



The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention

Responding, healing, strengthening

December Pānui

17 December 2025

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



Tēnā koutou,



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Welcome to the December Pānui - providing you with highlights and updates on the implementation of Te Aorerekura, the National Strategy for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence across the work of government, providers, and communities.

I want to start by acknowledging the National Day of Remembrance for Survivors of Abuse in Care, which took place on November 12. I also want to acknowledge those who did not survive the abuse they went through, or who passed away before the apology from the Crown took place in 2024.

I have heard about a number of community events where survivors appreciated the opportunity to meet and talk with each other, as well as sharing information about the support available to them. See a video of me speaking further about the day on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1AFbD1RMZu/>

I recently visited the team in the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention to thank them for the important work they are leading to deliver the Action Plan and enable a more effective system. It was good to get an update on progress. There has been an impressive amount of work at both the national level and in communities around the country, to strengthen multi-agency responses. Next year, the new High-Risk Protocol will be tested in Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti – a protocol that the Centre has developed this year in partnership with specialists – to guide practitioners in their risk assessment and decision-making.

I also announced the creation of a new Ministerial Advisory Group to provide free and frank advice about policy, strategy and legislative responses to family violence and sexual violence. This is an opportunity to inform decision-making and help build systems that support prevention, elimination, response and healing. **Expressions of interest are open from 10 November until 16 January.** For more information, [visit the Centre's website here.](#)

A year ago we launched Te Aorerekura Action Plan, 2025-2030 and as I travel the country and meet with various community groups (such as Enabled Wairoa below), I am hearing much greater awareness of Te Aorerekura – the National Strategy. There is genuine interest in the work being undertaken and how communities can play their part. It is always great to



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field questions about the practical changes underway, our key priorities over the next few years, and what the future system will look like, based on all the lessons from multi-agency responses this year.



Minister Chhour with Enabled Wairoa.

Alongside many other incredible women, I took part in 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, filming a video for the Centre's social media campaign. The campaign was a collaboration with UN Women Aotearoa New Zealand, and you can read more about it – and see the videos – in the 16 Days item below.

Finally, I know kaimahi will be looking forward to a well-deserved rest over the holidays. I also know that reporting of family violence and sexual violence will increase over this period so it's important that agencies and community providers are working together to plan and ensure there are people available to respond to those who need support during the holidays.

Let's end the year strong, enjoy time with our families and loved ones while we refresh over the holiday period. I look forward to updating you again in February next year.

Ngā mihi nui,
Hon Karen Chhour
Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence



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Introduction from Emma Powell, Chief Executive of the Centre



Tēnā koutou,

As we end the year, I am really pleased to reflect on a huge year in the Centre, working with Ministers, Chief Executives and people in agencies right across government, as well as the specialists, victim-survivors, advocates, academics and communities who inform our work. I am enormously grateful to the people who collaborate with us to ensure Action Plan delivery is effective and we are able to improve systems, so they work well for the people we are here to serve – the families, whānau, people and communities affected by family violence and sexual violence.

Earlier this month, I attended a [Parliamentary Select Committee](#) alongside Andrew Kibblewhite, the Chair of the Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence (the IEB) and other senior people from government agencies responsible for delivering the Action Plan. The hearing was part of 'Scrutiny Week' – when Members of Parliament scrutinise the performance of government agencies and hold us to account. The hearing was two hours – enabling an extensive discussion about how the IEB and the Centre are working, the challenges we face, and the opportunities to keep improving how government agencies work together - and with communities - to prevent violence. It was great to hear MPs acknowledging the role of the IEB and the Centre in driving system improvements.

At the Justice Select Committee, we also responded to the petition of David White, a long-time advocate for more effective prevention of family violence. David was also asking for



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family violence related suicides to be counted. The Mortality Review Committee has made a [similar recommendation](#). We acknowledged David's tireless advocacy, the need for greater focus on prevention and discussed how gaps in data could be addressed.

The Centre has been [communicating the progress in 2025](#) and we are pleased that delivery has remained strong across the Action Plan priorities - Investing and Commissioning Well, Keeping People Safe, Stopping Violence, and Strengthening our Workforces. This progress reflects deep collaboration across Government agencies and strengthened partnerships with iwi and communities, and specialist family violence and sexual violence organisations.

Importantly, more than 1,400 people in Corrections, Oranga Tamariki and NZ Police have received training on family violence and sexual violence responses in 2025, bringing the total number of people trained in these agencies since the launch of the Family Violence Workforce Capability Frameworks to 15,034. People right across the public service work with people affected by violence, so it's important we build capability in the biggest workforce - government.

Wishing you all the best for a restful holiday period – time to replenish ourselves and our spirits, celebrate with loved ones, and prepare for the new year ahead.

Ngā mihi nui,
Emma Powell

Chief Executive of the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention

Summer Safety Messaging

Help is available 24/7 for anyone affected by family violence or sexual violence.

Summer is a time to slow down for many, but that isn't the reality for everyone. For some, this season can feel stressful, overwhelming or isolating. If that's you, you're not alone.

Sometimes the hardest part is recognising that things don't feel right, or that you're worried about yourself or someone close to you. Reaching out can feel huge, but there are trained specialists who support you without judgement. Confidential support is available any time of the day or night, even over the upcoming holiday period.



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Across New Zealand, there are mental health, family violence and sexual violence services dedicated to helping people stay safe and connected. Part of our role is helping people know where to find safe, trusted support when it matters most. We see the difference their mahi makes for individuals and whānau, and we want to make sure people can reach them when they need to.

If things feel heavy, or you're worried about what is happening in your home or someone else's, there are free and safe services you can reach out to for help. Here are some places you can contact, depending on what you need:

Are You OK? can support with family violence.

📞 0800 456 450

🌐 www.areyouok.org.nz

Safe to Talk offers confidential sexual violence support.

📞 0800 044 334

🌐 www.safetotalk.nz

1737 provides free mental health and wellbeing support any time.

💬 Call or text 1737

If you or someone else is in immediate danger, please call 111.

Take care of yourself and the people close to you this summer. If things feel uncertain or tough, support is there when you need it. You don't have to figure it out on your own.



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First round of Social Investment Fund new initiatives selected

Recently, Minister for Social Investment Hon Nicola Willis announced \$50 million of funding for children and families with complex needs. The announcement marks a significant milestone for social investment in Aotearoa and the Social Investment Agency's mission to deliver better outcomes for people in need.

Seven organisations working with children and young people have been selected to receive funding through the Social Investment Fund. This new funding will enable early intervention on the ground and provide direct support to 1600 children and their families a year.

Successful applications came from:

- Te Hou Ora Whānau Services Limited
- Tākiri Mai te Ata Trust
- Te Puawaitanga ki Ōtautahi Charitable Trust
- Ngāti Awa Social and Health Services Trust
- Barnardos New Zealand Incorporated
- Horowhenua New Zealand Trust
- Kaikaranga Holding Ltd

These organisations will now work alongside SIA to design multi-year agreements that will give them the freedom and resources to deliver critical, cross-cutting services.

Successful initiatives were arrived at after a thorough selection process led by a panel made up of government and sector leaders. Those selected were able to demonstrate the best overall impact for individuals they're looking to support, together with the capacity to test how government and the social sector can work smarter together.

Social investment is about changing lives by changing the way government works with the social sector. That means working in genuine partnership. It means outcomes-based agreements that enable innovation and adaptation. It means giving data and insights to organisations to help them design and deliver more effective support. And it means empowering communities to deliver services in a way they know will achieve the best results for the people they know best.



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The Social Investment Fund was established in Budget 2025 with \$190 million over four years for carefully targeted investments. After these initial investments, the Fund stands at \$140 million, with more investments and funding pathways to follow.

For more information, see: [Youth targeted by Social Investment Fund | Social Investment Agency](#)

Stalking and Harassment legislation passed by Parliament

The Crimes Legislation (Stalking and Harassment) Amendment Bill had its third reading in Parliament on 18 November 2025 and has now been passed into law. The law introduces a new stalking and harassment offence with a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment. One amendment was made to the law at third reading, to require Police to notify the person being stalked before they issue a notice to the person alleged to be stalking.

The new offence is a significant outcome for survivors and the family violence and sexual violence sector, many of whom have been advocating for a dedicated stalking offence for a long time. It also fulfils an action under the 'Stopping Violence' area of the Second Te Aorerekura Action Plan. The law aims to ensure the harm caused by stalking is better recognised, responded to and prosecuted effectively.

The law will come into effect in May 2026, to allow for implementation activities to occur. These include training for Police, court staff and the judiciary, and the development of information for the public. The Ministry of Justice and Police are leading the implementation of the new law. The Centre, along with the Ministry for Women, are working with Police and Justice on communications to the public and service providers.



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16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign – Wrap-Up



The social media campaign collaboration between the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention, and UN Women Aotearoa New Zealand, finished on 10 December.

It involved prominent women with knowledge of family violence and/or sexual violence speaking up about what we can do to prevent violence, what a world without violence would look like, and what they would say to all women and girls if they had the chance. It included Ministers, researchers, academics, community organisation leaders, and more.

Full list of days, with links to our LinkedIn posts:

Day 1: [Minister Karen Chhour](#)

Day 2: [Governor-General Dame Cindy Kiro](#)

Day 3: [Chief Executive Emma Powell](#)

Day 4: [Minister Nicola Grigg](#)

Day 5: [Silvana Erenchun Perez from Shama](#)

Day 6: [Chief Victims Advisor Ruth Money](#)

Day 7: [Prof. Gail Pacheco, Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner](#)

Day 8: [Cassandra Mudgway, senior lecturer in law at University of Canterbury](#)

Day 9: [Dr. Jean Mitaera, Chief Advisor, Centre for Pacific Health & Social Practice at](#)



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Whitireia and Weltec

Day 10: [Debbs Murray, ECLIPSE Family Violence Services](#)

Day 11: [Sarah Brown, She Is Not Your Rehab](#)

Day 12: [Dr. Charlotte Moore, Violence Information Aotearoa \(Vine\)](#)

Day 13: [Ali Mau, journalist, broadcaster, and founder of Tika](#)

Day 14: [Janet Fanslow, Chief Advisor of Violence Information Aotearoa \(Vine\)](#)

Day 15: [Nicola Atwool, family violence death review SME Chair for National Mortality Review Committee](#)

Day 16: [Tara Singh, President of UN Women Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

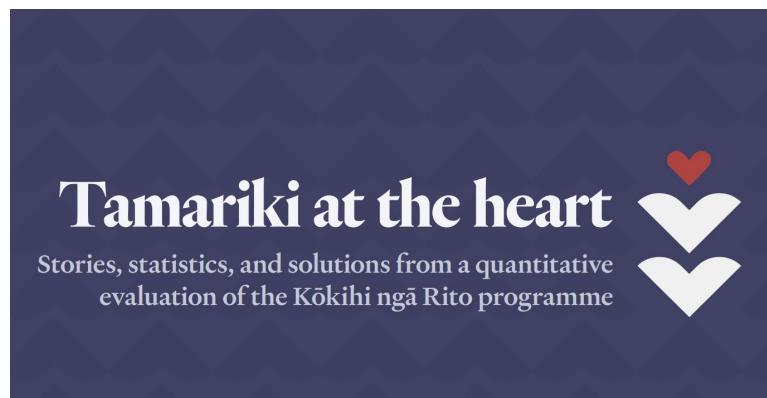
A full playlist of all 16 videos is on our YouTube channel, link [here](#).

We have also compiled three ‘compilation’ videos of all sixteen women, with short quotes pulled from their answers for all three questions respectively:

1. [What is one thing we can do to prevent violence against women and girls?](#)
2. [What would a world without gender-based violence look like?](#)
3. [If you could speak to all women and girls in Aotearoa New Zealand right now, what would you say?](#)

For more information about the campaign, see: [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

Kōkihi Ngā Rito Programme Evaluation – “Tamariki at the Heart”





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Child Advocates provide specialist child-centred support for tamariki exposed to family violence

Traditionally, refuge responses to family violence have focused on the adult victims/survivors. In recent years, the evidence of the lasting impacts that exposure to family violence has on tamariki has grown. As a result, the gap in child-centred services that recognise the distinct needs of tamariki as victim/survivors has become more evident.

Child Advocates are based within women's refuges and work from a child-centred approach. They focus on supporting children and prioritising their needs after exposure to family violence.

Currently, there are eight women's refuges in the country providing a Child Advocates programme. Six of these are affiliated with the National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges (NCIWR), and two are unaffiliated independent women's refuges.

Kōkihi ngā Rito is NCIWR's Child Advocates model

In 2023, NCIWR conducted an evaluation of Kōkihi ngā Rito and found that children consistently reported feeling safer and that their lives were better after participating in the programme.

In 2024, MSD commissioned an independent quantitative evaluation of the programme to better understand the programme's impact on tamariki.

The evaluation found that the Kōkihi ngā Rito programme made a significant, positive impact on the wellbeing of tamariki

The key findings are:

- Tamariki wellbeing improved significantly.
- Mothers' wellbeing improved.
- Tamariki in Kōkihi ngā Rito received more intensive support.
- Case notes reflected tamariki perspectives.
- There is a huge need for specialist child advocacy.

The full evaluation report is now available on the MSD website.



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You can access it here [Tamariki At The Heart - Kōkihi ngā Rito Evaluation.](#)

Dear Children – Advocacy to End Child Abuse

The campaign aims to bring focus, urgency, and collective responsibility to keeping children and young people safe in Aotearoa New Zealand. At its heart is a letter that Claire Achmad, the Children's Commissioner, has written affirming children and young people's right to be safe, and calling on all adults to step up and protect that right. Along with the letter, the campaign website features resources to help people recognise the signs of abuse and harm, ways they can help create change, and tips about how they can play their part.

Please help us amplify the *Dear Children* campaign

We'd love to have your support to amplify the campaign, to show the mokopuna how important their safety is to us all – and that together we will be aware of the reality and commit to doing much better on children's safety. Its success relies on the voices, leadership, and actions of people like you. Please help to create a ripple of change by:

- **Signing the *Dear Children* letter** at dearchildren.co.nz . In real-time, the campaign visibly tracks the number of people who sign the letter with me, to send our country's children a clear and powerful message. The live number will also feature on billboards from next week, up until Xmas
- **Sharing the campaign** across your networks, organisations, and communities to help amplify the campaign. The campaign has [facebook](#) and [insta](#) accounts and there is a supporters' kit is available at dearchildren.co.nz – more content, including social media assets, will be added in coming days.
- **Championing child safety** within your community and spheres of influence – this might be through leadership, advocacy, policy, practice, or by building relationships with others.
- **Helping to strengthen the systems around whānau** that ensure mokopuna can grow up safe, well and thriving.
- **Reflecting on the things, small and large, that you can do to play your part**, helping to create conditions where all mokopuna can grow up safe, well, and free from harm.

Thanks for your support. Please contact our team at children@manamokopuna.org.nz if you'd like to support the kaupapa in other ways, or if you have feedback.



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ECLIPSE Family Violence Services - Rainbow Communities and Family Violence e-learning course now live!

ECLIPSE's [Rainbow Communities and Family Violence online course](#) is designed for anyone working with people who may be part of the LGBTQIA+ community and experiencing family violence – including social services, health, education, justice, community and NGO kaimahi.

It covers areas such as:

- The diversity of rainbow communities, and space to reflect on your own personal values, beliefs and biases.
- The unique dynamics of family violence in rainbow communities, including how coercive control can be used to entrap rainbow people.
- How to work safely and collaboratively with rainbow people experiencing violence, including understanding the specialist services and agencies available.

ECLIPSE has adapted the Recognise, Respond, Refer framework to highlight the importance of creating a safe connection and relationship. The e-learning will introduce you to our Relate, Recognise, Respond, Refer framework to use with Rainbow people.

The course aligns with Te Aorerekura: National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence, and is mapped to the Essential level of the Entry to Expert Family Violence Workforce Capability Framework – specifically in relation to rainbow communities.

ECLIPSE's **Essential Level programme** is also available, and has found success with a number of organisations who have signed up to train whole workforces, delivering measurable practice changes.

[ECLIPSE Family Violence Services | Lived Experience-Practitioner Family Violence Training](#)
- click the Family Violence Training Tab to locate E2E Essential Level workshops/Courses.

If you'd like to discuss bulk enrolments or organisation-wide access, please get in touch with us at enquiries@eclipselfamilyviolenceservices.co.nz



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Reminder: Decult Conference 2026 – Call for Speakers



Ōtautahi Christchurch | Aotearoa New Zealand | 24–25 October 2026

Decult is Australasia's leading cult awareness conference, coming back to Christchurch for a second time after an incredibly successful launch in 2024. They are looking for bold, thoughtful and diverse contributions that highlight lived experience, mental health, human rights and survivor advocacy. This time, the theme is **VOICES OF COURAGE: Pathways to Healing and Justice.**

With only 20 in-person sessions across two streams, preference may be given to speakers from Australia and New Zealand. They are expanding the programme online – round the clock & round the world – so they welcome proposals from anywhere else (especially North America and Europe), even if you cannot attend in person but only on Zoom.

Presentations can take the form of individual talks, panels or short personal contributions to our Survivor Story Jam. This form will ask about your background, your proposed presentation and the broader impact you hope to make. We're especially interested in how your work contributes to meaningful change for survivors—whether through aid, awareness, advocacy or action.

Watch the documentary [DECULT VOICES - BEYOND BELIEF](#) (filmed at the Decult 2024 conference) and get inspired to get involved!

Submissions close 31 Dec 2025 but they will start processing them as they come in. Expect to hear from us in February 2026.

If you have questions, please contact admin@decult.net



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Reminder: 2026 National Conference - Ending men's family violence: from local practice to national strategy

11 and 12 March 2026, *No to Violence* in collaboration with *Stopping Family Violence* and *SPEAQ*, is bringing a national conference to Hobart.

The two-days will explore national and local approaches to preventing and responding to gender-based violence. It's a time to connect, collaborate and develop a collective call to action to end men's family violence.

Early bird tickets available now for in-person or virtual tickets: [NTV Events | No to Violence](#)

About the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention

The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention brings government agencies together to align whole-of-government strategy, policy, and investment to eliminate family violence and sexual violence.

These agencies include:

- [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 Pirihihama 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.

Visit our website preventfvsv.govt.nz or contact us at contact@preventfvsv.govt.nz.

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To share stories in the next e-update, contact: Holly.Blackler@preventfvsv.govt.nz.