



The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention

Responding, healing, strengthening

October Pānui

30 October 2025

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





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Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to the October 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.

Strengthening multi-agency responses through the Keeping People Safe focus area of the Action Plan remains a priority for our work. Effective responses will help to break the cycles of family violence and achieve the Government's target of reducing violent crime (Target 4). This work also aligns with recommendations from Dame Karen Poutasi's independent review of the children's system.

On 9 October 2025, Child Poverty Reduction Minister Louise Upston announced that the Government has agreed to accept all 14 recommendations made in the review.

See more information on the Poutasi review here: [Reviews in relation to Malachi Subecz and whānau and our response | Oranga Tamariki — Ministry for Children](#)

I want to recognise the work of the Centre in coordinating System Improvement Plans, which are being completed in many locations across six regions to strengthen multi-agency responses, with a focus on identifying local improvements and how government agencies can support change.

System Improvement Plans are a critical mechanism for driving both local and national system transformation. They identify actionable steps that can be progressed by multi-agency response locations, while simultaneously generating evolving insights that inform the development of a future state for multi-agency responses to family violence. **They surface actions for national level consideration, ensuring that local innovation informs system-wide improvement.**

These plans look at the local context – the population, family offence prevalence rate, number of unique and repeat victims and offenders, and more - to identify the way the current responses are working, and what can be improved. By understanding their current



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state, response maturity, and what local and national actions are required to improve, we are ensuring an improvement model that brings up the quality and effectiveness of responses to family violence across the nation.

I also want to recognise the progress in the Stopping Violence focus area of the Action Plan, which is work led by the Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Justice, and Corrections - which includes new stalking legislation, a review of current interventions for people who use violence, supporting men's behaviour change through Te Huringa o te Ao, extending rehabilitation support services to prisoners on remand, and expanding access to safety programmes in the criminal court.

The Stopping Violence Working Group has engaged with stakeholders from government agencies, service providers and sector bodies to understand the effectiveness of current interventions available to users of violence across Aotearoa New Zealand, and where there are opportunities for improvement in the future.

Engagement has included monthly online workshops with a Reference Group, convened to support the delivery of the 'Review of current interventions for people who use violence, approximately 40 online meetings with individual providers and sector representatives, and 122 responses to a publicly available online survey.

I will continue to share the development and results of our focus areas for Te Aorerekura Action Plan (2025-2023) in future Pānui. You can also find information about this work on the website at www.preventfvsv.govt.nz.

Since the last Pānui I have met with many providers – a recent highlight was **Diamonds in the Rough**, a nationwide initiative whose mission is to equip and empower young families to achieve their potential. They work with young/adolescent mothers and provide connect groups, workshops, psychosocial education, and whanau activities which are all free. Another recent opportunity was the **Whakamanawa Social Service Providers Te Pai Ora o Aotearoa conference**, where I delivered a keynote speech to the audience of over 450 attendees, about important outcomes we are seeking for, and with, communities.



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Minister Chhour with Diamonds in the Rough

Only a short while to go until the holidays start beckoning – let's all do what we can to embed change and support positive outcomes as the end of 2025 approaches quickly. Ahead of the summer break, we will promote summer safety messaging so keep an eye out for that information.

Ngā mihi nui,

Hon Karen Chhour

Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

In 2023, a woman or girl was killed by a partner or family member every 10 minutes worldwide. Globally, nearly [one in three women experience violence in their lifetime](#). Girls are at particular risk of violence - [1 in 4 adolescent girls is abused by their partners](#).

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international civil society led campaign. It commences on **25 November, the International Day for the**



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Elimination of Violence against Women, and ends on 10 December, Human Rights Day, highlighting that violence against women is the most pervasive breach of human rights worldwide.

This is an opportunity to revitalize commitments, and to call for accountability and action from decision-makers, as the world approaches the [30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2025](#) – a visionary blueprint for achieving gender equality and women's and girls' rights everywhere.

The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence will be partnering with UN Women Aotearoa to deliver a social media campaign for the 16 Days of Activism.

We will be posting on our [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#) channels from 25 November to 10 December – stay tuned!

If you or your organisation wants to get involved, see here: [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

Netsafe Webinar – White Ribbon Day (November 25)

On 25 November for White Ribbon Day, at 2pm, Netsafe is hosting a Zoom webinar for people working in the family and sexual violence sector.

This session will provide an overview of who they are, how the Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015 works, and the services Netsafe offers to support people experiencing online harm.

They will share information about their helpline, resolution pathways, and demonstrate ways Netsafe can help you support those impacted by family and sexual violence to address online harm.

Shine will also be discussing our Technology-Facilitated Coercive Control (TFCC) resource - developed in collaboration with Women's Refuge, Shine, and The Light Project.

They encourage anyone working in the FV/SV sector to join them to learn how Netsafe can support your mahi. Please feel free to share this invite with others working in this space or advertise within your networks.

 **Register here:** [Netsafe Webinar Registration](#)



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Hoake Tātou – Walk With Me, Nationwide Presentations with Tautoko Tāne

Tautoko Tāne is pleased to announce a nationwide series of free presentations to support agencies, service providers and professionals to share information and insights about working with male survivors of sexual abuse to get the support they need.

These presentations began in September – the remaining events are listed below.

Wellington – Lower Hutt	Lower Hutt Events Centre	30c Laings Road, Hutt Central	11 November 2025	9.30am
Wellington – Porirua	Te Rauparaha Arena	17 Parumoana Street, Porirua City Centre	11 November 2025	2.00pm
Wellington Central	Rydges Wellington CBD	75 Featherston Street, Pipitea	12 November 2025	10.00am & 2.00pm
Tauranga	The Atrium Cafe & Conference Centre	252 Otumoetai Road, Otūmoetai	25 November 2025	10.00am
Rotorua	Millenium Hotel	1270 Hinemaru Street, Ohinemutu	26 November 2025	10.00am
Hastings	Te Rae	101 Queen St East	9 December 2025	9.30am
Napier	Napier War Memorial Centre	48 Marine Parade, Bluff Hill	9 December 2025	2.00pm
Tairāwhiti	Midway Surf Rescue Community Hub	40 Centennial Marine Drive, Awapuni	10 December 2025	2.00pm
Whanganui	151 on London	151 London Street, College Estate	11 February 2026	10.00am
New Plymouth	Plymouth International	220 Courtenay Street	12 February 2026	10.00am
Palmerston North	Copthorne Hotel	110 Fitzherbert Avenue	25 February 2026	10.00am
Whangārei	Distinction Whangarei Hotel & Conference Centre	9 Riverside Drive, Riverside	10 March 2026	10.00am & 2.00pm

In total, 26 events will be held in 17 towns and cities, featuring a panel of presenters at each, including male survivors of sexual abuse.

Supported by the Ministry for Social Development, the presentation series is an opportunity to learn from our experience and strengthen your organisation's ability to support male survivors.

Hoake Tātou | Walk With Me has been designed to bring service providers and support agencies together, help strengthen understanding of the barriers men face when seeking help, and highlight the benefits of a purposeful peer support and wellbeing approach to support recovery.



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The presentation content includes:

- Safe access and effective engagement of male survivors with support services
- Dispelling some of the common myths about male victims of sexual harm
- Navigate the misunderstandings that create barriers to engagement with support services
- Highlight the role of lived experience as an effective engagement model
- Collaboration and partnerships to welcome and embrace cultural and gender diversity within the male survivor community

To register or for more information, please go to: [Hoake Tātou – Walk With Me - Tautoko Tāne Male Survivors Aotearoa](#)

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.



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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. They are 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

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](#)

The ACC v TN ruling from the Court of Appeal, and what it means for Survivors

In December 2023, the Court of Appeal issued a ruling in the ACC v TN case, clarifying when survivors of sexual abuse can qualify for financial entitlements if they're unable to work or study or have a permanent impairment. The court ruled that ACC clients who suffer a mental injury from sexual abuse are eligible for financial support based on the date they suffered their mental injury, which for most people is when their sexual abuse or assault event occurred or sometime close to that date. Previously, requests for financial support were based on when clients first received treatment.



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What this means for survivors

- All new requests for weekly compensation and loss of potential earnings (LOPE) will be determined based on the date clients suffered a mental injury.
- If someone was sexually abused or assaulted as a child, they may be eligible to receive LOPE from when they turned 18, even if ACC previously declined their request. LOPE is financial support for people who were injured because of sexual abuse or assault prior to turning 18 and whose injuries are preventing them from working. ACC clients must have an accepted sensitive claim and meet certain requirements to be considered for financial support.
- Sensitive claims clients who have requested financial support from ACC and are waiting for a decision may need to be reassessed for a different type of financial entitlement if their mental injury happened prior to turning 18. If a client needs to be reassessed, a recovery team member will contact them to explain the process.

It is important to note that the court decision is about financial compensation and doesn't affect whether someone can get cover or access to treatment.

Next year, ACC will begin contacting clients currently receiving weekly compensation who may be impacted by the ruling.

If they identify that the ruling might impact their financial support, they'll let them know and help them understand what it means for them.

More information, including FAQs, is available on the ACC website:

[Support if you've experienced sexual abuse or assault](#)

Stronger legal protections for victims of sexual offences come into effect

The Victims of Sexual Violence (Strengthening Legal Protections) Legislation Act 2025 came into force on 30 October 2025.

The Act aims to reduce harm for victim-survivors of sexual cases when participating in court proceedings. It makes changes to the:

- Crimes Act 1961 to better protect children under 12 years of age.



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- Criminal Procedure Act 2011 to enhance victim autonomy and participation in sexual violence cases, through changes to name suppression laws.

For cases of a sexual nature where the charges are filed in court on or after 30 October 2025, the key changes for victims are that:

- the court can no longer give an offender permanent name suppression unless the victim agrees to the offender having permanent name suppression
- all victims will have with their identity automatically suppressed.

More information is available on <https://sexualviolence.victimsinfo.govt.nz/en/home/name-suppression/>

Victims' Guide to Appeals – Crown Law

If you are a victim of crime or are supporting someone who has been through the court process and you have been told that there is an appeal, you may have some questions.

In October 2025, Crown Law published the Victims' Guide to Appeals. This Guide is designed to help victims of crime understand the appeal process, including the lead up to an appeal hearing, the hearing itself and making complaints. It is an outline only, responding to questions that victims often ask.

The Guide has been prepared in consultation with the Chief Victims Advisor as well as Crown lawyers who are specialists in criminal appeals. Court Victims Advisors remain the best people to talk to about specific appeals and what an appeal may mean in an individual case.

Download [online](#) (427KB) or [print-friendly](#) (430KB) PDFs

Ministry of Justice - Long-term Insights Briefing 2025

The Ministry of Justice is consulting on a draft of its second Long-term Insights Briefing. Our topic is *the future operation of the courts and justice services*.

A well-functioning court system is critical to New Zealand's social and economic wellbeing. The environment that the courts and justice services operate in has changed significantly in



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the last few decades, however, and will continue to change rapidly. The pace of tech development and declining trust in institutions are becoming increasingly important context.

You can make a submission through the Ministry's website, by using the survey on the Consultation page. Alternatively, you can email your submission to LTIB@justice.govt.nz.

Submissions need to be received by 9 November.

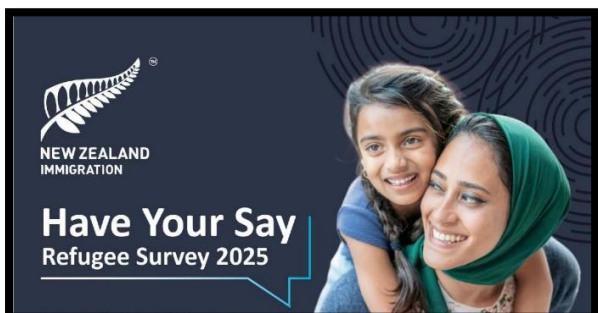
There are some straightforward areas where we can just need to keep innovating or working to embed change that everyone agrees is useful - using digital technology to help with administrative tasks is one example. Other opportunities highlighted through this process are strategic choices for decision-makers, however. These choices are:

- whether we should find ways to address unmet legal need
- whether we should undertake structural reform of the court system
- whether we should substantially increase assistance with navigation in the courts
- whether we should consider more ambitious use of AI
- whether there should be greater use of remote participation
- whether we should more actively shape the future workforce for the court system.

You can find [the draft Long-term Insights Briefing](#) here. If you are short of reading time, an [outline of the key points in the draft Long-term Insights Briefing is available as a standalone document](#). The Ministry of Justice is also publishing [a data trends story about what's been going on in the courts](#) as a companion document to the draft Long-term Insights Briefing.

More information: [Long-term Insights Briefing 2025 - Ministry of Justice - Citizen Space](#)

Immigration NZ – Refugee Survey





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Immigration New Zealand (INZ) is inviting former refugees and their families to take part in the first-ever Refugee Survey online now **until 10 December 2025**.

This survey will help the Government better understand the experiences of people who have resettled in New Zealand through the refugee programme. While they already collect data on employment and qualifications, they do not have information that reflects the lived experiences of former refugees. This survey will help change that.

The survey is open to former refugees and their family members aged 16 and older who have settled in New Zealand within the last five years. This includes people who arrived under the Refugee Quota, Refugee Family Support Category, Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship, Afghan evacuees and interpreters, and Convention Refugees approved in the last five years.

It focuses on three key areas: education, employment, and participation in New Zealand life. The survey is online, available in 13 languages, and anonymous. Participation is voluntary, and will not affect visa status, access to support, or any current or future visa applications.

They are asking for your support to help spread the word and encourage eligible individuals to take part. The more people who complete the survey, the better the data will be, and the more that can be done to improve the experience of future refugee communities.

Please share this opportunity with your networks and encourage participation.

Complete the survey here: www.immigration.govt.nz/refugee-survey

Family Violence Training Directory Update

The *Family Violence Training Directory*, maintained by the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention, has been updated and will be live on the Centre's website **from Friday, 31 October 2025**: [Family Violence Training Directory](#)

The October update includes new training listings for two providers:

- *Safeguarding Children* – Safeguarding and Child Protection (Essential Level)
- *VisAble* – Introduction to Child to Parent Violence and Abuse (CPVA) (Entry Level)



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It also updates the *Safe and Together Institute Training* entry to include *Home and Family – Te Whare Manaaki Tangata* as an accredited provider alongside *Tautoko Mai Sexual Harm Support Service*.

The Directory continues to support agencies and providers to identify high-quality, framework-aligned training that strengthens workforce capability across Aotearoa.

Ministry of Justice Family Violence and Sexual Violence Training Package

Shine Education & Training

Shine Education and Training is the training arm of specialist family violence service of Shine (Safer Homes in NZ Everyday) and holds the contract to deliver FVSV Response Training to Courts around the motu.

Every training is co-facilitated by a Shine family violence specialist and a sexual violence specialist trainer.

A short history

In 2022, Shine partnered with R.E Aotearoa to create a bespoke Family and Sexual Violence Training Package for the Ministry of Justice working with kaupapa Māori organisation, Te Ahi Kaa Indigenous Solutions, alongside specialist advisors, Te Puna Oranga, The Backbone Collective and Wellington Rape Crisis.

These partnerships were vital in creating an evidence-based, survivor-centred Training package shaped by an Aotearoa context. In 2023, Shine Education and Training was then granted the Contract to provide the infrastructure to deliver this Training around Aotearoa in partnership with local sexual violence specialist organisations, AVIVA, Tautoko Mai, RE Aotearoa and Rape Prevention Education.

The MOJ FVSV Response Training Package

The Training aims to ensure all members of the Court workforce are equipped to respond safely, consistently, and appropriately to people who have experienced family violence and sexual violence.



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The Training is guided by the whakataukī - *“Nā tō rourou, nā taku rourou, ka ora ai te iwi. With your basket, and with my basket, the people will prosper”*.

This whakataukī expresses the understanding that it takes all of society working together to end family violence and sexual violence. It also embodies manaakitanga, highlighting the role of the Ministry of Justice workforce as haukāinga in welcoming and supporting everyone who comes to the Courts with dignity and respect.

The Training programme consists of:

- Pre-learning modules for each Training (completed online before attending)
- Foundational Training – one day, in-person: introduces the core frameworks of entrapment and coercive control, debunks myths, and teaches the Recognise, Respond, Refer model through group discussions, videos, and scenarios
- Advanced Training – one day, in-person: builds on the foundations using Response-Based Practice and a focus on cultural responsiveness, resistance, and appropriate ways of working with people who use violence. To attend the Advanced Training, participants first need to complete the Foundational Training

The training is interactive and designed specifically for participants from across the Court workforce, recognising that everyone has a role to play in eliminating family and sexual violence. This Training is available to the Court and Court-related workforce.

For more information or to see if you fit the criteria, email FVSVTraining@2shine.org.nz

Te Hiku Wellbeing Report, Meth Rehabilitation Services in Te Hiku o Te Ika

Te Hiku Iwi Development Trust have released two reports on their website.

- **Te Hiku Wellbeing Report 2025** - This report provides a comprehensive assessment of the wellbeing of Te Hiku o Te Ika Iwi, focusing on Te Kōwhao te Ngira, The Social Accord framework, based upon seven outcomes. This report highlights both improvements and challenges in each area, offering insights into the current state of wellbeing.
- **Meth Rehabilitation Services in Te Hiku o Te Ika** - This study carries the voices of whānau and practitioners with lived experience who support and care for those



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involved with meth, especially in Te Hiku. This feasibility study was commissioned by Te Hiku Iwi Development Trust and funded by the Ministry of Health. It was conducted by Dr Jo Mane of Pūrangakura, an independent kaupapa Māori research centre.

The Wellbeing report includes progress towards the Te Hiku Wellbeing indicators as well as the progress of the 9 government targets announced in April last year.

See the reports here: [Downloads](#) | [Te Hiku ō Te Ika Iwi Development Trust](#) | [Kaitia](#)

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 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.

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