



## Te Puna Aonui Pānui

1 May 2025

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



Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to the April Pānui from Te Puna Aonui, providing you with some highlights across the family violence and sexual violence work of government, Iwi, providers, and the

community. We are a third of the way through 2025 already – it has gone by very quickly, but I am pleased with the resources that are being delivered, and the progress being made to deliver on the Action Plan for Te Aorerekura.

In March, we launched the [Risk and Safety Practice Framework](#) (RSPF) - this will ensure that risk is recognised early, responded to safely and appropriately, and people, whānau and families get the right support early. It forms part of the government's ongoing investment in family violence workforce capability and delivers a key initiative in the Action Plan. You can read more detail about this in the Pānui below.

I recently filmed a video with Te Puna Aonui Chief Executive Emma Powell, where we talk about the RSPF, who can use it, and how – you can watch it on the Te Puna Aonui YouTube channel by following the link here: <https://youtu.be/Dk3ps3dTa0A>



*Video with Minister Chhour and Chief Executive Emma Powell, all about the Risk and Safety Practice Framework.*

As you may have seen in the recent news coverage (such as [Stuff](#), [RNZ](#), and [1News](#)), Te Puna Aonui is partnering with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and Manawa Tītī – the existing governance group overseeing the multi-agency response to family violence in Auckland City to deliver our first initiatives under 'Keeping People Safe' in the Te Aorerekura Action Plan

(2025-2030). This work will have a focus on specialist outreach and high risk and will inform improvements in multi-agency responses, nationally.



*Minister Chhour with leaders at the launch of the multi-agency partnership.*

I was in Auckland to announce the partnership earlier this month, where I said, “*I believe that the expertise required sits here, in the community, where you hold the necessary insights to enable change with families and whānau*”, and “*Ngāti Whātua Ōrakei – through their tribal development arm, Whāi Maia – alongside Manawa Tītī, will be testing and learning about new ways of working to deliver this service, so that families and whānau get to safety sooner*”. You can read more about the partnership below.



*Minister Chhour with VOYCE Whakarongo Mai at a Children’s Day event in Christchurch*

I've had a busy couple of months since the last Pānui, meeting with stakeholders across the system and from many different communities – just to name a few, there has been Age Concern Auckland, the Child Protection Investigation Unit steering group, Fale Pasifika, Kaitaia Women's Refuge, Tai Timu Tai Pari, the Cause Collective, and many others. I've also been to Oranga Tamariki workplaces to talk with the people there - and had the honour of attending the Foster Care Awards, a fundraising gala for Women's Refuge and Wellington Homeless Women's Trust, and a Children's Day event in Christchurch.

I love getting out and about to hear the stories of people in our communities who are supporting better outcomes, or who can teach me about new and innovative ways to deliver results for those who are impacted by family violence and sexual violence. As always, please feel free to reach out to my office if you or your organisation would like to request a meeting with me – either in-person, or online.

Wishing all the best to the kaimahi/ workers across the system in your enduring efforts to improve the safety and wellbeing of people affected by violence.

Ngā mihi nui,

Hon Karen Chhour

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

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## **New Tool to Address Litigation Abuse in Family Court proceedings**

The courts now have a new tool to combat instances where people use Family Court proceedings to harass, annoy, harm, or psychologically abuse another person.

The Victims of Family Violence (Strengthening Legal Protections) Legislation Act 2025 received Royal Assent from the Governor-General on 17 February 2025 and it came into effect from that date. The Act makes substantive amendments to four statutes including the Family Court and Family Proceedings Acts, and consequential changes to three more.

Under the new provisions, the court must take a broad view of conduct both in and out of court proceedings to determine whether someone's behaviour is litigant abuse. The Act defines litigant abuse as using the court system to harass, annoy, harm, or psychologically abuse another person.

If the court is satisfied that litigant abuse has occurred, it can make an order requiring the party to seek leave of the court before taking further steps in new or existing proceedings. An order will usually last for up to three years but can be extended to five years in extraordinary circumstances.

While the Bill was introduced in 2023, it was carried over into this Parliament and received unanimous support throughout the parliamentary process.

More information is available from the Ministry of Justice: [Naomi.Stephen-Smith@justice.govt.nz](mailto:Naomi.Stephen-Smith@justice.govt.nz) and:

- [Victims of Family Violence \(Strengthening Legal Protections\) Legislation Act 2025](#)
- [Victims of Family Violence \(Strengthening Legal Protections\) Legislation Bill](#) (Justice Committee website)
- [Civil Restraint Orders to prevent meritless cases](#)

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### Love Better Campaign – Webby Awards Nomination

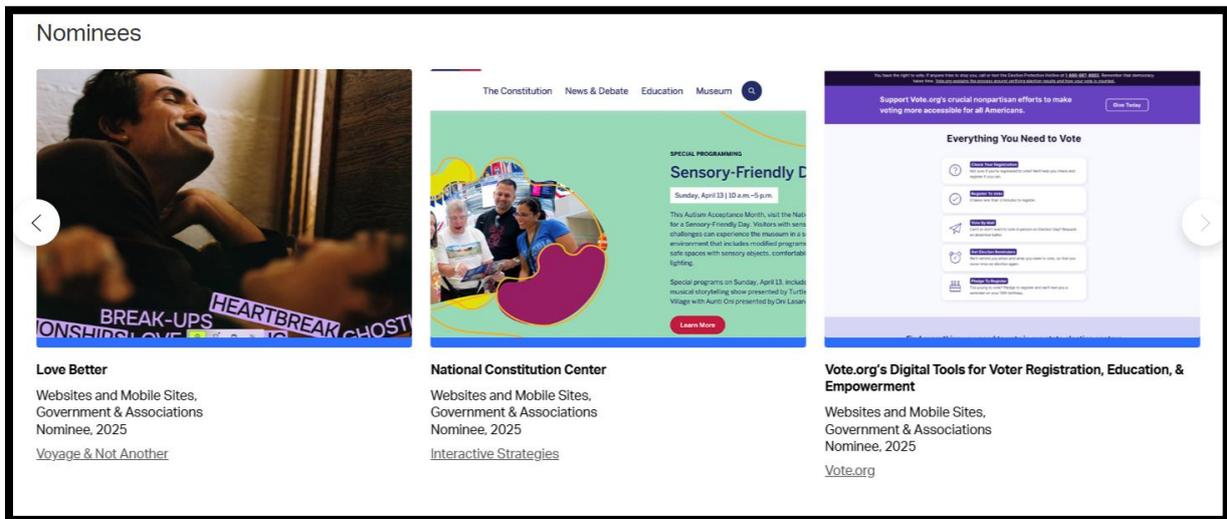


The **Love Better campaign** was shortlisted for its [website](#) in the 2025 [Webby Awards](#), under the 'Government & Associations' category. The Webby Awards is the leading international award honouring excellence on the internet.

It was impressive to make the list alongside other amazing work and the campaign is the

only finalist from this part of the world (they made top five, from almost 13,000 entries!!).

The ultimate winner in this category was the NASA website – with Love Better being a close contender, pulling ahead during most of the voting time and being edged out near the end.



## Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, Manawa Tītī, and Te Puna Aonui partner to create a prototype for a nationally consistent risk process

Earlier this month, a partnership was announced between Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, Manawa Tītī, and Te Puna Aonui – where all three groups agreed to deliver specialist outreach support for high-risk family violence, test the prototype for a nationally consistent risk process, and deliver a local system improvement plan. These three initiatives form part of our delivery of 'Keeping People Safe' in the Te Aorerekura Action Plan (2025-2030).

Manawa Tītī is a collaboration between Iwi, NZ Police, other government agencies and community partners, working together for the purpose of whānau and communities in Auckland being safe and supported to live their lives free of family violence.

Te Puna Aonui is working with localities to develop an integrated risk management approach. This will include:

- improving risk management processes, systems, and practices
- providing intensive proactive case management support through specialist
- outreach support for high-risk family violence
- data management and monitoring practices to improve identification of early risk responses.



*Minister Karen Chhour with Te Puna Aonui Chief Executive Emma Powell and other leaders attending the partnership announcement.*

Initially, this will be implemented in two localities - Auckland and Rotorua, to contribute to the delivery of target 4: to reduce serious offending. Lessons from these localities will be used to inform an investment case for the future model of effective multi-agency responses.

The system improvement plan will build on Manawa Tītī's strategy and their key priority areas, including strengthening collaborative ways of working, whānau-centred responses,

early intervention, and safer and effective responses to high-risk families, to strengthen their local response. Set up as a charitable entity, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei is responsible for developing their people by focusing on whānau outcomes. They manage health, education, small business, and employment programmes for whānau.

No single agency has all the levers to prevent violence and keep people safe from violence. We need to strengthen how agencies respond to family violence by improving the way they work together. This means improving multi-agency responses in partnership with iwi and local organisations to better manage risk and intervene early so people get the right support at the right time. The 2025-2030 Te Aorerekura Action Plan (Focus Area: Keeping People Safe) requires us to do just that.

While there are 40 local multi-agency responses to respond to family violence across the country, these are inconsistent and current fragmented systems have created barriers for communities to respond collectively. This means people are not always getting the right support when they reach out for help and are sometimes falling through the cracks. We need to ensure we have a strong and effective joined-up approach to responding to family violence, particularly for high risk.

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, through their tribal development arm, Whāi Maia alongside Manawa Tītī, will be testing and learning about new ways of working to deliver the specialist outreach support. This will include key roles to support victim-survivors and children and their whānau directly, coordination and data collection, a discretionary fund to support immediate safety, and workforce capability uplift.

The funding for this work is coming from the Integrated Community Response Fund (ICR Fund) that supports community led approaches with a focus on achieving the keeping people safe action across the country. While Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei will hold the funds, Manawa Tītī as a collective will support this initiative and is responsible for the delivery of this initiative. Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei will be reporting on progress quarterly.

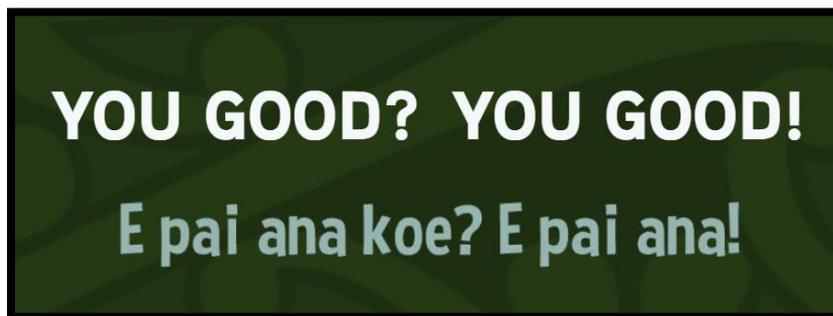
The outcomes we expect to see through this work are:



- Improved skill and knowledge levels of the workforce in Auckland who work with whānau experiencing family violence.
- Improved skill and knowledge levels of the specialist family violence workforce in Auckland.
- Improved service experience of whānau dealing with family violence who are referred to the initiative.
- Improved whānau client outcomes of whānau referred to the initiative.
- Improved safety of whānau who are referred to the initiative.
- Reduced family violence.
- Contribution to Government Target 4 i.e. By 2030 - reduce violent crime (which includes family violence and sexual assault) and the number of victims by 20,000.
- Reduced revictimisation of whānau impacted by family violence.
- System improvement plan, specialist outreach support and a consistent approach to respond to high-risk family violence in Tāmaki Makaurau.

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## Jade Speaks Up – You Good? You Good!



Jade Speaks Up has just released a new online teacher training resource for their *You Good? You Good!* programme, which is focused on supporting 8–12-year-olds with anxiety and stress as a primary prevention strategy.

This affordable, self-paced online course supports teachers and kaiako to confidently respond to big emotions in the classroom—especially those shaped by stress, anxiety, and



# Te Puna Aonui

Responding, healing, strengthening

family harm. Developed by The Jade Speaks Up Educational Trust in partnership with Safeguarding Children, it offers practical, trauma-informed tools to create calmer, more connected classrooms.

## What is it?

A self-paced, online course for educators and facilitators of Years 5–8

## What does it cover?

- Emotional literacy tools
- Te Ao Māori and trauma-informed practices
- Strategies for student wellbeing
- Practical, real-life classroom scenarios

**Cost:** \$80 per person

**Course enrolment link:** <https://www.safeguardingchildren.org.nz/portfolio-item/on-demand-catalog/you-good-you-good-e-pai-ana-koe-e-pai-ana/>

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## Toitū Te Waiora partnership – Micro-credentials



Following the Health and Wellbeing qualification review in 2024, Toitū te Waiora identified a gap in specialist Family Violence and Sexual Violence skills and knowledge.

To address this, Toitū te Waiora, with support from Te Puna Aonui, is developing NZQCF level 3 and 4 skill standards aligned with the Family Violence Entry to Expert Capability

Framework (E2E). These skill standards will provide the foundation for a structured qualification pathway, starting with a micro-credential based on the Family Violence Risk and Safety Practice Framework (RSPF) which will support frontline workers to improve how they recognise and safely respond to risk and enable safety and wellbeing. This initiative supports the Keeping People Safe focus area of the Te Aorerekura Action Plan 2025-2030, promoting a more consistent and integrated approach to family violence practice.

This project is a joint effort between Toitū te Waiora and Te Puna Aonui and contributes to Te Aorerekura, Hōkaianga Toru – Shift 3: Towards skilled, culturally competent, and sustainable workforces and aligns with Action Plan 2025-2030 under Agencies Taking Action: Strengthening Our Workforce.

Feedback on this initiative will be informed by a national consultation process and a voluntary advisory group made up of 10 sector representatives. This commitment to include sector leadership will ensure the materials developed are grounded, relevant, and reflect real-world practice across the workforce. Project updates and any proposed changes will be added to the project web page for national feedback once available.

[Home - Toitū te Waiora](#)

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### **Creating access to the Sensitive Claims Service through Safe to Talk**

ACC, Whakarongorau Aotearoa | New Zealand Telehealth Services and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) are beginning the next stage of their partnership to develop a new pathway to the Sensitive Claims Service via Safe to Talk, the national sexual harm helpline.

Safe to Talk is the nationwide helpline, run by Whakarongorau and funded by MSD, that provides free and confidential support and information to anyone affected by sexual harm. Through Safe to Talk, people affected by sexual harm can get advice and support from trained specialists and be connected to support services in their community. Safe to Talk is available 24/7 through text, webchat, phone, email and via [www.safetotalk.nz](http://www.safetotalk.nz).

This work began in May 2023 when Whakarongorau collaborated with providers, suppliers, survivors of sexual violence and others to design what the new pathway to the Sensitive Claims Service via Safe to Talk could look like. The goal is to create a central point of entry through Safe to Talk for all survivors where they can find information, be referred to an appropriate service, get help finding an ACC supplier and feel supported while waiting to see a provider.

Safe to Talk's new functionalities are planned to launch later this year, and the service will continue to be enhanced over the next three years. The focus now is to operationalize the high-level design that was completed in June 2024 in preparation for go-live. More details and any opportunities to be involved or provide feedback will be shared as the work progresses.

To learn more about the design of the new pathway to the Sensitive Claims Service via Safe to Talk, see: [Microsoft PowerPoint - Waharoa Presentation for Supplier and Provider Feb and March Combined Pack](#)

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## Navigate the Online World with Confidence – Ministry for Women launches new resources with Netsafe.

The **Free to Lead** toolkit, along with a video series **Behind the Keyboard**, has been launched by the Minister for Women Nicola Grigg.



The free to lead toolkit is an online resource designed to empower and support women and their employers to navigate the online world with confidence.

Developed by the Ministry for Women in partnership with Netsafe, the toolkit is designed to empower and support women and their employers to navigate the online world with confidence. Informed by the voices and experiences of women, the toolkit includes two practical modules alongside a powerful video series sharing the experiences of high-profile women.

Link to the toolkit is on their website here: [www.women.govt.nz/onlineharm](http://www.women.govt.nz/onlineharm)

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## Launch of Vine – new name and direction for Family Violence Clearinghouse

In Wellington earlier this week, Vine was launched – a rebranding of Family Violence Clearinghouse, now with an added focus on gathering sexual violence research and data.



*Te Puna Aonui Chief Executive Emma Powell, speaking at the launch of Vine.*

Vine is the national centre for family violence and sexual violence research and information. Its core business is providing information, research, evaluation, and resources for people working towards the elimination of family violence and sexual violence including sector, communities, tangata whenua, researchers, government, and the public.

The new name – **Vine: Violence Information Aotearoa** - is inspired by the idea of the kūmara vine - te aka kumara – an indigenous metaphor for communication and sharing of information. Like the kūmara vine, they are here to connect and communicate to create new growth, spreading news through networks.

Rebranding to Vine will help to connect with a broader and more diverse audience, reflecting their expanded mandate to be inclusive of sexual violence research and information.

There is a need for specific New Zealand-based research and evaluation to inform training, professional development and sexual violence prevention initiatives, and this need is now well-recognised in reports and research examining our approach to family violence – Vine’s research investment is a key part of the solution.

See their new website here: [www.vine.org.nz](http://www.vine.org.nz)

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## **New Zealand Sign Language - Family Violence and Sexual Violence Resources**

Deaf Aotearoa has partnered with VisAble to create a library of NZSL videos which introduce the various types of abuse that can be experienced.

There is very little information on family and sexual violence in sign language (NZSL), which means that the Deaf community may not know what the terms mean or what it might look like in their day to day lives.

In New Zealand there are many websites and service providers to assist with learning about family and sexual violence and where to get help, but the majority of these have no accessible options to assist the Deaf community.

Please visit: <https://www.deaf.org.nz/info-in-nzsl/understanding-family-and-sexual-violence/> for these resources and please share the link far and wide.



# Te Puna Aonui

Responding, healing, strengthening

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## About Te Puna Aonui

[Te Puna Aonui](#) brings government agencies together to align whole-of-government strategy, policy, and investment to eliminate family violence and sexual violence. The Board is supported by a small Business Unit that coordinates the collective actions of government agencies.

Te Puna Aonui includes:

- [Ara Poutama Department of Corrections](#)
- [Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga Ministry of Education](#)
- [Manatū Hauora Ministry of Health](#)
- [Te Tāhū or te Ture Ministry of Justice](#)
- [Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora Ministry of Social Development](#)
- [Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa New Zealand Police](#)
- [Oranga Tamariki Ministry for Children](#)
- [Te Puni Kokiri Ministry of Māori Development](#)
- [Te Kaporeihana Āwhina Hunga Whare ACC](#)

[Te Tari O Te Pirimia Me Te Komiti Matau](#) (Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet), [Manatū Wāhine](#) (Ministry for Women), [Te Manatū mō Ngā Iwi o Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa](#) (Ministry of Pacific Peoples) and [Te Tari Mātāwaka](#) (the Ministry for Ethnic Communities) are associate agencies of Te Puna Aonui.

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