

# What We Have Understood – He aha ta mātau

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

## Summary 4 : Final submissions

Engagement on a National Strategy and Action Plans to eliminate family violence and sexual violence ended on 30 June. Submissions were made through hui discussions, the Citizen Space website, emails and postcards. This paper provides a summary of the final submissions processed, and not already reviewed as part of earlier summaries. This update does not come to any conclusions about what should or should not be included in the National Strategy and Action Plan.

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

Focus	What We Have Heard	What We Have Understood	Summary
<p><b>Vision:</b> 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>Victims and survivors don’t feel included in the word ‘community’, often their community has let them down and doesn’t feel like a safe place to be. [H/FV/SV]</p> <p>“We are concerned that limiting reference to Family and Sexual Violence may conflate the concept of violence and sexual violence as occurring only in family contexts and in turn may lead to missing vital opportunities to protect children from violence in other contexts.” [Y]</p> <p>It would be better to emphasize the positive rather than starting from a negative. The strategy should focus on the future desired</p>	<p>Many submissions suggested wording changes to broaden the concept of community, better reflect their communities and/or the dynamics and experience of FV and/or SV in their communities. [All]</p> <p>Some submissions agreed that the wording should be more positive and/or strengths-based. [H/P/FV/SV/O/ERM]</p>	<p>In general, positive feedback was received on the vision.</p>

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	<p>state. There could be a mission statement. [H/O]</p> <p>The gendered nature of violence needs to be acknowledged noting our international obligations to address violence against women and children. [H/FV/SV]</p> <p>“This Feminist analysis has been essential in establishing a system of protecting the vulnerable, but if we are to move beyond reacting and be serious about prevention of IPV, we need to re-engage the men.” [UV]</p> <p>Discourse needs to be less gendered. Narrative that men do violence to women can be counter productive. Power analysis is central to all of this work. [H/FV/SV/R]</p> <p>“This looks nice and reads nice but will not do anything unless there is action.” [ERM]</p> <p>“Make sure adequate resource is directed into implementation. Good policy [strategies] often fails at the implementation stage. Vision is awesome but need to put it into practice.” [P]</p>	<p>Submissions were mixed about the inclusion of gender language, though many acknowledged the importance of a power inequity analysis. [All]</p> <p>Many submissions questioned if and/or how the vision would be implemented. [H/FV/SV/D/P/O/V/ERM]</p>	
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<p><b>Principle 1:</b> <b>Oranga whānau</b> The safety and wellbeing of people, families, whānau, communities is at the centre of all we, as a country, do</p>	<p>“We would like to see the inclusion of a principle that explicitly recognises children and commits to respecting and upholding their rights along with protecting them from all forms of violence”.[Y]</p>	<p>Submissions varied about what was missing from the principles, though there were some strong requests that they needed to be more child-focused [H/D/Y/V/O/P/ERM]</p>	<p>Views on the principles were diverse.</p>
<p><b>Principle 2:</b> <b>Mauri ora</b> Partnerships and the empowerment of tangata whenua, communities, whānau, and families</p>	<p>Whānau and 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. [H/FV]</p>	<p>Specific comments on Principle 1 were mostly positive. [H/FV/SV/D/YERM]</p>	
<p><b>Principle 3:</b> <b>Healthy relationships</b> Relationships are based on mutual respect and the mana of everyone involved</p>	<p>The healthy relationships principle was also confusing. Who’s in the relationship? What we expect from our families needs to be mirrored in our relationship with the government. [H/P]</p>	<p>Many submissions questioned what the principles meant and/or how to interpret them. [H/V/EMR/TW/R/P/Y]</p>	
<p><b>Principle 4:</b> <b>Equitable and inclusive approaches</b> To ensure that people are free from discrimination, receive culturally informed support, and have their inherent dignity and mana upheld</p>	<p>“As tangata whenua with tamariki who have disabilities/special needs I appreciate the equitable and inclusive approaches principle - my query would be what is meant by culturally informed support - informed by Te ao Māori or by Te ao pākehā or tauwiwi ? “[TW/V//D/Y]</p>		

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<p><b>Wellness</b></p>	<p>We need to change how we look at people’s experiences, with the focus shifting to health and wellbeing and away from punishment. [H/FV/SV]</p> <p>There is an urgent need to recognise poor mental health and addiction as contributing factors to whānau and sexual violence. These factors need to be addressed to contribute to prevention (and early intervention). For example, there is a drastic lack of community addiction services. Addiction needs to be seen as a health issue and self-referral and access to non-existent services is a real barrier to recovery. We need to ensure community mental health services are better connected, with options for early intervention where whanau can self-refer. [H/FV/SV]</p>	<p>Numerous submissions commented that the elimination of FV and SV could only be achieved through focusing on people’s wider wellbeing. [H/SV/P/UV/D/TW]</p>	<p>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 further in Focus Area #5.</p>
<p><b>Focus Area #1: Recognise te ao Māori Whaimana tea o Māori</b></p>	<p>Te ao Māori has always been inclusive – regardless of whether you are tangata whenua or not – the principles are inclusive – looks at wairua, holistic wellbeing in a way that the western system does not. [H/FV/SV/V]</p>	<p>Many submissions noted the effectiveness and inclusiveness of a te ao Māori approach. [H/SV/FV/V/O/TW/R/ERM]</p>	<p>Generally, most submissions were in support of a stronger Te ao Māori approach to eliminate FV and SV in Aotearoa New</p>

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	<p>We can all work together within te ao Māori. Resonates within other cultures too – “what’s good for Māori is good for everyone”. [H/FV/SV/V]</p> <p>Urgently address the chronic underfunding of Kaupapa Māori sexual violence specialist services and ensure these are accessible across the country. [H/SV]</p> <p>The Crown taking a Te Tiriti-based approach to strengthen its work with victim-survivors, ensuring tangata whenua have a strong voice that is listened to and acted on. This includes the Crown ensuring any governance or advisory bodies reflect Te Tiriti partnerships, including equitable representation of tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti. Tangata whenua must determine their own representatives, rather than Crown appointments. [H/FV/SV]</p> <p>“For all people to understand the negative impacts of colonisation and how it is relevant to our society today.” [V/D/O/Y]</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. [All]</p> <p>Some submissions noted that the impacts of colonisation needed to be understood and acknowledged. [H/FV/SV/TW/V/D/R/O/Y]</p>	<p>Zealand, especially for Māori. Insights from submissions made through tangata whenua hui have not been included in this summary – a parallel tangata whenua insights process was undertaken. Most comments from tangata whenua in this focus area are via Citizen space submissions.</p>
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<p><b>Focus Area #2:</b>  <b>Bring government responses together</b>  <b>Whakapiri ngā mahi o te kāwanatanga</b></p>	<p>All of Government must commit to educate and work together and achieve the goal of elimination. Consideration should be given to developing an inter-agency values charter. [H]</p> <p>“instead of 16 different agencies all approaching and working with a whānau how can those services work across each other to achieve positive outcomes”. [TW/O]</p> <p>“One challenge for children accessing support from government agencies is that often agencies only work with children where there is Oranga Tamariki involvement. However, the threshold for intervention by Oranga Tamariki is very high and response times can be long, which can result in children being excluded from accessing preventative support and other, lower levels of support services at the time they need them.” [Y]</p> <p>Once a mental health or disability issue is mentioned there’s a huge stand-off between agencies especially DSS about</p>	<p>Submissions expressed strong support for government to act in a less siloed way. [All]</p> <p>Some submissions noted how Government acting in silos meant that people who did not meet a certain criteria for one agency could fall through a service gap. [H/FV/SV/Y/D]</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>who will fund and support that person....People are needing to fit certain criteria. This doesn't put the person at the heart.... We spend time fighting across agencies leaving vulnerable adults without the support they need and many do not have people who can advocate for them and their complex needs. [H/D/FV/SV]</p> <p>“You send in Oranga Tamariki to split our families apart, you send in the police to split our families apart. All the time telling us it is our personal responsibility to make a notification. Well you don't help us. You create plans about what is best for us from your life experiences. Do you NOT listen? Do you NOT see?” [V/Y]</p> <p>The system abused me so I don't trust the system. I want a system with people who understand me. I want to be recognised and respected. [H/D]</p> <p>“Many of us DO NOT TRUST government agencies and we do NOT TRUST those people who are funded by government agencies and we DO NOT TRUST</p>	<p>Many submissions expressed frustration and/or distrust toward government agencies whose actions often caused more harm, particularly police and/or Oranga Tamariki. [H/SV/V/Y/D/R/TW]</p>	
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	<p>navigators employed by government agencies because anyone associated with government agencies become turncoats, they talk about funding NOT people, they have deadlines, they place MORE burden on us and guilt-trip us.”[V]</p> <p>Nothing about govt being accountable for their own decisions – this is a must. [H/FV/SV/V]</p> <p>“Ensure that this policy and the kaupapa is supported through the government changes and has stickability through those changes regardless of who the leading government is at the time”.</p> <p>The funding environment creates competition across services/providers/agencies which is counter intuitive to an integrated, collective response that we are aiming for. [H/O]</p> <p>“[We are] engaging with multiple Government funders working in isolation from each other. This makes reporting and</p>	<p>Some submissions also referenced the need for greater long-term collaboration and accountability by government. [H/FV/SV/V/R/ERM]</p> <p>The need longer-term and/or more aligned Government funding, contracting and reporting models is mentioned in numerous submissions. [H/SV/FV/Y/O/UV]</p>	
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	<p>auditing processes much more complex and time-consuming for our staff who are already stretched under large workloads. Rigid funding and commissioning approaches can also create barriers to access for whānau seeking help and promote competition or disjointed working between organisations supporting the same whānau”. [Y]</p> <p>Currently, NGO social service providers working in the family and sexual violence prevention and response space as part of their mahi are often engaging with multiple government funders. This adds layers of time and complexity, for organisations that are already stretched and time-poor due to levels of demand and resource scarcity. [H]</p> <p>We need ACC, MSD, MOJ, MOE to work directly with the sector when designing service contracts so that there is a unified understanding and contract deliverables that realistically match what support and services are needed. [H/FV/SV]</p>		
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	<p>Whilst there are responsibilities for government to provide leadership in bringing responses together, it is essential that government also partners with non-government community agencies, religious, sports and community clubs and businesses, many of whom are the unsung heroes of creative innovations to bring about sustainable change both with people experiencing violence and with those who have perpetrated violence.[H/FV/SV]</p>	<p>Many submissions noted that Government and NGOs, especially at service delivery level, need to collaborate better and/or more. [H/FV/SV/ERM]</p>	
<p><b>Focus Area #3: Recognise tangata whenua leadership and community-led approaches</b> <b>Hāpaitia te mana ō tangata whenua me kaupapa Māori</b></p>	<p>There has been a lot of discussion around community-led, government enabled responses to family violence and sexual violence which has been refreshing. However, we are still finding that government departments are the ones leading these discussions and making decisions. This process of devolving power will take time to embed and needs to continue, and government departments need to reflect on how they can better enable this to happen. [H/FV]</p> <p>“That local people can make decisions without heavy handed government interference. My community especially has</p>	<p>Many submissions noted that Government needed to actively work on letting communities take the lead, especially with already existing community-led programmes. [H/FV/SV]</p>	<p>There was strong agreement that the Government should recognise and better support community-led approaches.</p>

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	<p>a history of coming up with good initiatives uniquely suited to our region, and find it hard to work with government when they try to take over what locals have started.”</p> <p>In order to address these issues, whānau and communities must be involved from the start, as they play a crucial role in changing the dynamics that lead to family harm and sexual violence. Solutions must be co-designed with our communities so that we are working from the inside out to change attitudes and behaviour. [H/FV/SV]</p> <p>Making sure that disabled people have the support they need, in a way and at a time needed – “no-one has the right to think or speak for us”. Disabled people should be leading “in the drivers seat” with policy and planning, not having a disabled person as a token disabled person on a decision making team and pretending disabled people were consulted. [H/D]</p>	<p>Submissions frequently pointed out 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 at the outset. [All]</p>	
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	<p>Looking at what there already is before bringing in new programmes – ensuring that there is culturally appropriate stuff available – i.e. very little resourcing for Pacific specific initiatives [H/FV/SV]</p> <p>There are limited 24/7 SV specialist crisis response services for children and young people, and fewer 24/7 wrap-around services (either Kaupapa Māori or Tauwiwi) providing whānau-centred response, crisis response, court support, and long term recovery. A Kaupapa Māori approach addresses this by focusing on the wellbeing of tamariki and rangatahi whilst working with the parents, caregivers, whānau, and hapū. [H/SV]</p> <p>“Interventions should also be designed in partnership with people who have experienced family violence and who feel safe and protected to disclose sensitive information. Services must have training on culturally appropriate Māori interventions alongside broader interventions, ensuring that people have the choice about what</p>	<p>Many submissions talked about scoping what already exists and/or highlighted existing service gaps that a community-led approach would address. [H/FV/SV/D/P]</p> <p>While Government needs to support community-led approaches, some submissions also expressed how ‘mainstream’ services (with increased competency) were also necessary so that people had choices. It was noted that community-led was not always the safest or most appropriate option</p>	
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	<p>type of programme that is appropriate for them.”</p> <p>In some communities violence can be sanctioned by community leaders. Government needs to ‘step up’ when people don’t fit and are left without support. [H/ERM]</p> <p>The small size and dynamics within the Deaf community can make it difficult to ensure confidentiality... the local interpreter may know the people who have been perpetrating the violence towards them...It is important to remember that not all Deaf people’s communication needs are the same, and Deaf people should be consulted with individually around their unique communication preferences. [H/D]</p>	<p>for some people. [H/FV/SV/ERM/D/R]</p>	
<p><b>Focus Area #4:</b> <b>Strengthen workforces to prevent and respond to family violence and sexual violence</b> <b>Whakakaha i te hunga mahi ki te autaki me te whakautu ki te tūkinu whānau</b></p>	<p>Our frontline services have, out of necessity and with limited resources, developed training programmes over decades of working in this space. Nevertheless, due to a lack of specialists capable of undertaking this work, we face critical workforce shortages among Kaupapa Māori practitioners, mainstream child specialists,</p>	<p>Many submissions agreed that specialist FV and SV workforces required more formal qualifications and training structures. [H/SV/FV/D/TW/O/V/Y]</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>and in rural areas. The problem is compounded by a shortage of dedicated tertiary-level training courses, and by the lack of clear mainstream practice guidelines. [H/SV]</p> <p>Establish training, learning, and apprenticeship pathways for those interested in this work. This includes developing peer support models which, in conjunction with education, can serve as a foundation to specialist work in this area. [H/SV]</p> <p>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...Alongside these practical, skills-based trainings there needs to be regular, free / low-cost, local trainings on policy and legislation. [H/FV]</p> <p>“There needs to be modules on diversity, we have these euro centric values and any</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. [All]</p>	
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	<p>training in this space is tokenistic. The workforce is old, mostly white, mostly women, the knowledge isn't being passed on because there aren't mechanisms in place to do this". [Y]</p> <p>Recruit diverse people and bring diverse skills into the workforce. Invest in workforce development and training for diverse groups, competitive and sustainable salaries enabling worker retention, sector growth, and workforce development. [H/FV/SV]</p> <p>We propose engaging strategies which encourage Māori and Pacific people (including women) to enter the sexual violence workforce. This also serves to expand the specialist SV sector's capacity to provide services to Māori and Pacific people experiencing harm, and to mitigate the long-term consequences to physical, mental, and economic wellbeing. [H/SV]</p>	<p>A number of submissions suggested that a workforce recruitment strategy was needed to increase diversity in the specialist sector. [H/FV/SV/P]</p>	
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	<p>“The ability of the system to ensure a consistent response is curtailed without clear practice guidelines or standards in place to guide the sector. Without outcomes-based standards to measure the effectiveness and success of an agency or worker’s response, there is very little external accountability...this risks whānau receiving variable quality of services from worker to worker, organisation to organisation and region to region.” [Y]</p> <p>A key challenge for staff in EDs [Emergency Departments] is identifying a patient as experiencing abuse, and this may lead to a high rate of under-reporting. Professional uncertainty and discomfort are unfortunately a barrier to this... [H]</p> <p>“It is essential that those working regularly with tamariki and families have the knowledge and understanding of family violence issues, and the skills needed to respond appropriately. To help achieve this, training on recognising and responding to violence, along with clear pathways on how to respond, such as reporting procedures</p>	<p>A number of submissions noted that clear practice guidelines or standards are needed to improve accountability, performance and service quality. [H/FV/SV/Y/D]</p> <p>Many submissions noted training was also needed for ‘frontline’ workers who deal with FV and/or SV as part of their role, especially, teachers, police and health professionals, and also government officials. [All]</p>	
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	<p>and policies is required. It is important that those working with children receive training specifically related to children, and that the training includes learning about children’s rights and how to respect and uphold their rights.” [Y]</p> <p>There is a tendency to develop workforce capability initiatives solely for the NGO sector and to subsequently demand a higher level of expertise and capability. However, the same is not asked of our government partners who are working in the family violence sector and are often leading our responses to family violence [H/FV]</p> <p>Increase funding for the SV specialist workforce to pay competitive and sustainable salaries and enhance specialist training, worker retention, sector growth, and workforce development. This is critical to meeting client demand. [H/SV]</p> <p>“To upskill the workforce, budgeting will need to be allocated to fund the required training. Currently recommendations to</p>	<p>More government funding is required to support training, and ensure service quality and capability. [All]</p>	
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	<p>upskill and deliver training are unable to be met due to lack of funding”.[Y]</p> <p>The focus on workforce development will be instrumental to systemic change. Significant investment is needed, and the priority should be on education and learning developed in Aotearoa New Zealand for Aotearoa New Zealand. [H]</p>		
<p><b>Focus Area #5:</b> <b>Increase the focus on prevention</b> <b>Whakanui i te arotahinga ki te aukati</b></p>	<p>The main demand [83 student responses] is that young men be educated about the effects of their sexual harassment. These range from the idea that boys do not understand the effects their words and actions have on girls, to the view that they understand very well but have learned to get away with it. [H/V/Y]</p> <p>We need comprehensive healthy relationships education from primary school right through to high school, open and equitable access to child and youth support services, as well as initiatives that motivate and inspire young people to achieve their full potential. [H/FV]</p>	<p>The most common theme across submissions was educating children and young people, particularly about healthy relationships and consent, as a key aspect of prevention and intergenerational change. [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. Comments about more help being needed for people who have used violence were also made in all focus areas, but they have</p>

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	<p>“Research shows that families are the greatest unit of protection for the child. Parents inherently want to do the best they can for their children, and parents often form their views about parenting strategies including discipline very early on in their parenting cycle. Ensuring parents of young children are well informed, resourced and supported is critical to strengthening the family unit that will be well placed to protect and nurture their children.” [Y]</p> <p>We believe a national ‘call to action’ similar to that seen in Aotearoa New Zealand’s response to the pandemic would galvanise the community and drive a sense of urgency and commitment of resources to address the ‘pandemic’ of violence we are collectively facing. [H]</p> <p>Those who suspect or witness abuse are unsure about their role and responsibilities with respect to the prevention, identification and management of abuse. [H/D]</p>	<p>Many submissions also noted the importance of providing better support and education to (new) parents as a preventative measure. [H/FV/SV/Y/D/O/P]</p> <p>Submissions noted the necessity of raising public awareness and/or increasing education on how to identify FV and SV (especially less visible forms) and how to safely respond. [All]</p>	<p>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>I thought in family violence you had to be hit and there was lots of blood and you were hurt really bad. [H/V/TW]</p> <p>There needs to be more resources in NZSL to make information and help accessible for Deaf people. [H/D]</p> <p>In 2019, most applicants for the Immigration NZ Family Violence visas (a visa category created for survivors of FV and SV) were from India or Fiji...[we need to ensure] multi-lingual education on gender equity and FV and SV for whole communities, including perpetrators. [H/FV/SV]</p> <p>Workplaces are both places where FV and SV (including sexual harassment and violence) occurs, and crucial intervention spaces to prevent and end FV and SV - public and private sector, large employers, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Most workplaces in New Zealand are SMEs, and many of these are family owned and/or run businesses, where FV and SV</p>	<p>Many submissions noted that more targeted, accessible resources are needed to inform and educate. [H/FV/SV/D/ERM/P]</p> <p>A number of submissions talked about how workplaces or churches needed to be more involved in preventing and responding to FV and SV. [H/FV/SV/P]</p>	
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	<p>can occur between family members. Workplaces are also places where survivors can seek help, and employers can intervene to prevent and end FV and SV. [H/FV/SV]</p> <p>“The church should unify around FV and SV. More community activity, more talanoa (sharing of ideas). We need more leadership and guidance.” [P]</p> <p>“A dedicated core body responsible for family violence and sexual violence prevention... would allow for a specialist-driven, well-coordinated, approach. It would provide the necessary infrastructure for a stable workforce that can accumulate and benefit from knowledge over time”.</p> <p>We need a prevention strategy across a life course, across layers of how and who we are in society, across diverse communities, that includes primary, secondary and tertiary prevention. [H/FV/SV]</p>	<p>Some submissions emphasised that a specific entity and/or strategy was needed for FV and SV prevention. [H/FV/SV]</p>	
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	<p>We know that when we invest more into the primary prevention space, our tertiary costs reduce dramatically – but these challenges take years and years to explore and to support. [H/SV]</p> <p>“it is clear that prevention is understood very differently by different areas of the sector... there potentially needs to be a separate Strategy or distinct Action Plan in order to ensure that primary prevention is appropriately prioritised rather than subsumed by other forms of prevention.” [H/FV]</p> <p>Responses to prevent recidivist behaviour – limited provision of counselling and programmes for perpetrators and offenders. Funding is for those sentenced or those that are respondents on protection orders. What about those that do not meet this threshold? [H]</p> <p>“People who use violence get told to attend a programme or a course but the wait times for these courses and programmes can be</p>	<p>Some FV and SV submissions noted that long-term investment and/or an action plan was needed for primary prevention specifically. [H/FV/SV]</p> <p>It was frequently noted that there needs to be more help for people who have used violence. [H/FV/SV/V/P/D/R/UV]</p>	
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	<p>months – so what do we do with those people?” [UV]</p> <p>There needs to be better, more holistic, wrap around services for men using violence. Keeping eyes on men and working with them to stop the violence is so important. We won't solve this problem if we don't get the people using violence to change and stop their abuse. [H/FV/SV]</p> <p>A priority on targeted, whānau-informed initiatives for those using violence is critical. Directly addressing the support needed by those using violence is missing. 'For Tane by Tane', whānau-led, and trauma-informed approaches are needed. Pathways for those using violence need to be non-judgmental, accessible and safe. Significant investment in this area is needed – and is a priority. [H]</p> <p>“SV is still a hugely taboo topic, it can be confronting, overall education and a major culture change is needed. Education and raising awareness to chip away at this toxic culture. Move it away from a taboo topic</p>	<p>Many submissions expressed how changing societal attitudes was crucial to eliminating FV and SV. [All]</p>	
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	<p>and make it better understood and more talked about.” [Y]</p> <p>The overwhelming message from [83 student responses] is that it is not just the culture of the boys that needs to change, but that of girls as well. There is a need to stop tolerating and allowing for any kind of sexual harassment. It all degrades girls/ people of different sexualities and opens the door further to abuse. [H/Y/V]</p> <p>“I want to see public health campaigns address the ‘low-level’ everyday violences of racism, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, ableism. The small actions that are part of sustained abuse that people experience when they are marginalized in some way.” [V/D/Y]</p> <p>The use [of] mass digital, social media and campaigns to change thinking, attitudes and beliefs that support violence, and disrupt social and gender norms are important. [H]</p>		
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	<p>The provision of safe, secure and appropriate housing and adequate income support...to enable women to leave violent relationships and provide a safe environment for themselves and their children. [H/V/TW]</p> <p>Implementation of the three most effective measures to reduce alcohol-related harm (pricing, availability and marketing policies) will reduce the role that alcohol plays in increasing the likelihood and severity of family violence. [H/FV/SV]</p>	<p>Many submissions also linked prevention to addressing wider issues, such as the (lack of) access to housing, income support and alcohol particularly in relation to children. [All]</p>	
<p><b>Focus Area #6:</b> <b>Develop ways for government to create changes</b> <b>Whakawhanake ngā mahi ō te kawanatanga ā tōna wā</b></p>	<p>The Westminster system focuses on punishment and fails to consider the healing process that must occur alongside punishment in order to restore mana. For many of our wāhine who come to us experiencing violence, those victimising them are often intimate partners or those known to their whānau. As a consequence, they want their abuser to seek help so that they may begin to take accountability for their actions and eventually work to repair their relationships. [H/SV]</p>	<p>Many submissions spoke about how unsupportive the justice system was for people impacted by violence. [All]</p>	<p>Views shared in this focus area were diverse, particularly around specific legislative and/or policy changes Government needed to make to address FV and SV.</p>

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	<p>We know that being involved in the criminal justice process can re-traumatise victims/survivors and delay healing from the event. The prospect of having to face the offender again and the possibility of being harmed by the process itself, means that people can metaphorically hold their breath until it is over. [H/SV]</p> <p>It is common for a victim/survivor to experience themselves being put on trial for their credibility, rather than the actions of the accused...This process is frequently re-traumatising, unjust and a major deterrent for survivors to engage with the criminal justice system particularly for Māori.[H/SV]</p> <p>There is legal aid but the threshold for this means even women on fairly low income can't access it. Women should not have to pay for their safety and the safety of their children. [H/FV/SV]</p>		
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	<p>Communication can be compromised by a person’s experience of trauma, limited English proficiency, cognitive capacity, vocabulary, and mental health issues.... While we recognise that communication assistance may not be required for all witnesses involved in a sexual violence cases, we believe increasing access to specialist support is an important step towards reducing trauma and ensuring fairness. [H/SV]</p> <p>“Work with children is generally consented through their parents and carers, so there is a tendency to prioritise the adult’s needs and the relationship before the needs of children, again leading to them often being missed in the response to family violence – and efforts to prevent family violence from (re)occurring in the future....make Child Advocates a feature of the family violence prevention and response system in Aotearoa.” [Y]</p> <p>All involved in the court system need to understand trauma, how it can affect behaviour and what language is</p>	<p>Many submissions noted that specialist support and/or advocates were particularly needed to ensure equity of access to the justice system.[H/SV/FV/V/Y/D]</p> <p>Some submissions also requested mandatory FV and SV training for all court personnel. [H/SV/FV/V/Y]</p>	
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	<p>appropriate to use with a survivor of sexual violence... Without sexual violence specialist training and support for all involved in the trying of sexual violence cases, we cannot be confident that rape myths will not be presented and believed. [H/SV]</p> <p>“While the NZ Family Violence Act 2018 states that psychological abuse is treated equally seriously with physical abuse under NZ law...protection orders are rarely granted in NZ for psychological abuse without physical abuse.” [V]</p> <p>“I have a Protection Order against my ex partner. But every week he gets to ignore it.” [V]</p> <p>Free trauma-informed counselling and therapy for all victims/survivors and their children, long-term, whenever they need it and for as long as they need it. This would make a huge difference. This would need to be properly resourced with sufficient workforce capacity so that there are no long</p>	<p>Many submissions raised issues with Protection Orders, particularly the lack of enforcement. [H/FV/SV/V/UV/O/TW/P]</p> <p>It was frequently noted that Government needed to make counselling and/or mental health support more accessible. [All]</p>	
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	<p>waiting lists and those who want this support can access it. [H/FV/SV]</p> <p>Many victimised women report heightened costs for physical, mental, and reproductive healthcare due to sexual violence. In assessing barriers to accessing support, 90% of women in one study cited trouble paying for counselling outside of ACC. [H/SV]</p> <p>“It’s essential for children who experience trauma as a result of witnessing family violence to be met with a therapeutic response, in order to mitigate the potential harm to their mental health, development and future outcomes. ...one of the biggest barriers to children accessing services is that currently, there are simply not enough specialist mental health or therapeutic services for police, social workers and other responders to refer children to. Where there are services available for children, the waiting lists are long and staff are reporting feeling strained under the increasing workload” [Y]</p>		
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	<p>There needs to be safeguarding legislation and national guidelines to mandate a framework that protects and promotes the human rights, wellbeing and culture of disabled people, vulnerable adults and older adults; and introduce a system of accountability. [H/D]</p> <p>[Enduring] Powers of attorney are activated once someone lacks capacity. If the EPO is abusing their power the only recourse is to take it back to family court. But people are reticent to do this. This pathway is difficult and nobody wants to do it. [H/FV/SV/D]</p>	<p>Particular legislation and/or Government policies were frequently raised as key issues for some communities, such as safeguarding and power of attorney [O/D].</p>	
<p><b>Focus Area #7:</b> <b>Enable continuous learning and improvement</b> <b>Whakamanatia te mātauranga me te whakapai tonu</b></p>	<p>The plan needs to be supported by a shared research agenda that government, research institutions, and the community sector contribute to. This would include regular surveys, along with projects which increase our understanding of the nature of the challenge and the impacts of our decisions, campaigns and other interventions. [H/SV]</p> <p>“I would welcome more explicit inclusion of academics as a community of contributors to conversations and plans for responding</p>	<p>Many submissions wanted a more strategic and co-ordinated approach to FV and SV data and research. [H/SV/FV/Y/ERM]</p>	<p>It was generally agreed that new approaches to FV and SV data collection and more research was needed.</p>

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	<p>to, and especially, preventing family violence and sexual violence. Over many years, researchers in universities have been conducting research that contributes to understanding the scope of the problem, the nature of the problem and ways of facilitating change. The opportunities for this research-informed knowledge to contribute to policy and government-lead or funded action are currently ad hoc; meaning there are many missed opportunities for dialogue and collaboration.”</p> <p>“when police respond to a family violence incident, the number of children present in the home is not even ascertained or recorded. Often, children are not spoken to by Police, or if they are, this is rarely done in a way which allows them to convey any safety concerns they may have. This means that from the very beginning, children are being missed in the response and insufficient data and information is collected, to adequately inform what response is appropriate and needed.” [Y]</p>	<p>Some submissions noted particular gaps in current data collection, and how data was needed to inform service response. [H/FV/SV/Y/D/ERM]</p>	
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	<p>A strategy to collect disability data about abuse and neglect (includes family violence and sexual violence) to inform commissioning process. [H/D]</p> <p>There is no dedicated funding for SV and FV research and the avenues for funding are quite limited. Without dedicated funding it can be challenging to keep up the momentum regarding sexual violence research and supporting ongoing research and new researchers coming into the space. [H/FV/SV]</p> <p>Indigenous communities already have the people and wealth to do research on their terms and in their way. [H/FV/SV]</p> <p>“Regular review of approaches, outcomes and learnings will be critical to securing ongoing and improving success and elimination of family violence and sexual violence. Including the voices of disabled people’s experience and expertise in these reviews will be critical.” [V]</p>	<p>Many submissions noted that more Government funding was needed to support new approaches to FV and SV data collection, research and review, particularly community-led approaches. [H/FV/D/V/ERM/R/SV/Y]</p>	
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