the National Strategy to accommodate this. However, it is generally recognised that wellbeing has a number of dimensions. Te Whare Tapa Whā describes four dimensions of hauora, including taha tinana (physical wellbeing), taha hinengaro (mental and emotional wellbeing), taha whānau (social wellbeing) and taha wairua (spiritual wellbeing), which are all interlinked and necessary for overall health. If we accept the premise that hurt people hurt people, is it not reasonable to think that cared for people care for people? [H/SV] | Numerous submissions commented that the elimination of FV and SV could be achieved through focusing on wellbeing.[H/SV/P/UV/D/TW] | Comments about taking a ‘wellness approach’ to eliminate FV and SV were made in Focus Area #1, Focus Area #5 and Focus Area #6. These comments were sometimes related to the theme of ‘addressing wider issues to prevent FV and SV’, which is discussed in Focus Area #5. |
| Focus Area #1: Recognise te ao Māori Whaimana tea o Māori | “The focus area identified represents a single focus for a single group of people in NZ and in doing so excludes others by suggesting the experience of violence by other groups are not as severe and therefore don't warrant recognition.” [V] | There were some submissions that expressed concerns about the inclusivity and/or meaning of this focus area. [V/H/EMR/R] | In general, most submissions were in support of a stronger Te Ao Māori approach to eliminate FV and SV in New Zealand, especially for Māori. |

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| | <p>We need more clarity about what this means in reality (practice) before endorsing it. [H/ERM]</p> <p>“[We need] a break away from British and other Western standards, and the creation of a bespoke Aotearoa way grounded in Te ao Māori.” [V/EMR]</p> <p>What works for Māori works for everyone. [H/R]</p> <p>“... would be great if the strategy was stronger on pushing for the application of Te Ao Māori influenced principles across the board in Aotearoa. It can come across as only being applicable for Māori, which can disconnect non-Māori. It’s understood that there may be push-back on this but if the strategy is to be future-proofed and continue in the trajectory of honouring and infusing Te Tiriti, we should have a national strategy that clearly encourages all communities to adopt principles that are based in mataraunga Māori.”</p> | <p>However, many submissions thought a Te ao Māori approach was necessary to eliminating FV and SV in New Zealand and would benefit all New Zealanders. [H/R/V/EMR/D/SV]</p> | <p>Insights from submissions made through tangata whenua hui have not been included in this summary – a parallel tangata whenua insights process is underway. Most comments from tangata whenua in this focus area are via Citizen space submissions.</p> |
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| | <p>“I believe the foundation of any strategy needs to be grounded in acknowledging our past history and how the impact of colonisation is inter-generational and how unhealed trauma is a substantial part of what we are experiencing in our society today.”</p> <p>“Our Māori culture protects us and also amplifies our value as positive, important, to be protected and nurtured. Colonisation stripped these from us and replaced it with 'imposter' tikanga that Tamati Kruger refers too which are not our own cultural values but inherited from Western colonial concepts and values of that time which was not valuing of women or children but instead hugely abusive, and toxic masculinity, ego and eurocentric ideologies. Today my Māori culture is my protector, my reo is my protector, our karakia, our tikanga protects me and our whanau... Indigenous cultures such as Māori have so much positive values, beliefs and tikanga that our cultures could literally heal the world, and heal family violence and sexual violence for all peoples.” [TW/V/P]</p> | <p>Some submissions noted that the impacts of colonisation needed to be acknowledged, and/or that the key to future whanau and community healing and wellness was in Māori culture. [H/SV/TW/V/P/R/O]</p> | |
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| | <p>“Stronger representation of tangata whenua in decision making and leadership roles at all levels asap.” [R]</p> <p>“Pākeha need to hand over the control / funding to Māori who have the wisdom and competency to lead the initiatives. We have been doing what we're doing for decades now and the mental health / social service sectors are the worst it's ever been.”</p> | <p>To achieve this focus area, submissions suggested that tangata whenua needed more decision-making powers and more/continued funding for kaupapa Māori services. [R/TW/V/P/EMR/D/Y/UV/FV]</p> | |
| <p>Focus Area #2: Bring government responses together Whakapiri ngā mahi o te kāwanatanga</p> | <p>"Not having to ring 3 or 4 different agencies to get help would be helpful. It's currently like you are hitting your head against brick walls at every turn and no one wants to listen or stand up for you." [V/D/Y]</p> <p>“We need to see government agencies genuinely working together, from the same play book, so that whanau (whatever this might look like) seeking help are getting a safe and consistent, victim-focused, non-victim-blaming, compassionate response - whether that be from Police, MSD, ACC, the Courts, Oranga Tamariki or Immigration,</p> | <p>Submissions expressed strong support for government to act in a less siloed way. [All]</p> | <p>Comments made in this focus area overlapped with comments in Focus Area #3. The theme of ‘Government funding and contracting’ was particularly common to both focus areas. To avoid repetition, this theme has just been noted under this focus area.</p> |

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| | <p>preferably without having to share their story multiple times.” [V/R]</p> <p>“We also need to see all Members of Parliament working together on this issue, just as their respective agencies must. This is not an issue that will be resolved if our approach changes every time the government.” [V/R]</p> <p>Takes bravery from government to take long-term approaches. How to get cross party consensus on change - how do we (sector) ensure the work is not all dismantled with a change of government. All governments will agree on ending FVSV but the way to go about it and drivers to focus on changes with parties. One govt looks at social investment, one party looks at tax cuts – we need community and government buy in so that it is politically unacceptable to take away funding from the actions of the Strategy. [H/FV/SV]</p> | <p>Some submissions also referenced the need for greater long-term collaboration and accountability by government. [H/FV/SV/V/R]</p> | |
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| | <p>“Review Oranga Tamariki. Properly. More social workers and a better service model...how it is that the response times on reports of concern can improve with the same amount of staff, same service model, and same number of reports being made - how is that possible now if it wasn't possible before?” [V/Y]</p> <p>People feel a lot of mistrust with government departments...due to their historic treatment of rainbow people. [H/R/Y]</p> <p>Government responses have to have one message - that they are inclusive and friendly places to go, but at the moment accessing services is difficult because people do not trust. [H]</p> <p>“Our clients often feel more comfortable disclosing harm to our Whānau Support Workers than they do to Police and other government agencies. This trust is essential in order to encourage reporting, to access services, and to prevent escalation.” [V]</p> | <p>Specific reviews of police and/or Oranga Tamariki were requested in some submissions. Often this was related to issues of trust. [H/SV/V/Y/D/R]</p> | |
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| | <p>When the budget announcements are made, agencies can only spend the money they receive on the projects they were approved for. This means agencies find it difficult to spend their budgets on projects or initiatives they weren't approved to fund, or which don't fall under the pools of money which projects could be allocated to...Need sustainable multi-year funding – need to look at funding with a generational lens, not a political cycle lens. [H/FV/SV]</p> <p>So much time is spent applying and reporting to a range of government departments, it would be so much easier if it could be done just once. One application, one contract, one report, one audit. [H]</p> <p>In our work we had contracts with three different government agencies – they worked very differently and had different expectations. Some wanted us to get on with prevention work straight away, but we know that it takes a few months of surveying, understanding the environment and understanding needs before we can</p> | <p>The need longer-term and/or more aligned Government funding, contracting and reporting models is mentioned in numerous submissions. [All]</p> | |
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| | <p>design the right kind of prevention approach. Government needs to better align and understand prevention. [H/FV/SV]</p> <p>“MHA [Mental Health and Addiction] NGOs are faced with a difficult situation when a client comes forward and says they are experiencing violence. They either do the work that they are not funded to do or have to refer the person on to a family violence service, despite having built up enough trust for the person to open up to them... A fully integrated system would recognise the need to support MHA.” [TW/P]</p> <p>Until we work in both Government and NGO sectors then you can't understand the issues that each other faces. We just need to get on board, have some whakawhanaungatanga and work together. [H/FV]</p> <p>At national level there seems to be a growing awareness of the power of genuine collaborative endeavour - not so</p> | <p>Many submissions noted that Government and NGOs, especially at service delivery level, need to collaborate better and/or more. [All]</p> | |
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| | <p>much at the service delivery level. This is where things really need to change if the lives of whanau are to improve.” [V/R]</p> <p>The consumer needs to be able to understand how to access services. This can only happen if all NGO's interaction are around the table with govt officials. [H/ERM/O]</p> | | |
| <p>Focus Area #3: Recognise tangata whenua leadership and community-led approaches Hāpaitia te mana ō tangata whenua me kaupapa Māori</p> | <p>There is currently no statutory organisation or safeguarding adults framework that supports different agencies to work together to protect adults between the ages of 18 years and 64 years, who because of their care and support needs may be at risk of abuse and neglect. [H/D]</p> <p>...we don't have a specific ministry or department that is in charge of our wellbeing. Rainbow communities are just as diverse as the rest of the population - a one size fits all approach might not work for all of us. ...It's hard for rainbow communities to feel heard by government when people with hateful and transphobic</p> | <p>Many communities noted their specific lack of representation at a governance and/or statutory level and/or service level. [H/R/Y/D/P]</p> | <p>There was strong agreement that the Government should recognise and better support community-led approaches.</p> |

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| | <p>views continue to be employed and platformed. [H/R/Y]</p> <p>There are no Pacific providers, so Ngati Kahu is a preferred service as they have Pacific staff. [H/P]</p> <p>Leadership must come from communities and from whanau – Government, NGOs, specialist agencies, – they are enablers of change, but if communities and whanau don't lead this then we won't be able to see change. [H/FV]</p> <p>Disabled people propose a twin track for prevention of, and response to, violence against disabled people...A twin-track approach is about making sure mainstream services and supports are inclusive of, and accessible to, us and that services and supports that are specific to us as disabled people are also available. This approach is not about having to choose between the specific or mainstream option; rather it is about having the right access to the right high quality support or service, at the right time</p> | <p>Many submissions noted that community-led approaches are needed for changes to occur and/or gaps to be addressed. Some submissions also made the additional point that Government needed to support these approaches, but also continue to provide 'mainstream' services so that people had choices. [All]</p> | |
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| | <p>and in the right place...A twin track approach must be named (and defined) in the strategy. [H/D]</p> <p>“In small communities with high Māori populations, many Māori prefer to get support from mainstream services because too many of their relatives work for the Iwi or Māori services...Be aware that not all Māori, want support from Māori services, it should be an option, there should always be choice.” [TW/V]</p> <p>“Services that support disabled people and are led by disabled people themselves. Don't just ‘actively consult disabled people...’ - they should be at the table, writing policy with their voices heard as loudly as anyone else’s.” [V/EMR/R/D]</p> <p>“Engage with the whole country, and bring people into decision-making roles that are willing to listen and change the way government contract services.” [V/P/Y]</p> | <p>Many submissions noted that communities already knew what worked best for their own, so Government needed to be more active about consulting and bringing them into decision-making. [All]</p> | |
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| | <p>“Consult community providers about what they already do and what is lacking, don't re-invent the wheel.”</p> <p>“Hurt people hurt others. If we can address the hurt safely, then those whom are hurting will deal with their trauma. We need safe ways to re integrate those whom have perpetrated and these ways be interwoven with the community.” [TW/V/P]</p> <p>...why do guys need to go through the court to access the funding to attend a Living without Violence course or get access to restorative justice – conversations need to be had.” Women call Police in the first instance and then face the unintended long-term consequences of husbands having a criminal record. Need other options that can help us. [H/P]</p> <p>The bar is set very high regarding an offender's eligibility for treatment for sexual violence offending. All offenders should be eligible for harmful sexual</p> | <p>Healing and alternative pathways for treatment and restoration require better funding and services for (potential) users of violence. [H/D/TW/V/P/SV/V]</p> | |
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| | <p>behaviour programmes irrespective of the sentence received. We need to have effective processes in place that hold abusers accountable and rehabilitate their behaviours. Such programmes have to be widely available, well resourced and culturally appropriate. We cannot eliminate family violence and sexual violence unless those who perpetrate or are at risk of perpetrating have easy access to effective support services. [H/SV]</p> | | |
| <p>Focus Area #4: Strengthen workforces to prevent and respond to family violence and sexual violence Whakakaha i te hunga mahi ki te autaki me te whakautu ki te tūkinu whānau</p> | <p>“Training for those working with people in the area of Domestic Violence is ad hoc. It would be good to see a certificate and a body established to provide supervision for those working in the domestic violence area.”</p> <p>Recognise that everyone – across all sectors, need to have a level of qualification and specialisation to work with victims of violence and people who cause harm. This must be mandated and enforced. [H/D]</p> | <p>Many submissions agreed that specialist FV and SV workforces required more formal qualifications and supervision structures. [V/P/Y/D/R]</p> | <p>There was general agreement that workforces required more/better training, and that increasing service quality and capability needed Government funding.</p> |

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| | <p>Practitioners are consistently reporting on the increasing complexity of the clients that they are working with, and therefore they are keen to further their professional development in order to improve their practice. However, there is a lack of consistency across the country in terms of access to training, as well as issues around cost and being able to take time off for professional development. Practitioners need to be able to access regular, free / low-cost, local trainings on key topics including trauma-informed care, tikanga Māori, cultural responsiveness, mental health, substance abuse, strangulation, child abuse and neglect, and more. [H/FV]</p> <p>Developing trainings and resources for people who work outside of the SV and FV sector, but are likely to have to deal with disclosures, recognising concerning and harmful sexual behaviours and ideation e.g., teachers, nurses, GP's, corrections officers.” [V/P/Y]</p> | <p>Many submissions emphasised that training needed to cover FV and SV-specific information and wider issues, especially those related to cultural competency and diverse communities. [H/FV/SV/D/O/EMR]</p> <p>Many submissions noted training was also needed for some ‘frontline’ workers, especially, teachers, police and health professionals, and also government officials. [All]</p> | |
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| | <p>“Clinicians are clear that they need more training and support in child sexual assault and, without that support, gaps appear in services.” [SV]</p> <p>In order to make real change, a child centred approach must be taken which requires key professionals, who, through their occupation, have direct, and in some cases substantial, contact with children and young people, to be adequately trained to identify the signs of family violence and respond accordingly.[H/Y] When we are talking about the workforce, this needs to be embedded in government departments as much as the social sector. [H/D]</p> <p>“More money is absolutely needed to increase the quality of training for professionals, and the ability for them to continue to upskill beyond qualification levels. Most helping professionals undergo expensive qualification where they are expected to work for free as a part of training, whilst also paying for private supervision above and beyond</p> | <p>More government funding is required to support training, ensure service quality and capability, especially for smaller providers. [H/D/SV/V/EMR/R/]</p> | |
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| | <p>their course costs. If they work for NGOs then they are often on very low pay rates, and further professional development opportunities, particularly in specialized subjects are extremely expensive. This does not encourage a specialized workforce, nor encourage a high level of quality of services”.</p> <p>Small service providers don't have the funding for service/quality managers. There's no funding for improving the quality of a service. [H/D]</p> <p>“Scope and strengthen existing tools and training and develop a strategic workforce capability plan. Urgent investment in and building of the capacity and capabilities in the sexual violence workforce. We are currently experiencing increased demand and record high waitlists for our services, and our workforce issue is having a real impact on the ability for survivors to access support and overall wellbeing.” [SV]</p> | | |
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| <p>Focus Area #5: Increase the focus on prevention Whakanui i te arotahinga ki te aukati</p> | <p>“Bring healthy relationships, compassion and empathy into the centre of the national curriculum - in a mandatory sense. This cannot be voluntary or left up to school Boards of Trustees or Principals.” [V/R]</p> <p>“Educating our young people about healthy relationships and how to get help. Providing them with tools to break the cycle. More emphasis in our curriculum, esp. in primary school, start there and then again in high school.” [O]</p> <p>“Continued prioritisation of post-natal care as this is key in the early identification and primary prevention of a myriad of difficulties including sexual harm. Parenting training (free) for all families to provide basic information around parenting, which then builds a solid foundation for information around the more complex issues such as family harm and other risk issues. This could be attached or linked in with ante-natal classes and/or Wellchild involvement and/or preschool checks- so that you</p> | <p>The most common theme across submissions was educating children, particularly about healthy relationships, as a key aspect of prevention and intergenerational change. [All]</p> <p>Many submissions also noted the importance of providing better support and education to (new) parents as a preventative measure. [All]</p> | <p>The most common theme across all submissions was the education of children. Comments were made on this theme in all focus areas, but the education of children has just been referenced in this focus area to avoid repetition. Most other themes in this focus area also overlapped with comments made in Focus Area #6.</p> |
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| | <p>have access to as many parents as possible. Normalise parenting education for all not just vulnerable whānau and thereby take the stigma out of this education.” [SV]</p> <p>“I’m not confident that everyone in my community would know how to recognise the signs of an unhealthy relationship/ abuse, or would have confidence to take action, or would know where to go if they wanted to report something.” [V/R]</p> <p>TV and media ads are needed. These give people strategies, permission and education so they know who to call and what to do. [H]</p> <p>What needs to happen first for ethnic communities is to raise awareness...and educate in particular the first generation migrants. Many of them are not familiar about the concept of “violence” though they may have heard of “violence”, but do not fully understand the definition of violence. [H/ERM/O]</p> | <p>Submissions noted the importance of public awareness campaigns and/or education on how to identify and respond to FV and SV. [All]</p> | |
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| | <p>When I think about primary prevention, our whole country needs to change. Every layer, at every level. This includes parents, professionals, kids - because everyone is on a journey. If we only concentrate on the providers, it's not enough. We need layer upon layer upon layer. It needs to be the team of 5 million. [H/SV/TW]</p> <p>“More resources directed at men to help them to challenge other men when they see / hear things that are not ok. Men tell me they feel ok to step in and challenge when it is overt, but not when it is "locker room" talk etc, but many recognise the harm this causes by continuing to promote and condone these views in society.” [V/EMR/R/D]</p> <p>The strategy documents do not make reference to the underlying issues that contribute to family violence and sexual violence. These issues include mental health, housing, poverty, drugs, and alcohol. The elimination of FV and SV will require large-scale societal change</p> | <p>Many submissions also noted that raising public awareness was vital as societal change is needed to eliminate FV and SV. [All]</p> <p>Many submissions also linked prevention to addressing wider issues. [H/SV/D/O/EMR/UV/V]</p> | |
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| | <p>across sectors, and therefore the strategy needs to reflect the complexity of the issue. [H/SV]</p> <p>...a national strategy to eliminate family violence and sexual violence will only be as useful as its ability to substantially inform more peripheral legislation that directly impacts on the upstream risk factors such as alcohol abuse, underage drinking, poverty, poor mental health, and aggressive juvenile offending...[H]</p> | | |
| <p>Focus Area #6: Develop ways for government to create changes Whakawhanake ngā mahi o te kawanatanga ā tōna wā</p> | <p>Court systems need to be revamped – especially for children (and child witnesses). It comes down to “he said, she said” – the system is flawed. There are also big delays in our court systems. [H/SV/Y]</p> <p>“For some bizzare reason you can legitimately apply for shared custody of tamariki whilst you are going through separate current charges within the criminal court for serious assault against the partner and the children. It is such a ridget process for whanau. That take far too long. Children need to be protected</p> | <p>Many submissions called for justice system and/or court reform to better support those who have experienced violence, particularly children. [All]</p> | <p>There were many diverse views shared in this focus area, particularly around specific legislative and/or policy changes Government needed to make to address FV and SV.</p> |

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| | <p>and if someone has assaulted their mother they can be a very significant risk to the children.” [TW/V/P]</p> <p>The Criminal justice reforms and proposed alternative trials processes for sexual violence offending was comprehensively researched and addressed in 2012 by the Law Commission. These need to go back on the table for consideration. [H/SV]</p> <p>“Scrap having juries on SV trials and introduce the inquisitorial style of court rather than the current adversarial style. The Law Commission have made recommendations since the late 1990s on these 2 issues”. [V]</p> <p>How is it that a court will: order supervised access but allow the supervisee to dictate the terms of that supervision; issue parenting access orders without stipulating days and times, thereby expecting couples where there has been family and sexual violence to</p> | <p>Some submissions specifically referenced Law Commission recommendations (inquisitorial versus legal processes, the roles of juries, the need for written judicial decisions) as providing a basis for reform. [H/SV/V]</p> <p>Many submissions noted the need for mandatory FVSV training for all court personnel to address issues. [H/SV/FV/V/Y]</p> | |
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| | <p>negotiate and work this out between themselves; order the counselling of children to stop without any consultation with the therapist to gain an understanding of what is occurring within that therapy? This latter example shows no respect for the professionals and professionalism within our sector....Judges and lawyers, particularly those who act as lawyer for child, should participate regularly in professional development around family and sexual violence to gain a thorough understanding of these issues and to keep up to date on developments. This should not be optional. [H/SV]</p> <p>“There needs to be more counselling options/courses for children and adults whose lives are being touched by domestic violence...Many of the people experiencing domestic violence have trauma histories, mental health challenges goes with the territory – that is not a quick fix. Funding for counselling is very limited, ACC only pick up sexual trauma.”</p> | <p>Many submissions noted that Government needed to make counselling and/or mental health support more accessible. [All]</p> | |
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| | <p>More access is needed for rainbow communities in terms of mental health support. The waitlist is already long, this is made harder when we're trying to also find someone who understands our identity and issues. [H/R/Y]</p> <p>Economic abuse or harm remains largely invisible to the general public, and we are concerned that while financial and economic abuse remains a subset of psychological abuse it will remain invisible. This invisibility extends to government, where current government advice describes financial abuse as predominantly a form of elder abuse. [H/FV]</p> <p>“One of the things that need to be in place is a real pathway for migrant survivors of violence to stay in New Zealand, and in this way, removing the power of the visa holder. Make the family violence visa at least 3 years, and enable survivors to stay in Aotearoa regardless of the situation of their home country”. [ERM]</p> | <p>Particular legislation and/or Government policies were frequently raised as key issues for some communities, including economic abuse [FV], immigration visa policy [ERM], consent laws [SV], guardianship and power of attorney [O/D].</p> | |
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| | <p>Some of the points here marked for older people, such as capacity and supported decision making, guardianship and power of attorney are important sources of both abuse and support for some disabled people too. [H/D]</p> | | |
| <p>Focus Area #7: Enable continuous learning and improvement Whakamanatia te mātauranga me te whakapai tonu</p> | <p>There is a lack of comparable data sets across the justice sector so it's hard to get information about what actually happens. Some pieces of data are not routinely collected or analysed together. To be more informed, we need to know what's happening with victims and what the attrition process is (e.g. what the outcomes are). [H]</p> <p>Financial support should be available to help mainstream family and sexual violence agencies make changes to databases as needed, so they can capture ethnicity, visa status, language and faith/religion, in order to better support their ethnic clients.... so they feel comfortable working with ethnic communities. This is relevant for other marginalized communities like rainbow and people with disabilities. [H/ERM]</p> | <p>Many submissions called for better integration and sharing of existing data and/or funding to make improvements. [All]</p> | <p>There was general agreement that new approaches to FV and SV data collection and more research was needed.</p> |

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| | <p>“Resource non-state agencies to develop and implement data gathering systems and build analytical capacity and capability.” [V/R]</p> <p>Clear and publicly available data needs to be readily available such that responses to any increases in such violence are properly resourced. [H/FV]</p> <p>Research and data collection must be empowering for disabled people and must be developed with disabled people, just as research about Māori must be developed with Māori, and must recognise and be coherent with disability culture’s. There are disabled researchers who should be involved in this work. [H/D]</p> <p>It's about gathering evidence differently in a rapidly changing world. Continuous learning needs to be agile and flexible, with new data sources such as stakeholder voices, child and youth voices, surveys and rapid assessments - research takes two or three years - we need to understand the trends and what's</p> | <p>Many submissions noted that new approaches to FVSV data collection and research were needed, particularly community-led approaches. [H/D/V/ERM/R/SV/Y</p> | |
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| | happening in a much faster way to inform policy and practice. [H/FV/SV] | | |
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