

**TASKFORCE FOR  
ACTION ON VIOLENCE  
WITHIN FAMILIES**



*The Ongoing  
Programme of Action*

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## The Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families

The Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families brings together leaders from the government and non-government sectors and the judiciary who are committed to working together to eliminate family violence in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

It was established in June 2005 to advise the Family Violence Ministerial Team how to make improvements to the way family violence is addressed, and how to eliminate family violence.

The Taskforce is a significant commitment by the government and non-government sectors, independent Crown entities and the judiciary to work together and to provide leadership to end family violence and promote stable, healthy families.



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# Executive Summary

The Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families published its first report in July 2006. That report sets out its vision and a programme of action to achieve that vision.

In this Ongoing Programme of Action report the Taskforce presents its achievements to date and outlines its plans and programmes for 2007/2008 and beyond.

The vision the Taskforce has been building on since 2005 is one in which all families and whānau have healthy, respectful, stable relationships, free from violence.

To achieve this vision the Taskforce recognises we need confident and resilient individuals and families living in a society where:

- tolerance for family violence is zero
- intervention in family violence occurs as early as possible to alleviate damage and
- systems work together to protect victims and observers of family violence, and to hold perpetrators to account, whenever and wherever violence occurs.

The Taskforce's approach focuses on actions that:

- recognise leadership operates at many levels, in different contexts and across all our communities and it should be enlisted to help change attitudes and behaviour toward violence within families
- empower people so everyone can take personal and collective responsibility for eliminating violence within families
- improve protection and accountability systems so they can immediately and effectively meet the requirements of victims, observers and perpetrators wherever and whenever they come to our attention and
- support and train those who are in a position to recognise, respond and refer family violence when and where it occurs.

The Ongoing Programme of Action acts on the four fronts identified in 2006 to achieve the vision.

## Leadership

The Taskforce recognises leadership must be encouraged and enhanced at all levels and across all communities if we want to end family violence.

We are building on Ministerial and multi-party leadership to enlist people working in the area of family violence to help us to implement the programme of action. In the past year the chief executives of Te Puni Kōkiri and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, as well as the Secretary for Education, and representatives from the Māori Reference Group and the Pacific Advisory Group have joined the Taskforce.

A key initiative for the ongoing programme will be the establishment of Family Violence Free Workplaces where people are empowered to help prevent family violence.

Another key aspect will be a Māori Programme of Action and a Pacific Programme of Action to provide leadership and to co-ordinate action in Māori and Pacific communities.

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## Changing attitudes and behaviour

The Taskforce will continue to work with communities to change attitudes and behaviour toward violence within families.

In September 2007 the Campaign for Action on Family Violence was launched along with an 0800 number, a website and extensive resources. A Community Action Fund supports the campaign. The fund is designed to help community groups to promote violence free messages and to support the national campaign at a community level.

The Taskforce will continue to drive the overall strategy for the campaign, connecting and working with businesses and community initiatives to get the messages right and to promote them effectively.

The Taskforce is also placing a great deal of emphasis on prevention and early intervention. Quality intervention services that support young children and their families can significantly improve health, education and social outcomes. They can help all children, particularly those who are vulnerable, to reach their full potential and to live lives free from abuse, neglect, violence or non-accidental injury.

## Ensuring safety and accountability

The Taskforce is committed to building a highly-responsive justice sector. This is central to ensuring the safety of victims and observers, holding offenders accountable and stopping re-offending.

Since 2006 the Taskforce has also developed a system to better support children affected by family violence. This is building stronger links between government and non-government agencies in communities and uses a local case co-ordination approach to family violence events. A great deal has been achieved by government agencies in the areas of police training in family violence investigation and risk assessment, providing Police Family Violence Co-ordinators, establishing more Family Violence Courts and legal aid access and thresholds.

By the end of 2008 there will be eight Family Violence Courts throughout the country. We will also model a social services system around Family Violence Courts to support the courts. This system will link services to ensure victims and observers are kept safe, perpetrators are kept accountable and responsible, and families are assisted with their recovery needs.

## Effective support services

The Taskforce is committed to ensuring service providers in the area of family violence have the capacity and capability to meet the demand for services.

We are already working to improve the capacity and capability of service providers as part of an initiative called Pathway to Partnership. We expect this will contribute to the delivery of quality services for all victims, observers and perpetrators.

To achieve sustainable funding for non-government service providers we will continue to work with the sector on the best approach to costing non-government family support services.

The Taskforce will also focus on the quality and diversity of approaches to eliminating violence in Māori and Pacific families. We will continue to develop strategies that provide a workforce specifically trained in prevention, early intervention, protection and accountability.

This report outlines in detail a variety of actions and plans designed for and being implemented by a significant number of government and non-government organisations in each of these key areas. On behalf of the Family Violence Ministerial Team and the Taskforce itself we invite you to assess these and to consider your role in the prevention of violence within families.

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## The Family Violence Ministerial Team

- Minister for Social Development and Employment (Chairperson)
- Minister of Police
- Minister of Justice
- Minister of Education
- Minister of Health
- Minister of Women's Affairs
- Chairperson of the Open Hearing into the Prevention of Violence against Women and Children.

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## The Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families

- Chief Executive of the Ministry of Social Development (Chairperson)
- Chief Executive of the Accident Compensation Corporation
- Secretary for Education
- Director-General of Health
- Secretary for Justice
- Chief Executive of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs
- Commissioner of New Zealand Police
- Chief Executive of Te Puni Kōkiri
- Chief Executive of the Ministry of Women's Affairs
- Chief District Court Judge
- Principal Family Court Judge
- Children's Commissioner
- Chief Families Commissioner
- Māori Reference Group representative
- Pacific Advisory Group representative
- Deputy Chief Executive, Social Services Policy, Ministry of Social Development
- Chief Executive of CCS Disability Action
- Chief Executive, Strategic Relationships, of Jigsaw
- Chief Executive of the National Collective of Women's Refuges
- Chief Executive of Relationship Services
- Chief Executive of the Tamaki Community Development Trust.

The last five Chief Executives of non-government organisations represent the Te Rito Advisory Committee and the Family Services National Advisory Council.



# From the Taskforce

If we had any doubts about the need to mobilise so many government and non-government organisations to act to eliminate violence within families, events throughout 2006 and 2007 dispelled them.

As at 19 October 2007, the police national homicide monitoring programme database recorded that 25 out of 53 cases investigated as murders in 2006 were recorded as family violence-related deaths.

Of the 26 victims in these cases (one case included two victims), 12 were women, six were children and eight were men. Of the 12 women, 10 were killed by a male partner or ex-partner (six of these had protection orders in place). All six children were killed by their parents or caregivers. Of the eight men who died as victims of family violence, one was killed by his female partner; the others were killed by other men.

These men, women and children lived in environments where hostility, anger, distrust or neglect was commonplace. Around the victims and the perpetrators were the observers of family violence – their extended family and whānau, neighbours and friends, those who suffered and experienced, or those who, as observers, were also affected.

We recognise family violence is a complex social issue that occurs between family members of all cultures, classes, backgrounds and socio-economic circumstances. Family members including men, women and children may be victims, perpetrators or observers. These roles can change depending on a range of different factors. However, it is important not to minimise the impact and incidence of violence on women and children.

In 2006 the Police recorded over 70,000 calls about family violence occurrences, a statistic that further highlights the scale and pervasiveness of family violence in this country.

As New Zealanders, we are justifiably proud of our nation. We have led the world on issues of justice and equity. We have explored our differences and celebrated our good fortune to be living in a country not afraid to tackle the hard issues.

Surely, the least we should expect is that our families and whānau might enjoy healthy, respectful and stable relationships, free from violence. When we fall short in providing an environment in which these expectations can be met, we fail as a nation.

We know family violence prevents children who experience this violence as victims and witnesses from reaching their full potential as citizens of this nation. We know those who suffer in violent relationships struggle to contribute fully to the social and economic fabric of the country. We know those who inflict violence cannot fully engage as leaders, role models and caregivers in our communities.

There is no doubt violence within families is a significant problem in our communities. We know violence is not acceptable in any community. Yet we also know that in every community, behind closed curtains and doors, the real cost of the grim statistics around family violence can be found. Violence within families saps individuals, generations of families and whole communities of their confidence, their courage and their capacity to enjoy healthy, respectful, safe relationships.

So what do we, the Taskforce, see for our future?

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We see our babies born into violence-free homes where they are loved, cherished and respected. Where there are challenges within families, we see adults and children who have the tools to cope. We see children nurtured and mentored into early adulthood appreciating the moral, ethical, cultural and spiritual values that promote integrity and respect. We see adults understanding and fulfilling their responsibilities as parents, partners, caregivers and community leaders in violence-free educational and sporting institutions, health and justice facilities, and churches and marae.

We see balance fully restored within whānau, hapū and iwi relationships and, as a consequence, whānau made strong. And we see strong vibrant communities free to express their cultural identity and diversity.

Over time we see generations of babies growing up with zero tolerance for violence, into a world where all families and whānau have healthy, respectful, stable relationships free from violence.

This is our vision – and the reason we want to mobilise so many of New Zealand’s leaders in the search for a way to eliminate violence within families.

This report sets out our Ongoing Programme of Action. Everyone has a role in eliminating family violence – men, women and children in homes, schools, communities and workplaces. We want you to embrace our vision of a violence-free nation knowing that to do so will be both brave and challenging.



# 1. Our Vision and Approach

# Chapter 1.

## Our Vision and Approach

### Our Vision

**ALL FAMILIES AND WHĀNAU HAVE HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL STABLE RELATIONSHIPS, FREE FROM VIOLENCE.**

This is the vision the Taskforce has been building on since 2005.

To achieve this vision we need confident and resilient individuals and families living in a society that has zero tolerance for family violence.

As a society, we will intervene in family violence to alleviate damage as early as possible; and we will have systems working together to protect victims and observers and to hold perpetrators to account, whenever and wherever violence occurs.

Achieving our vision is going to take a sustained and co-ordinated effort over many years. It will involve all sectors of society, and both government and non-government services.

### Understanding Family Violence

**FAMILY VIOLENCE OCCURS IN FAMILIES OF ALL CULTURES, CLASSES, BACKGROUNDS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES.**

We recognise family violence is a complex issue, with many, often inter-related causes. There are communities where we find weak sanctions against family violence and where social norms tolerate and support violence within families. These norms operate at all levels, wherever people believe they have ownership or control of others, be they parents, partners or children.

There are also communities that have positive strategies to address family violence, and promote healthy, respectful, stable relationships. We need to learn from these communities and to build on their experiences to make New Zealand a safer place.

Family violence is often exacerbated by factors like drug and alcohol abuse, economic stress and social upheaval; or family and relationship factors like marital conflict and dramatic or rapid changes in family circumstances.

There is also learned behaviour that frequently results in family violence being heavily gender-biased. The predominant pattern in violent adult relationships is one of male violence directed at a female partner. Male perpetrators are more likely to seriously injure and even kill the women and children they are violent towards.

In addition, the evidence shows both men and women are perpetrators of violence against children. Children under the age of one are at the greatest risk of being killed, with both mothers and fathers equally represented as perpetrators. The risk of a homicide diminishes with age.

Most abuse of children occurs within the family, including child sexual abuse, which is a form of child abuse not readily talked about. The consequences for children are often life-long, affecting their ability to form healthy, respectful relationships as adults.

Perpetrating violence within families is usually about exerting domination and power over others. Physical violence is often only one part of a range of strategies that establish a climate of fear within the family. Common strategies include threats, psychological and emotional abuse, financial abuse and sexual abuse. Understanding that family violence operates within a context of fear and control is crucial if we want to act to keep families safe.

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## Guiding Principles

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**THROUGHOUT 2006/2007 OUR WORK HAS BEEN GUIDED BY FOUR KEY PRINCIPLES. THESE PRINCIPLES HAVE DIRECTED AND SUSTAINED OUR DEVELOPMENTAL WORK AND INFORMED OUR ACTIONS.**

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In our first programme of action we built on the experiences of people working to prevent family violence and of those affected by it. We built on the work already being done within communities and by those working with whānau and hapū, Pacific families and families from other ethnic groups.

We know that achieving our vision will take sustained and collaborative effort over many years.

This Ongoing Programme of Action builds on the same principles that underpinned our first programme. These principles are informing our work.

### Sustained collaboration

We know we are looking at intergenerational change. Family violence has been a silent part of our society for many years. Making it visible to everyone is the first step in dealing with it as a nation. Transforming a nation takes persistence and collaborative action over time.

### Focus on those things that make the biggest difference

Our Ongoing Programme of Action will focus on those actions that will have the most effective outcomes, resulting in long-term changes that will be sustainable over generations.

### Community-driven leadership

To be successful in eliminating all forms of family violence we need to recognise, validate and work with leaders in diverse communities. We need to enlist people who will demonstrate assertive, non-violent leadership.

We need leadership at all levels of a community – in individuals, in families and communities, in whānau and hapū, in churches, in government and non-government agencies and in the business community. While family violence occurs in all communities, some communities suffer more than others.

Māori and Pacific people working in the area of whānau wellbeing and violence prevention tell us they are the best people to work with their communities to eliminate family violence. We believe this is true of all communities and the role of the Taskforce is to support community leaders and workers to do what they do well in eliminating violence.

### Learning as we go

From the outset, we have been committed to using the evidence from what works to inform our actions. We have a strong commitment to understanding and developing good practice, and to making sure what we know is working is shared with everyone.



## Our Approach

IN 2007/2008 WE WANT TO ANCHOR OUR FIRST PROGRAMME OF ACTION AND FOCUS ON APPROACHES AND INITIATIVES THAT WILL HAVE THE BIGGEST IMPACT ON PREVENTING VIOLENCE OCCURRING: INTERVENING EARLY, PROTECTING VICTIMS AND HOLDING PERPETRATORS TO ACCOUNT. WE ARE COMMITTED TO ADDRESSING THE AREAS OF PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, PROTECTION AND RECOVERY HOLISTICALLY.

Our approach will focus on actions that:

- recognise leadership operates at many levels, in different contexts and across all our communities, and we need to enlist and harness this to change attitudes and behaviour to eliminate violence within families
- empower people so everyone can take personal and collective responsibility for eliminating violence within families
- improve our protection and accountability systems so they can immediately and effectively meet the requirements and expectations of victims, observers and perpetrators wherever and whenever they come to our attention and
- support and train those who are in a position to recognise, respond and refer family violence when and where it occurs.

Our Ongoing Programme of Action builds on the four fronts we started action on in our first programme.

### Leadership

We will continue to encourage and enhance leadership at all levels and across all communities to end family violence. We will encourage and support local, regional and national leadership.

### Changing attitudes and behaviour

We will continue to direct and drive our campaign to change attitudes and behaviour by supporting community-owned and community-driven initiatives and by continuing to work with communities to change attitudes and behaviour towards family violence.

### Ensuring safety and accountability

We will make sure our systems for protection and accountability work together so we can move swiftly and effectively to keep victims and observers safe, to hold perpetrators of family violence to account, and to help individuals and families to recover.

### Effective support services

We will work with service providers in the area of family violence to ensure they have the capacity and capability to meet the demand for services.



## 2. The Ongoing Programme of Action

## Chapter 2.

# The Ongoing Programme of Action

Our first programme of action began in July 2006, and our work over the subsequent 12 months focused on:

- changing society's attitudes to violence within families
- improving justice sector responses to violence
- supporting children affected by family violence
- improving our knowledge and information base and
- engaging with high-need communities, for example Māori and Pacific communities, and specific population groups, for example new migrants and older people.

In our Ongoing Programme of Action our focus will be on ensuring our prevention, early intervention, protection and accountability systems work together. It means getting ahead of the problem by strengthening community sanctions against family violence and by intervening as early as possible in the cycle of violence. It means addressing any issues that might adversely affect the safety of victims and observers of family violence. And it means holding perpetrators of family violence to account.

In our first programme of action we scoped, developed and implemented some significant initiatives. We are carrying over much of the work started in our first programme into our Ongoing Programme of Action.

In the next four chapters we will revisit the four themes developed in our first programme and see how they will be extended in 2007/2008.

*... our focus will be on ensuring our prevention, early intervention, protection and accountability systems work together.*





### 3. Action on Leadership

# Chapter 3.

## Action on Leadership

WE ARE WORKING TO ENCOURAGE LEADERSHIP AT ALL LEVELS TO END FAMILY VIOLENCE AND TO PROMOTE STABLE, HEALTHY FAMILIES.

To eliminate family violence in New Zealand, we need leadership from individuals within families and communities, across government, non-government and business sectors, and from key influencers in these sectors. Indeed, we need leadership from all sectors of New Zealand society.

Every New Zealander needs to take responsibility for preventing abuse in families, including the abuse and neglect of children, the abuse of women, the abuse and neglect of older people, violence by children against their parents and violence between siblings.

We also need to get better at identifying what works to prevent family violence.

### OUR FIRST PROGRAMME OF ACTION

#### What we Achieved in 2006/2007

##### Providing leadership

In 2006/2007 leadership was about encouraging everyone across the government, non-government and community sectors to take responsibility at all levels to end family violence.

In our first programme of action:

- we built on ministerial and multi-party leadership to enlist people working in the area of family violence to work with us to successfully implement the programme
- the chief executives of Te Puni Kōkiri and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, the Secretary for Education, and representatives from the Māori Reference Group and the Pacific Advisory Group joined the Taskforce and
- we oversaw and monitored the implementation of our first programme of action.

We are committed to drawing on the knowledge and expertise of communities and existing service

providers to inform the development of new programmes and to enhance the effectiveness of existing programmes. To this end we:

- drew on the advice of the Taskforce's Māori Reference Group and Pacific Advisory Group to ensure Māori and Pacific perspectives are taken into account in the design and delivery of our programmes, and to ensure our actions are culturally relevant and effective for Māori and for Pacific peoples and
- sought advice from non-government organisations working in the area of family violence.

##### Learning from what works

In 2006/2007 we began identifying what is already working in New Zealand to prevent family violence so we could identify gaps in our knowledge, and recognise when good practice occurs. In doing this we:

- scoped the strategic direction and identified the priority areas for research into family violence prevention and
- put in place measures to monitor the level of family violence in New Zealand.

*... drawing on the knowledge and expertise of communities and existing service providers to inform the development of new programmes and to enhance the effectiveness of existing programmes.*

## OUR ONGOING PROGRAMME OF ACTION

# What we're going to do in 2007/2008 and beyond

### Providing leadership

In our Ongoing Programme of Action, we will:

- build and enhance leadership across all sectors
- continue to oversee the implementation of our programmes of action, by supporting local, regional and national leadership and by enlisting all New Zealanders in the effort to eliminate family violence
- design and implement the Family Violence Free Workplaces initiative in which everyone can play a role and lead by example in preventing family violence and
- work with hapū and iwi so they can develop and lead their own crime prevention strategies which will include a focus on family violence.

By June 2008 we will:

- develop a Māori Programme of Action and a Pacific Programme of Action which will build on the Ongoing Programme of Action and provide leadership and co-ordinate action for Māori and for Pacific peoples and
- develop a work programme on child abuse (including child sexual abuse) that:
  - focuses on improving outcomes for children
  - takes account of the different types of child abuse
  - identifies priority areas where the Taskforce can make a difference.

### Why we're doing it

We want every New Zealander to play a part in eliminating family violence. This is why we are going to emphasise workplace support for eliminating family violence and to enlist employers as workplace leaders to play their part in eliminating family violence.

In working with hapū and iwi to develop and lead their own crime prevention strategies we are recognising Māori are the best people to work with their own communities in the area of whānau wellbeing and violence prevention.

We will continue to focus on child abuse. As part of our work on ensuring safety and accountability, the Family Violence Interagency Response System was developed to support children affected by family violence. We recognise child abuse occurs

predominantly within a family setting and this abuse has long-term damaging effects on the child and his or her ability to enjoy healthy, respectful and stable relationships.

### FAMILY VIOLENCE FREE WORKPLACES

In the Ongoing Programme of Action we will create a blueprint for establishing and maintaining an effective Family Violence Free Workplace.

In every workplace there are perpetrators, observers and victims of family violence. In Family Violence Free Workplaces, employers and employees will be resourced and empowered so they can become family violence circuit breakers. By developing active workplace strategies to support victims, to deal with perpetrators and to empower observers to act, employers and employees will start to understand the role they can play in preventing family violence.

By being able to identify when family violence is an issue and having the confidence to deal with it, employers in both the public and private sectors can play a significant role in eliminating family violence.

The Ministry of Social Development, the Accident Compensation Corporation and the New Zealand Police will each implement initiatives through the workplace to promote family violence free homes.

These agencies will work together to develop tools and resources, to review their implementation processes and to identify positive implementation measures to create blueprints for developing family violence free environments in the public, private, service and sporting sectors.

We want the concept of Family Violence Free Workplaces to be regarded as a positive one for everyone. In such workplaces we want people to feel empowered to help prevent family violence and to regard family violence free work spaces as good for business and good for people.

## Understanding and developing good practice

In our Ongoing Programme of Action we will:

- identify successful programmes to prevent family violence, record the characteristics of their success, build on our knowledge of what works and use the Family Violence Clearinghouse to document case studies
- enhance our research programme to improve our understanding of the nature of family violence and appropriate prevention strategies for specific groups, including Māori, Pacific peoples, children, older people, new migrants and refugees, and disabled people
- develop a data collection system to enhance the quality and uniformity of data to inform our understanding of the efficiency and effectiveness of service providers and
- focus on the Family Violence Clearinghouse to ensure it is structured appropriately for its purpose.

## Why we're doing it

We need to continue promoting the work of the Taskforce. A key aspect in this is to build our knowledge of good practice service delivery models so we can share and promote these nationwide.

And we need to inform our planning and decision-making with sound judgements based on current and comprehensive evidence.

*... identify successful programmes to prevent family violence, record the characteristics of their success and build on our knowledge of what works ...*



## 4. Action on Changing Attitudes and Behaviour

# Chapter 4.

## Action on Changing Attitudes and Behaviour

WE NEED TO RAISE AWARENESS, TO CHANGE PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOUR, TO EDUCATE ABOUT AND PROMOTE CHANGE TO REDUCE SOCIETY'S TOLERANCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND TO PREVENT DAMAGING BEHAVIOUR WITHIN FAMILIES.

We need to condemn violence whenever and wherever it occurs. This means we must take action together, as families, as communities and as a nation, to change attitudes and behaviour that perpetuate family violence.

### OUR FIRST PROGRAMME OF ACTION

#### What we achieved in 2006/2007

##### Campaign for Action on Family Violence

In our first programme of action we developed a nationwide Campaign for Action on Family Violence which included:

- launching a mass media advertising campaign in September 2007, along with an 0800 number, a website and resources
- engaging with strategic partners, non-government organisations, Rotary, churches and mayors
- delivering media training to community organisations to help raise awareness about family

violence and providing seminars on family violence in journalism schools

- developing a family violence awareness training package and trialling it with focus groups and
- making grants available to 62 applicants through the Community Action Fund, which is designed to help community groups to promote violence free messages and to support the national campaign at a community level.

*... we must take action together,  
as families, as communities and  
as a nation, to change attitudes  
and behaviour ...*

## The Campaign for Action on Family Violence

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We launched our nationwide campaign to change attitudes and behaviour around family violence in September 2007. The campaign incorporates mass media communications and the Community Action Fund, a programme supporting community action by organisations and groups endorsing the campaign and promoting violence free messages.

The objectives of the nationwide Campaign for Action on Family Violence are to:

- increase awareness of family violence so it becomes visible and talked about constructively in all communities throughout Aotearoa/New Zealand
- increase the understanding of family violence and its many impacts
- increase the personal relevance of family violence so New Zealanders acknowledge that it involves everyone and that everyone can play a role in preventing it
- promote a greater willingness for victims and observers to act on family violence
- promote a greater willingness for perpetrators to take responsibility and change
- create a social climate that supports behavioural change.

The communications programme features high-profile people as leaders and uses mass media to promote public education and awareness. This is complemented by an 0800 number, website support and resource packages for community groups.

The first strand of the advertising campaign aims to establish a common understanding of what constitutes family violence and to set the bottom line that family violence is never OK. The next strand of the campaign focuses on stories of positive change and will cover issues such as child abuse and intimate partner violence. Material will be developed for different communities and all material will reinforce the single unequivocal message that family violence is not OK.

The development of the campaign was underpinned by formative research into male perpetrator attitudes towards family violence. A research and evaluation programme will inform the ongoing development of the campaign. A benchmark survey will provide a monitor for attitudes towards family violence.

### Review of family violence-related deaths

The first phase of the process to review family violence-related deaths has been completed. We will now focus on implementing this process.

This initiative was designed to help government agencies, service providers and communities form a better understanding of how and why deaths occur, so we can change attitudes, systems and practices and prevent further deaths.

### OUR ONGOING PROGRAMME OF ACTION

## What we're going to do in 2007/2008 and beyond

### Campaign for Action on Family Violence


In our Ongoing Programme of Action we will continue to drive the overall strategy for the Campaign for Action on Family Violence.

By June 2008 we will:

- establish links with businesses for workplace programmes and corporate support
- build stronger links with other related initiatives, like SKIP (Strategies with Kids – Information for Parents) and Team Up
- communicate positive stories of change
- build on local and national high-profile events like White Ribbon Day and
- broaden and deepen the reach of the campaign messages into communities including Māori, Pacific peoples, new migrants and older people.

### Why we're doing it

To eliminate family violence we need to transform our society into one that encourages and fosters healthy non-violent relationships and families. This is about long-term changes in attitudes and behaviour, and it requires a long-term commitment to getting the messages right and meeting our objectives.



*... to help government agencies, service providers and communities form a better understanding of how and why deaths occur, so we can change attitudes, systems and practices ...*



## Prevention and early intervention

In our Ongoing Programme of Action we have placed an emphasis on supporting and developing Kia Puāwai: Giving Our Children the Best Start in Life. This cross-agency initiative is building an early years intervention system to help ensure all children flourish in early childhood and reach their potential as young adults capable of developing healthy, respectful and violence free relationships throughout their lives.

Quality, culturally-appropriate early intervention services that support young children and their families in the first six years of life can significantly improve children's health, education and social outcomes. Such interventions can help all children, particularly those who are vulnerable, to reach their full potential and live lives free from abuse, neglect, violence or non-accidental injury.

We will develop new initiatives of particular relevance to family violence prevention. These initiatives will include:

- promoting and improving the quality of early attachments between parents or caregivers and their babies, with emphasis on attachments to caregivers, especially fathers and male partners
- developing a suite of services for children aged 3–7 years with conduct disorders/severe anti-social behaviour, and their families, to promote healthy emotional and social development.

We will also develop and support educational curriculum initiatives. We want all children and young people aged 5–18 years to be able to develop the knowledge and skills they need to make good decisions and healthy choices, to develop and maintain healthy, stable, respectful and violence free relationships, and to seek help when they need it.

## Why we're doing it

We want to support the campaign by placing an emphasis on working with children; targeting their needs and teaching them how to keep themselves safe and how to mature confidently in a safe environment.

We expect to enhance the impact of the campaign by presenting children with the attitudes and behaviour to operate in, and to contribute to, a society that has zero tolerance for family violence.

An estimated 5% of primary and intermediate aged children present with conduct disorder/severe anti-social behaviours. We want to develop and deliver a suite of services for these children to reduce the prevalence of children at intermediate schools with these problems. Without appropriate interventions, we acknowledge these children are more at risk of becoming perpetrators of violence.

We also expect to see a reduction in severe cases of family violence over time.



### Review of family violence-related deaths

We will set up a Family Violence Death Review Committee to review family violence deaths. It will be an interagency, multi-disciplinary committee and it will undertake systematic reviews of all family violence related deaths. This will build on our achievements in our first programme of action.

### Why we're doing it

Too many New Zealanders die from family violence. We need to understand the circumstances leading to these deaths. The committee will help us to identify the gaps in policies and systems, or the changes required to policies and systems, that will contribute to preventing further deaths.

### Violence in the media

We will take a precautionary risk-management approach towards violence in the media. We will develop a public education and awareness campaign around violence in the media that will focus initially on parents and caregivers of children aged 6–11 years.

### Why we're doing it

We believe a programme to change attitudes and behaviour towards violence within the media, in particular raising awareness of the impact of violence within the media on children and young people, should be investigated.

Middle childhood (aged 6–11 years) is regarded as a particularly vulnerable time, which is why we will initially focus our public education work on this age group.



## 5. Action on Ensuring Safety and Accountability

# Chapter 5.

## Action on Ensuring Safety and Accountability

**WE NEED TO ENSURE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY FAMILY VIOLENCE ARE SAFE AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS.**

We will achieve this through a responsive justice sector. The prevention of family violence through the justice sector is central for ensuring the safety of victims and observers, for holding offenders accountable and for stopping re-offending.

We need a secure, responsive protection system; a system where swift and unambiguous action by the police and the courts will increase the chances of securing safety for victims and accountability for perpetrators. Protection Orders are a key part of this system.

The justice sector also provides significant support and assistance for those affected by family violence. This includes recognising the needs of men, women and children may differ and may require a specific focus in terms of therapy and rehabilitation. It also helps communities to signal that violence is unacceptable.

### OUR FIRST PROGRAMME OF ACTION

#### What we achieved in 2006/2007

##### Improving justice sector responses to family violence

In our first programme of action we started work to ensure the justice sector can move more swiftly to ensure the safety of victims and observers of family violence, and to demand accountability by perpetrators of family violence.

To achieve this we:

- developed mandated training for frontline police officers on family violence investigation and risk assessment
- developed a Police Prosecutions Service Family Violence Policy including a policy on protection orders, and a Deskfile on protection orders for police prosecutors
- established new Police Area and District Family Violence Co-ordinator positions nationwide to provide leadership, co-ordination, training and oversight in relation to family violence
- significantly increased the legal aid eligibility threshold for Orders under the Domestic Violence Act 1995, with amended legislation taking effect on 1 March 2007
- established four more Family Violence Courts, three in the Wellington Region and one in Auckland, building on what we learned from the existing models in Waitakere and Manukau
- provided additional training for lawyers and other justice colleagues working in the recognition and prevention of family violence
- assessed all existing communications materials available to victims and produced additional material so they know what support and services are available and
- provided information packs for perpetrators or suspected perpetrators about relevant support agencies and stopping violence programmes in their area.

### Local case co-ordination

In 2006/2007, we developed the Family Violence Interagency Response System (FVIARS). This is a new initiative to better support children affected by family violence and to build stronger links between government and non-government agencies in communities.

The key agencies involved in FVIARS include Child, Youth and Family, the Police and the National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges. FVIARS uses a local case co-ordination approach to family violence events involving children and builds on mechanisms that local communities already have in place. Regular meetings are held between agencies to review and co-ordinate how family violence cases are handled to ensure children identified by the Police as living in homes where family violence occurs receive the help and support they need.

### OUR ONGOING PROGRAMME OF ACTION

## What we're going to do in 2007/2008 and beyond

### Improving justice sector responses to family violence

By June 2008 we will:

- implement the Police Prosecutions Service Family Violence Policy by completing the training of all prosecutors
- develop a national protocol for improving how Family Violence Courts are run
- model a social services system around Family Violence Courts to support the courts by linking services to keep victims and observers safe, to keep perpetrators accountable and responsible, and to help families with their recovery needs

- establish two more Family Violence Courts, one in Palmerston North and the other in Northland and
- provide training for key staff working in Family Violence Courts and for Family Court and Family Violence Court judges.

The Ministry of Justice will explore options for how family violence victims and their children can be further supported in the Family Court. This is part of its ongoing policy work to address the needs of victims in the justice system.

The Ministry of Justice is also leading a review of the Domestic Violence Act 1995 and related legislation. The aim of the review is to strengthen the legislative response to family violence and to enhance the safety of victims. Although this work is not a part of the Taskforce's work programme it is consistent with the Taskforce's direction.



*... ensure the justice sector can move more swiftly to ensure the safety of victims and observers of family violence and to demand accountability by perpetrators of family violence ...*

### Why we're doing it

We know we must integrate services that protect victims and observers and keep them safe and programmes that focus on helping perpetrators take responsibility and change their behaviour. No matter how individuals and families access these services and programmes we need to ensure they are linked or connected and working at the optimum level. This linking is expected to ensure individuals and families recover from their experiences.

We want to build on what we have learned about good practice, for the new Family Violence Courts and to optimise the expansion of this approach.

We started this work in the first programme of action and know we need to continue to improve existing systems to provide effective protection, accountability and recovery services.

### Local case co-ordination

In our Ongoing Programme of Action we will evaluate the Family Violence Interagency Response System in four sites and build on the success of this project.

By June 2008, we will have completed the nationwide roll-out of the Family Violence Interagency Response System approach.

### Why we're doing it

We want to build stronger links between government and non-government agencies in communities so we can enhance local case-management approaches for family violence events involving children who come to the attention of the Police and other agencies.

By continuing to develop this approach we expect victims and observers will be kept safer and have more opportunities to repair their lives and their families.

*... ensure victims and observers are kept safe, perpetrators are kept accountable and responsible and families are assisted with their recovery needs ...*



## 6. Action on Effective Support Services

# Chapter 6.

## Action on Effective Support Services

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT VICTIMS AND OBSERVERS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE RECEIVE EFFECTIVE AND APPROPRIATE SERVICES WHEN THEY NEED THEM.

Sustainable effective services and strong relationships between the government and non-government sectors will improve service capacity, capability and sustainability and will lead to an even better response to individuals and families affected by family violence. Government agencies and non-government organisations must work together on the best approach to building and maintaining sustainable family support services.

There can be no wrong doors for victims, observers or perpetrators of family violence. Regardless of where they are and at what point they come to our attention, victims, observers and perpetrators of family violence must be directed immediately to those who can most effectively respond.

The Government is providing a one-off funding injection of \$20.4 million over the next two years to build the capacity and capability of community-based child and family service providers. This is to deliver services including, but not limited to, services in the area of family violence.

*... the best approach to building and maintaining sustainable family support services. There can be no wrong doors for victims, observers or perpetrators of family violence ...*

### OUR FIRST PROGRAMME OF ACTION

#### What we achieved in 2006/2007

##### Improving family violence service capacity, capability and sustainability

In 2006/2007 we started work on this knowing how important it is victims and observers of family violence receive effective and appropriate support, and crisis services in every community hold perpetrators accountable while keeping victims and observers safe.

We know we need service providers who can help victims, observers and perpetrators of family violence repair their lives.

In our first programme of action we:

- took the first step towards putting the non-government sector on a sustainable footing with the Government's \$9 million investment over four years
- started work on a long-term plan to improve the capacity, capability and sustainability of service providers delivering services to New Zealand's children and families in the area of family violence, as part of the Pathway to Partnership initiative. We expect this will deliver quality services for all victims, observers and perpetrators
- identified options for the development of a new funding model for non-government services and the development of a transparent costing tool to inform its development. We will continue to work with the sector on the best approach to costing non-government family support services to achieve sustainable funding for non-government service providers.



## OUR ONGOING PROGRAMME OF ACTION

### What we're going to do in 2007/2008 and beyond

#### Improving family violence service capacity, capability and sustainability

In our Ongoing Programme of Action we will:

- develop a programme of training for professionals likely to be in a position to identify victims, observers or perpetrators of family violence. These are key contact points and, with the right skills, critical to preventing family violence. Teachers, nurses, doctors, sports coaches, and Work and Income staff are some of those professionals most likely to interact with men, women and children who are subject to, observe, or perpetrate family violence and
- monitor increases in demand for family violence services as a result of the Campaign for Action on Family Violence and create sustainable responses to the increased demand.

By June 2008 we will:

- address the quality and diversity of approaches to eliminating violence in Māori families by continuing to develop a specifically trained workforce for Māori whānau. Project Mauriora, which is underpinned by Transforming Whānau Violence – A Conceptual Framework, will train 60 workers this year in prevention, early intervention, protection and accountability and
- develop plans to increase the quality and diversity of services working to eliminate family violence in Pacific communities. The first part of this work includes developing a strategy to guide family violence work in Pacific communities and establishing a quality training programme appropriate for those working with Pacific families.

As well as providing excellent support services, the Taskforce recognises we must strengthen the capacity of individuals, families and whānau to prevent and deal with family violence. As well as new and innovative thinking we must incorporate what we already know works to prevent family violence occurring in the home.

#### Why we're doing it

We believe we can prevent further occurrences of violence within families by strengthening the services available to victims, observers and perpetrators. These services will improve their ability to recover as individuals and as families from their experiences of family violence.

We want to empower individuals and families so they can take action whenever or wherever family violence occurs.

By building on existing training resources we expect to develop family violence free environments. We also expect to be a resource for professionals who come into contact with victims, observers and perpetrators.

*... training for professionals likely to be in a position to identify victims, observers or perpetrators of family violence.*

# Conclusion

One of the challenges for the Taskforce is to focus its resources on those areas that will have the most impact on reducing violence in families. Resources must be invested in interventions that will provide the foundation for sustainable change.

In this report we emphasise that the needs of those affected by family violence, whether as victims, observers or perpetrators, must be met decisively, comprehensively and immediately. We are embarking on a long-term strategy to eliminate family violence that will transform our nation.

The causes of family violence are complex and numerous, and they must be tackled by actions intervening at many levels. The evidence leads toward the following three priority areas in any approach to reducing violence in families:

- changing attitudes in society as a whole so family violence becomes unacceptable to society
- intervening as early as possible to enhance family functioning and
- ensuring effective responses at each point of intervention in a family.

We are changing attitudes towards family violence in New Zealand society. This will have the greatest impact on the levels of violence in New Zealand. We acknowledge the gendered nature of family violence. We also acknowledge the vulnerability of children living in families where family violence prevails.

We are intervening as early as possible in the lives of children to equip them to experience and enjoy healthy, respectful relationships free from violence. Inevitably, some of the prevention and early intervention activity will take several generations to be fully effective. But evidence indicates that proactive early intervention for the most troubled families, parents and children will bring the most benefits in the long run.

We are ensuring the response to families, whether as victims, observers or perpetrators, is effective at the point at which help is sought. The Taskforce believes the most effective responses to family violence are:

- zero tolerance from all
- ensuring victims with Protection Orders are offered maximum support and security and observers are supported to recover
- making perpetrators accountable
- providing effective support and information about services to victims, observers and perpetrators
- teaching skills to enable healthy relationships to thrive in families without violence.

In 2008, the Taskforce will report on:

- our achievements in delivering our Ongoing Programme of Action
- the impact our work has had
- what we have learned in our first two years
- the initiatives we have and must build on and
- new initiatives that hold promise for the future.

We need a long-term commitment from leaders at all levels and across all communities to implement our programme. We rely on the continuing commitment of service providers, communities and families themselves to eliminate child abuse and neglect, family violence and the abuse and neglect of older people.

We must all play our part and we ask for your help in achieving this.

*... we are embarking on a long-term strategy to eliminate family violence that will transform our nation.*





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