



21 December 2020

## The Joint Venture e-Newsletter

**The Joint Venture's mission is to reduce and eliminate family violence and sexual violence in New Zealand Aotearoa.**

In this update:

- The new Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence talks about her role, her vision for the future and the focus areas for the next year.
- It's OK to ask for help or to help someone else. You'll find information about what family violence and sexual violence really is and the services who can help.
- Violence Prevention for Diverse Communities project underway.
- Improving court experiences for people affected by family violence and sexual violence.
- Celebrate whānau: Useful resources to build and create healthy, positive lives together.



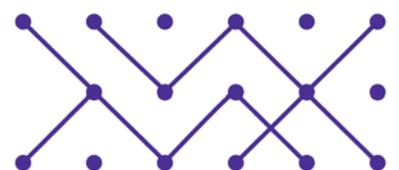
**We are delighted to introduce you to Hon Marama Davidson, Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence.**

This is a new portfolio that gives the work to end family violence and sexual violence full Ministerial status. The mahi started in the previous Government under Under-Secretary Jan Logie will continue to grow from strength to strength. As the Minister says, we have much more work to do and 2021 is going to be a huge year.

We know the only way we will make the necessary changes is by working together—across government, together with Te Tiriti o Waitangi partners, with multiple agencies, the family violence and sexual violence (FVSV) sector and communities.

There is great support to work together, taking a collective approach on an issue that remains as complex as it is challenging—eliminating family and sexual violence.

Minister Davidson will lead the many opportunities we have available to work together and across government to improve the FVSV system. To name a few, these include continuing the





work to develop and implement a national strategy, moving towards integrated community responses, working with diverse communities, and lifting workforce capability across the sector. (The [Briefing to the Incoming Minister](#) is available on the Beehive website).

The effectiveness of the JV in facilitating and enabling a whole-of-government approach was clearly demonstrated during the COVID-19 response. We provided support and additional funding for family violence providers with agencies working with specialist family violence and sexual violence services and NGOs to ensure help was available for those who needed it.

Whether you have been working on the COVID-19 response or making a contribution to addressing family violence and sexual violence (or both at the same time!), thank you for the role that you have played over the last year and for bringing your best every day. We look forward to coming together and continuing this mahi in 2021.

### **It's OK to ask for help or help someone else**

The COVID-19 pandemic will be adding extra pressure to what is already a stressful time of year for those experiencing family violence and sexual violence.

During the holiday season, check in with your family, friends, whānau and neighbours. Know what to do should you or someone else need help. Knowing what to do and safe ways to help brings us one step closer to ending this kind of violence in Aotearoa. In this update, we provide contact details and link to information and who to contact.

### **As 2020 draws to a close and you're out and about, remember to keep safe from COVID-19**

The COVID-19 campaign —E te whānau, tautokohia te kaupapa: Make Summer Unstoppable — reminds us that we are still in a pandemic. By taking some simple actions, we can all play our part to protect ourselves and others. Keep doing these four simple things:

- Wash your hands
- Scan QR codes
- Turn on Bluetooth tracing on the NZ COVID Tracer app
- Stay home if you're feeling unwell and get advice about a COVID-19 test.

On behalf of the JV and JVBU, I want to wish you, your team, your whānau, and friends a safe and restful holiday season.

Ngā mihi

**Fiona Ross, Director of the Joint Venture**





## Introducing the new Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence



### What motivated you to want to take on the role of Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual violence?

Before coming into politics, I worked at the Human Rights Commission and, for a time, was the chief panellist on the Owen Glenn inquiry into domestic violence and child abuse. The people I met and stories I heard during that inquiry have stuck with me since then and are certainly an ongoing motivation and inspiration. That time brought to light for me sadly just how rife family and sexual violence is in Aotearoa.

At the time, there were so many stories of people who had sought help and found that engaging with “the system” to be traumatising. In some cases, even more so than the violence they had experienced. People talked about not being believed, having their experience minimised, being passed around and not getting the basic help they needed. It was quite shocking to realise just how poorly, in many instances, our society was set up to respond to people who had experienced violence and abuse.

At the same time, I was inspired by many of the people I met. People who had suffered a lot but who were committed to achieving simple goals like providing a safe, stable home for their kids. I was inspired by the people who had found help and support in their family and community and who had been able to change their lives.

I want those success stories to shift from being the exception to becoming the norm. As an MP, and now as a Minister in this portfolio, I feel an enormous sense of responsibility to be a voice for those people and do everything I can to help make their goals a reality.

### What is the long-term vision for Aotearoa New Zealand when it comes to family violence and sexual violence?

My long-term vision for Aotearoa is one that I think is shared by most people working in this sector. Every person deserves to live free from the fear of violence and to be able to access support they need when they need it.

Violence should be an aberration, not the norm in daily life. We have seen great change in attitudes towards violence against children and against women and this is proof that entrenched norms can be changed in our society. I am aware this could sound a bit naive, particularly given how endemic violence has been in this country for so long. However, I believe we have the tools available to break cycles of violence, to return families and communities to places of safety, where children feel nourished and women and all people feel safe.





I am keenly aware from my conversations with the sector that Government cannot solve this problem on its own by imposing top-down solutions on communities. This approach has failed victims and survivors in the past, and in particular it has not worked for Māori. I hope to increasingly centre te ao Māori leadership in our response to family violence and sexual violence. Māori are far more likely to be harmed and far less likely to be able to access the support they need. A Crown-led response has not worked for Māori, but there are increasing examples of Māori-led responses to violence that are working to end the normalisation of violence while enhancing everyone's mana.

To achieve a vision of people being able to access support when they need it it's clear that we need crisis services, refuges and the many other organisations to be resourced and empowered to deliver high-quality frontline public services. Last term made significant progress in this area, but I am aware there is much more work to do.

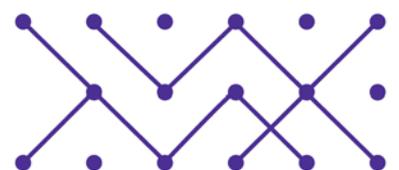
### **What will you be focusing on this term as the first ever Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence and Sexual Violence?**

While this is the first time that family violence and sexual violence have been elevated to a Ministerial portfolio, I am fortunate to have the foundation of the last three years' work to build from. For that, I have my predecessor and colleague Jan Logie to thank, as well as the tireless work of many people in the Joint Venture and community sector.

Around two thirds of a billion dollars in funding was secured last term to address family violence and sexual violence. This will support new initiatives and more sustainable funding of existing essential services. For a sector that has been under resourced for decades I am aware this has to just be the beginning.

There are a number of clear priorities for me over the coming year. This includes delivering the national strategy, progressing the Sexual Violence Legislation Bill, supporting the sector to lift workforce capability, and supporting integrated community responses to family violence and sexual violence. A huge priority for me is to shift our focus to increasing and improving preventions and long-term restoration initiatives, designed and led by community and families.

However, in my first few months in the job I also want to take the time to talk to people across the sector, to hear the lessons learnt from the last three years and your priorities for the next three. I am looking forward to those conversations and working with this committed community in 2021 and beyond.





## It's OK to ask for help at any time or to help someone else

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Family violence and sexual violence, including child abuse increases in the weeks before Christmas and over the New Year holiday period in Aotearoa New Zealand. In our families and whānau, workplaces and communities, we may notice signs that someone is experiencing, or using violence or abuse.

### Get Help Early

Getting help early can save lives and prevent serious harm. It's OK to ask for help at any time – you don't need to wait for a crisis.

- If you are concerned about your immediate safety, or someone else's safety, call the New Zealand Police on 111.
- If you want help or advice, contact family violence and sexual violence specialists listed below. You don't have to give your name and details. You can get anonymous advice and support. They're there to help.

### If you are worried about family violence:

- New Zealand Police: <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice/family-violence/help>
- Family Violence Helpline: 0800 456 450 (9am – 11pm, seven days a week)
- Family Violence Crisis line: 0800 REFUGE or 088 733 843 (24 hours a day, seven days a week)
- [Shine domestic abuse services](#) free call 0508 744 633 (9am and 11pm)
- [Hey Bro helpline](#) - supporting men to be free from violence 0800 HeyBro (439 276)
- Shakti - for migrant and refugee women -0800 742 584 - 24 hours
- Elder Abuse Helpline 0800 32 668 65 - 24 hours

### If you are worried about sexual violence:

- The New Zealand Police website on [sexual violence](#) has clear instructions on what a person should do if they have experienced sexual violence.
- Safe to Talk: 0800 044 334 or text 4334 (24 hours a day, seven days a week). Also visit their webpage to know [how to help someone](#) who may be a victim/survivor of sexual harm.

### If you are worried about children and young people:

- Oranga Tamariki line for concerns about children and young people 0508 326 459, email: [contact@ot.govt.nz](mailto:contact@ot.govt.nz)
- Youthline – 0800 376 633, free text 234, email [talk@youthline.co.nz](mailto:talk@youthline.co.nz)





## Mental health support

- 1737, Need to talk? Free call or text 1737 for mental health support from a trained counsellor

## What is family violence?

Family violence is a range of different behaviours used to control and intimidate others. It's not always physical, it can be psychological, sexual, financial, cultural and verbal. It can be a single violent incident but is most often a pattern of different actions used over time to gain and maintain control of a person or people.

- **Take the Positive Relationship Quiz** to get an idea where your relationship fits: <http://areyouok.org.nz/i-need-help/positive-relationship-quiz/>
- **Know the Danger Signs** – these are signs that a person is in danger of being killed by their partner or ex-partner: <http://areyouok.org.nz/family-violence/the-danger-signs/>
- **Know how to help** – the way you offer help matters: <http://areyouok.org.nz/i-want-to-help/>

## What is sexual violence?

Sexual violence describes a number of sexual behaviours without consent and involve elements of force, coercion and/or power by one person over another for the purpose of sexual gratification and control. This can include both contact and non-contact behaviour, including 'online' computer-assisted sexual harm.

## Other forms of violence

To find out what forms of violence can look like, visit the [New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse website](#).

## Get help if you're worried about your own behaviour

If you are worried about your own behaviour being abusive, help is available. You can change your behaviour. The responsibility to seek help falls on you. Seek help early.

Reach out to Hey Bro for support to seek help in managing emotions in healthy ways and make better and safer choices. [0800 HeyBro \(439 276\)](#) is a helpline and website specifically for men who feel they are going to harm a family or whānau member.

Find help at the National Network of Family Violence Services - [nnsvs.org.nz](http://nnsvs.org.nz)





## It's not OK campaign ads will air on television over December and January 2021

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) is re-playing the "It's not OK" television ads, filmed in 2016, and supported by story-telling content for online video and social media. The ads will play over the Christmas and New Year period, when the potential for family violence increases.

The ads, "Asking for It" and "Control", tell New Zealanders that family violence is not OK, what constitutes violence and abuse, and that help is available. Previous campaign research has found that messages to promote behaviour change or help seeking are much more effective when paired with related messages that address the social norms that tolerate or promote violence. These can help reduce tolerance and increase knowledge about what family violence is, including psychological violence and coercive control.

The advertising runs for the Christmas period, between 6 December and 21 January. MSD is sharing one 30-second ad and three 15-second ads, featuring Phil Paikea, Rowena Paikea, David White, Karen Edwards, Tim Marshall, Mike McRoberts, Tina Cross, and Christina Taefu.

[It is OK to ask for help](#), visit the website for more information.

## Violence Prevention needs in Diverse Communities project underway

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The Violence Prevention needs in Diverse Communities project is currently underway. This funding is aimed at developing community-led violence prevention initiatives for disabled people, new migrant communities, rainbow communities and older people.

Communities and the FVSV sector are working with The Center for Culture-Centred Approach to Research and Evaluation at Massey University between December 2020 and May 2021.

Together they will identify violence prevention activities (to be funded over the next year) for communities by communities. This work will also help shape the national strategy and the actions plans.

If you want to know more, please contact [familyandsexualviolence@justice.govt.nz](mailto:familyandsexualviolence@justice.govt.nz)

## Improving Court experiences for people affected by family and sexual violence

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The Ministry of Justice has a multi-year work programme underway to improve the court experience for people affected by family violence and sexual violence.

The programme is part of ongoing work to embed the Family Violence Act 2018 and responds to evidence that victims of family violence and sexual violence can be further traumatised by court proceedings.





The goal of the work programme is for people affected by FVSV to feel safe, supported and well informed in their interactions with the Ministry of Justice.

The FVSV work programme spans six areas:

- training the Ministry's workforce, both staff and professionals contracted to the courts, to respond safely and appropriately to court participants affected by FVSV
- ensuring policies and processes are based on best practice
- enabling court participants to access supporting services
- improving the quality and accessibility of information for people affected by FVSV
- making Justice property and facilities safe and welcoming
- ensuring decisions are informed by data and evidence, including feedback from participants.

Addressing family violence and sexual violence is a strategic priority for the Ministry of Justice.

The Ministry already has in place a comprehensive Workplace Family Violence Programme. Anyone working for the Ministry can access help for family violence immediately through a range of avenues:

- trained first responders, by email, phone or in person
- their manager – all managers attend training by a specialist family violence NGO
- specialist organisations in their community which are listed on the intranet.

“We are committed to doing what we can to address New Zealand's very high rates of family violence and sexual violence,” Carl Crafar, Chief Operating Officer, said. Mr Crafar is the lead DCE for family violence prevention at the Ministry and a White Ribbon Ambassador.

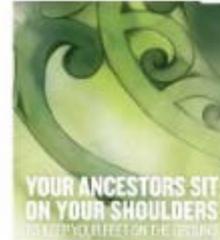
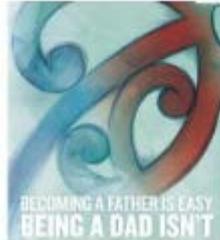
“We know that at any given time there will be people who work for the Ministry as well as people coming to our counters and into court rooms who are impacted by FVSV. We have a responsibility to respond safely and appropriately for both victims and perpetrators.”

There is more information on the Ministry of Justice website: [Addressing family violence and sexual violence | New Zealand Ministry of Justice](#)





## Celebrate whānau: Resources to build and create healthy, positive lives together



[E Tū Whānau](#) is a movement for positive change and it belongs to everyone. Celebrate whānau throughout Aotearoa as they build and create healthy, positive lives together.

This website celebrates whānau throughout Aotearoa as they build and create healthy, positive lives together. E Tū Whānau’s violence free and whānau centered kaupapa is proudly Māori but it’s proving rich and inspirational to our refugee and migrant communities as well.

### About the Joint Venture

The Joint Venture (JV) provides cross-agency leadership that is committed to delivering meaningful change in response to family violence and sexual violence. It aims to stop the intergenerational nature of this violence, improve partnerships between Māori and the Crown, and transform how Government agencies work together.

The Joint Venture reports to the Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence. The Joint Venture response is to reduce the impact of family violence and sexual violence on current and future New Zealanders by focusing our efforts where a joint response can make the biggest difference.

#### JV Agencies are:

- Accident Compensation Corporation / Te Kaporeihana Āwhina Hunga Whare
- Ara Poutama Aotearoa / Department of Corrections
- Ministry of Education / Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga
- Ministry of Health / Manatū Hauora
- Ministry of Justice / Tāhū o te Ture
- Ministry of Social Development / Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora
- New Zealand Police / Nga Pirihimana O Aotearoa
- Oranga Tamariki / Ministry for Children
- Te Puni Kōkiri – Kāinga / Ministry of Māori Development
- The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet / Te Tari O Te Pirimia Me Te Komiti Matau





**The JVBU Joint Venture Business Unit (JVBU) supports the Joint Venture (JV) of the Social Wellbeing Board and the Minister.** The Joint Venture Business Unit provides a coordination and strategic leadership role for the Joint Venture. It manages the governance of the Joint Venture, provides Ministerial servicing and coordinates policy advice from a family violence and sexual violence system perspective.

The Joint Venture Business Unit is hosted by the Ministry of Justice on behalf of the Joint Venture.

## Contact us

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We welcome your questions and feedback. Please email us at [familyandsexualviolence@justice.govt.nz](mailto:familyandsexualviolence@justice.govt.nz)

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