



06 MAY 2021

Tēnā koe

On 28 March 2021, you emailed Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Employment, requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *1 in 6 males are victims of abuse. An astonishing statistic. If valid and I have no reason to doubt it, what is the Minister's commitment to funding this need?*
2. *What services are being paid for by MSD for Wellington and Wairarapa male survivors, and New Zealand wide by region.*
3. *How many individuals are getting support by region and by funded service?*
4. *What services are based on models that have been developed over 25 years and have been adopted in other countries?*
5. *What services have been the subject of research studies to analyze results of the effectiveness of therapy?*
 - a. *Clue- please refer to the 2016 report by Sue Carswell et al.*
6. *Is funding dependent on personal relationships with contract managers or is it based on scientific method and evidence based studies?*
7. *Can the the minister explain why MSD is not increasing funding to Mosaic Wellington despite their client numbers increasing 200% this year?*
8. *Mosaic follows a Canadian therapy model that is 25 years old, has 25 years of data, has been the subject of peer reviewed studies, has been set up in Australia as well but has not been granted secure funding to operate where there is both need and demand. Why?*
9. *I understand that some of the results of studies indicate that Maori and Pasifika male victims are reluctant to disclose to a member of their own community. Therefore there will be serious under-reported abuse. This raises an interesting question of whether raising capability and capacity in these communities for specialist services for male victims will actually meet the needs of the victims. What is the Minister's strategy for meeting the needs of Maori and Pasifika male victims of abuse?*

On 7 April 2021, the Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni wrote to you to advise that your request was being transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry), as the matters raised are operational in nature and, therefore, best addressed by the agency.

Please note, the Ministry has interpreted your request to be in regard to male survivors of sexual abuse, due to your reference to the Mosaic model.

I appreciate your interest in the serious and complex societal issue of sexual abuse. It is acknowledged that New Zealand currently has amongst the highest reported rates of sexual abuse in the developed world. Sexual abuse has a damaging, yet often hidden, impact on victims' lives including their ability to work and lead a normal life.

For clarity, I will respond to your questions in turn.

1. *1 in 6 males are victims of abuse. An astonishing statistic. If valid and I have no reason to doubt it, what is the Minister's commitment to funding this need?*

The Government acknowledges the importance of male survivors of sexual abuse (MSSA) having access to appropriate services and support. In regard to the Government's commitment to funding specialist services for MSSA, you may be aware that Budget 2019 allocated \$11.560 million over four years to strengthen support for peer support services for MSSA.

As a funder of sexual violence services, the Ministry has worked closely with the MSSA sector to help develop and grow services across the country. The Ministry's introduction of long-term contracts for service providers has aided an increase from five to eleven providers of support services in New Zealand.

2. *What services are being paid for by MSD for Wellington and Wairarapa male survivors, and New Zealand wide by region.*

The Ministry funds the following organisations for the provision of individual and peer support groups for MSSA:

Provider	Region
Male Survivors	Northland
Better Blokes	Auckland
Male Support Services Waikato	Waikato
Male Survivors Bay of Plenty	Bay of Plenty
Male Survivors Taranaki	Taranaki
Male Survivors Hawkes Bay	Hawkes Bay
Mosaic	Wellington
Male Survivors Wellington	Wellington
The Male Room	Tasman
Male Survivors Canterbury	Canterbury
Male Survivors Otago	Otago

3. *How many individuals are getting support by region and by funded service?*

The following table shows the number of men actively receiving support under the services listed above, broken down by region.

Provider and Region	Number of men in active support
Male Survivors Te Tai Tokerau (Northland)	9
Better Blokes (Auckland)	87
Male Support Services Waikato	726
Male Survivors Bay of Plenty	12
Male Survivors Taranaki	9
Male Survivors Hawkes Bay	N/A
Mosaic (Wellington)	318
Male Survivors Wellington	63
The Male Room (Tasman)	384
Male Survivors Canterbury	1764
Male Survivors Otago	81

Active support refers to someone who is accessing support semi-regularly, such as attending group support monthly, rather than accessing intensive weekly support. This can lead to there being a large number classified as receiving active support from some service providers.

Please note, Male Survivors Te Tai Tokerau, Male Survivors Bay of Plenty, Male Survivors Taranaki and Male Survivors Wellington are newly contracted services and have only been providing Ministry services for six months when this data was captured. As such, the number of men in active support is significantly less than other regions which have been contracted by the Ministry for a longer period.

Furthermore, Male Survivors Hawkes Bay was only contracted in early 2021 and, therefore, no data is currently available on the number of men receiving support.

Additionally, you may note the high number of men receiving active support from service providers based in Canterbury and the Waikato. This is because there is a difference in the size and scope of service providers in New Zealand, with Canterbury and the Waikato being the two biggest providers who offer multiple services for men. Therefore, they are more likely to get referrals from different pathways that may end up with the client disclosing sexual abuse later, which may have otherwise gone undisclosed.

Better Blokes, our Auckland provider, has a relatively small number of men in active support compared to the population size, as the provider is a smaller organisation that only specialise in sexual abuse support. There are a number of other non-Ministry funded services available in Auckland that provide support to MSSA such as HELP Auckland.

In order to protect client confidentiality, the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data. As such, the datasets provided to you have had random rounding to base three applied to the figures in the table. This means a value of one or two may be rounded to zero or three.

The impact of random rounding is that the columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row total, however, the published figures will never differ by more than two counts and still allow you to see trends.

4. What services are based on models that have been developed over 25 years and have been adopted in other countries?

The Ministry funds several organisations which provide individual and group peer MSSA. Male Survivors Aotearoa, the national body for MSSA provides training opportunities for member organisations (currently all Ministry contracted providers) based on the internationally recognised Intentional Peer Support model which was developed in the 1990s.

While there is limited research examining the effectiveness of peer support services for MSSA, there is extensive research demonstrating the effectiveness of peer support services in the health, disability and addiction sectors. For example, peer support services have been found to reduce internalised stigma and promote empowerment and inclusion. Research also notes that peer support is a reciprocal relationship, with benefits arising from working both with, and as, a peer support worker.

5. *What services have been the subject of research studies to analyze results of the effectiveness of therapy?*

The Ministry has commissioned two research projects examining male survivors in New Zealand. The research looks at both the efficacy of peer support services and the barriers men might face when disclosing sexual abuse, which includes looking at currently funded services. The Ministry hopes to have a greater understanding of the effectiveness of peer support services for MSSA following the completion of this research and evaluation work.

The review of the first research project, titled '*What is known about effective recovery services for men who have been sexually abused? An evidence review*', can be found here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/research/effective-support-services/index.html.

The second research project, titled '*Examining the journeys and service needs of adult male survivors of sexual abuse who use peer support in Aotearoa*', is currently being undertaken by Male Survivors Aotearoa in partnership with researchers from the Victoria University of Wellington. The final report will be made available on the Ministry's website once it is complete.

The Ministry hopes to have a greater understanding of the effectiveness of peer support services for male survivors of sexual abuse following the completion of this research and evaluation work.

6. *Is funding dependent on personal relationships with contract managers or is it based on scientific method and evidence based studies?*

The Ministry looks at both the cost of service as well as the regional need when determining the allocation of funding for services across the country.

Budget 2019 allowed the opportunity to develop a new costing model that was more reflective of the service provided and is based on the Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children Fair Funding Framework. Through this model, peer support services for MSSA is costed at \$136,409.26 per full time equivalent (FTE). The development of this costing model had input from the sector to capture the activities that are unique to peer support services, ensuring the costing model is reflective of the service they are providing.

Through the development of the costing model it was also established that a minimum of 1.5 FTE would be required to provide peer support service. Because of this, we have implemented a minimum level of funding for peer support services for male survivors of sexual abuse of 1.5 FTE per year.

Allocation of funding was dependent on the following: population-based data indicators to express a relative level of need for MSSA services across the country, existing data and information from the sector and Male Survivors Aotearoa, and ensuring the sustainability of providers (through minimum levels of funding).

7. *Can the the minister explain why MSD is not increasing funding to Mosaic Wellington despite their client numbers increasing 200% this year?*

Budget 2019 committed to investing \$11.560 million over four years to strengthen support for MSSA peer support services. A breakdown of the funding allocation over the four years, broken down by Financial Year, can be found below:

Service Type	Funding Type	19/20 (\$m)	20/21 (\$m)	21/22 (\$m)	22/23 (\$m)	Total (\$m)
Peer support services for MSSA	Service Delivery	1.438	3.378	3.374	3.374	11.560

Please note, all funding available for peer support services was allocated to providers in long term contracts starting July 2020 (20/21 column in the table above). As the amount of funding available each year does not increase, there is no ability to increase the amount of funding a provider gets for this service at this time.

8. *Mosaic follows a Canadian therapy model that is 25 years old, has 25 years of data, has been the subject of peer reviewed studies, has been set up in Australia as well but has not been granted secure funding to operate where there is both need and demand. Why?*

Budget 2019 provided funding for peer support models for male survivors of sexual abuse. While the Ministry is aware of other models of support for male survivors such as those provided in Canada, they are based around therapeutic and clinical models which would not be eligible to be funded through peer support services for male survivors of sexual abuse.

Please note, there are options through other Government agencies, such as Accident Compensation Corporation's (ACC) integrated services for sensitive claims that can provide counselling and clinical options for MSSA.

More information about ACC's sensitive claim process can be found here: www.acc.co.nz/im-injured/types-of-ongoing-support/counselling-therapy/.

9. *I understand that some of the results of studies indicate that Maori and Pasifika male victims are reluctant to disclose to a member of their own community. Therefore there will be serious under-reported abuse. This raises an interesting question of whether raising capability and capacity in these communities for specialist services for male victims will actually meet the needs of the victims. What is the Minister's strategy for meeting the needs of Maori and Pasifika male victims of abuse?*

The Ministry recognises that sexual violence disproportionately affects Māori and Pacific people, and there is a need to ensure that services have the capability and capacity to respond to these communities.

The Ministry has provided funding to Male Survivors Aotearoa to implement its Kia Mārire ("Effectiveness with Māori") national strategy that aims to provide a range of support services that are effective for Māori. Kia Mārire will be implemented over the next three years with the support and guidance of Te Rōpū Tautoko.

More information on the Ministry's funding and development of services to support male survivors of sexual abuse, and their support networks can be found on our website here:

www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/initiatives/family-and-sexual-violence/specialist-services/male-survivors.html.

Further information on the Ministry's wider work programme on family and sexual violence is also available on our website:

www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/initiatives/family-and-sexual-violence/msd-work.html.

You can read more about the initiatives of the cross-government joint venture work programme to reduce family violence and sexual violence through an integrated response (which the Ministry is involved in) on the Ministry of Justice's website, here:

www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/key-initiatives/addressing-family-violence-and-sexual-violence/work-programme/.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website.

Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response to your request for information regarding services funded by the Ministry to support MSSA, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



Mark Henderson
General Manager
Safe Strong Families & Communities