

## Delivering the second Te Aorerekura Action Plan

<b>Date of meeting</b>	Thursday 2 May 2024
<b>From</b>	Hon Karen Chhour, Minister for Children and for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence
<b>To</b>	Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministers
<b>File reference</b>	2024/111583

### Purpose

1. Family violence and sexual violence is a cross cutting issue that has relevance across our various Ministerial portfolios. In recognition of this, Ministers signalled strong interest in working collectively on the development of the second Te Aorerekura Action Plan at our April meeting.
2. This paper provides an overview of the work undertaken to develop the second Action Plan, including my emerging priority areas and expectations for how this Plan is structured, building from the lessons learnt from the first Action Plan.
3. Ensuring there is demonstrable alignment with delivery plans for the Government Targets and the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, as well as space for targeted consultation, will mean the second Action Plan will be published no later than October.

### Background

#### First Te Aorerekura Action Plan

4. The first Te Aorerekura Action Plan was launched in December 2021, alongside Te Aorerekura – The National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence (the National Strategy). This Action plan consisted of 40 wide-ranging actions for Te Puna Aonui agencies to implement over a two-year period.
5. Under this Action Plan, Te Puna Aonui agencies were able to drive a number of actions and associated activities that included:
  - development of an Outcomes and Measurement Framework which helps track progress against delivering the National Strategy (Action 39);
  - delivery of national violence prevention campaigns such as Pasefika Proud and E Tu Whānau (Action 21);

- development of a family violence and sexual violence gaps plan which identified both overarching and specific service gaps across New Zealand and made recommendations for where to focus investment in future (Actions 29 and 30); and
  - development of two Family Violence Workforce Capability Frameworks that support organisations and workers to respond to family violence in New Zealand (Action 11).
6. Not all 40 actions were completed within the two-year timeframe. In reviewing experiences with the first Action Plan with communities, FVSV sector, and agencies, some common reflections and areas for improvement emerged, including:
- A two-year timeframe was too short to deliver all 40 actions; the next Action Plan needed to include fewer, more targeted actions that focused on delivering tangible results, over a longer timeframe.
  - Actions in the first Action Plan were too prescriptive to allow agencies to adapt responses to reflect ongoing learnings.
  - The single agency ownership of actions in the first Action Plan perpetuated siloed working, which was reflected in the duplication of work and weakened the cross-agency ownership of the delivery of the Action Plan as a whole.
  - Stronger integration and streamlining of activity needed, recognising there is much work underway across government already
  - The need for better consideration of timing and sequencing of activities, identifying where there are dependencies
7. The development of the second Action Plan provides an opportunity to improve on the first Action Plan and continue to advance work towards Government priorities and targets. I see this Plan as the vehicle for driving collective efforts towards delivering measurable results underpinned by evidence and what evidentially works and has an impact. While the Interdepartmental Executive Board (IEB) are responsible for development, FVSV Ministers have an integral role in helping shape this Plan, ensuring it meets local needs and responds to Government's direction of travel.

## **Government Targets and Ministerial Priorities**

8. Sitting alongside work to develop the second Action Plan has been a push to progress delivery of my Ministerial priorities – namely 'to improve the current response system to FVSV by strengthening the locally and regionally based multi-agency crisis response models already in place', with a focus on building the capability of those participating in multi-agency responses, improving processes and systems, and delivering Project Whetu.

9. Work in recent months has sought to lay the foundations for delivery of my Ministerial priorities within three years. This has included development of two key pieces of work which are currently in train:
  - a) Regional mapping for all areas, which provides information on multi-agency table structures and governance, service providers and gaps, workforce development, and police family harm data.
  - b) Performance measures paper and draft dashboard: a potential quarterly dashboard for tracking progress towards the Ministerial Priorities is under development which will be refined as the work programme is developed and better data is captured.
10. Delivery of these two outputs will provide the solid foundation for mapping the future/ideal state of multi-agency responses as a collective.
11. Justice Sector Ministers agreed in April to set a family violence target of “a 15% reduction in the proportion of people who were the victim of violence by family members,” as a key component of the “Reducing Violent Crime” target and to be reported on as part of that measure. The introduction of Government Targets and priorities, and the emphasis on demonstrating results and impact, has helped to position the second Action Plan in driving forward the vision outlined in the National Strategy. I expect the second Action Plan to reflect a five-year delivery plan for the targets, with one-, three- and five-year horizons.

## **Testing Emerging Thinking on the Second Te Aorerekura Action Plan**

12. In January, I wrote to the Prime Minister, setting out my Ministerial Priorities as a contributor to delivering the programme of change promised by this Government. Rather than start anything new, I have committed to focusing on improving what is in place now to ensure the current response system is effective; recognising that a failure in the response system undermines trust in the wider support system, meaning people experiencing or at risk of harm are less likely to seek help at a later date.
13. More recently, I have met with a range of family violence and sexual violence community and sector stakeholders to better understand the challenges they have been experiencing and determine where best to add value. This has helped inform my initial priorities for consideration in the second Action Plan, specifically:
  - Supporting local responses, with a focus on improving multi-disciplinary responses
  - Targeted focus on addressing needs of people with disabilities
  - Building the capacity and capability of the frontline workforce to recognise, respond, and refer

- Reducing harm to children and young people, with a particular focus on children under five years
  - Improving local system performance, including service accessibility and availability for rural communities
  - Considering how to meet the needs of men both as victims and perpetrators – focused on stopping violence
14. Tackling family violence and sexual violence is complex and cannot be delivered by a single Minister alone. I am therefore interested in any emerging issues or potential areas for future focus that other FVSV Ministers are seeing across their respective portfolios.
15. I am seeking FVSV Minister's endorsement of the emerging priority areas listed above. To drive delivery and learn from experiences with the first Action Plan, I am also seeking FVSV Ministerial support for a more targeted second Action Plan that includes no more than ten priority areas.

## **Approach to the Action Plan**

16. Work in developing the National Strategy and supporting the implementation of the first Action Plan has reinforced the benefits of collaboration with communities and the specialist FVSV sector. Likewise, there has been engagement with communities, FVSV sector, tangata whenua, and agencies as part of the run-up to the second Action Plan. A common concern raised throughout that process was consultation fatigue, reinforcing the need to build on what is already known.
17. As a result, I am mindful that a balanced and more targeted approach to engagement is needed. My expectation is that we test appropriately the direction of travel and emerging priority focus areas. A plan for targeted engagement on the draft second Action Plan will be developed to ensure Plan reflects FVSV knowledge and expertise.
18. The second Action Plan will set out measurable actions that retain a clear line of sight to my Ministerial Priorities and Targets and this government's expectations, including driving value for money. It will also need to consider in the detailed planning:
- FVSV Ministerial priorities
  - Ministerial Advisory Group (Te Pūkōtahitanga) priorities
  - Evidence and community voice
  - Means of working with agencies
19. Addressing family violence and sexual violence requires an integrated, cross-agency response. The role of violence as a contributing factor in youth crime, health, and social issues has been well covered in research and emphasises the importance of alignment to major agency programmes such as the refresh of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy and the Agency Delivery Plans for Government Targets.

20. Assurance of programme delivery against the second Action Plan will be provided through the IEB. They retain accountability for delivering the second Action Plan and who will be expected to utilise their respective system levers to ensure delivery.
21. Given the connection between family violence and sexual violence and other work programmes, I propose the second Action Plan is a standalone Plan but is considered within the suite of other delivery programmes underway across government.

### Decision requested

It is recommended that FVSV Ministers:

a) <b>Note</b> the plans for targeted consultation to develop the second Te Aorerekura Action Plan.	Noted
b) <b>Note</b> the importance of a joined up approach across delivery of targets	Noted
c) <b>Agree</b> the second Action Plan includes fewer actions and a longer five-year timeframe, with clear horizons for detailed review built in	Agree/ Not Agreed
d) <b>Agree</b> the second Action Plan is published no later than October 2024	Agreed/ Not agreed