

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

Justice Target Lead Ministers meeting 26 August 2024

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Purpose

1. This paper provides an update on development of the second Te Aorerekura Action Plan to support discussion with Justice Target Lead Ministers and the Prime Minister scheduled for 5.30pm Monday 26 August 2024.
2. Background on family violence and sexual violence (FVSV) in government targets has been provided previously (briefing 2024/114384 refers).
3. Talking points are attached in **Appendix 1**.

Update on FVSV Action Plan

4. FVSV is emerging as a critical area that is well positioned to respond to collective government priorities, with evident intersections emerging with the Action Plan – most notably the need to strengthen local and regional multi-agency responses.
5. FVSV Ministers and Te Puna Aonui Agencies are working to deliver an action plan by the end of the year, that is focused on:
 - the reduction of violence
 - ensuring people who need help are getting the right response at the right time, and
 - responding to government priorities and targets.
6. Current FVSV priorities include:
 - accelerate improvements to locally-led and regional multi-agency approaches for violence reduction and response
 - improve the visibility, accessibility and effectiveness of FVSV services, programmes, and initiatives
 - protect children and young people through early intervention and prevention
 - ensure victim safety through an effective intervention system for people who use violence, centred on accountability and behaviour change

IN CONFIDENCE

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- equip frontline workforces with the resources to recognise, safely respond, and refer so that more people get help for FVSV
- prioritise funding and investment in the FVSV system to deliver sustainable outcomes for communities and those impacted by violence.

Opportunities to accelerate progress now, through a focus on joined up multi-agency responses

7. Locally-led multiagency responses are an effective way to reduce offending and victimisation.
8. Multi-agency responses for family violence and youth offending are similar but have different focuses. There is significant opportunity to improve, strengthen and integrate how multiagency responses operate for faster and more significant impact. A key outcome when agencies work more effectively is that people's broader needs are met and the drivers of violence are addressed.
9. Investing in strengthening multiagency responses, will result in:
 - young people and their whānau having faster access to the services and support they need
 - people who use violence being held to account and supported to change their behaviour
 - people getting the right response at the right time
 - a reduction in revictimisation and recidivism
 - interrupting the cycle of family violence for children, young people and families
 - reduced serious violent offending
 - reduced youth offending.
10. Locations where there are opportunities to initially strengthen and link multiagency responses for family violence and youth offending:
 - Whangārei
 - Waitematā
 - Auckland City
 - Rotorua
 - Counties Manukau
 - Dunedin.

11. Work to improve multi-agency response would be focused on locations where family violence and youth offending multiagency responses are linked to apply an end-to-end social investment approach. Narrowing the focus of this work to key locations will help create a more immediate impact, accelerating progress and learning ahead of scaling to other regions.
12. Multi-agency approaches support high risk people and families at risk of serious injury or death. By extending and integrating this approach to there's an opportunity to link outcomes more directly between family violence and youth offenders and children and young people at risk of harm i.e. children present at family violence incidents.

Social Investment – FVSV Impact Review

13. An impact review, led by the Social Investment Agency, is currently underway that will bring together information on collectively appropriated FVSV spend and associated evaluative practice. This will begin to develop a more fulsome understanding of the existing impact and the extent to which we can understand its impact, enabling Ministers to make informed decisions on reprioritisation of resources to achieve priority actions and outcomes.
14. Working through the findings from the FVSV impact review and the implications for future investment is a key plank of the delivery of the plan. This will help to re-prioritise funding towards investing into interventions for target cohorts and families.

Next steps

15. FVSV Ministers are meeting next week to discuss the approach and content of the Action Plan and how this could be better phased for immediate action and traction.
16. Te Puna Aonui are preparing more detailed advice on evolving the approach to the Second Te Aorerekura Action Plan for this meeting.

Contact Details

Please contact Emma Powell on 9(2)(a) if you have any questions.

Appendix 1: Talking points – FVSV and Government Targets

Introduction

- Family violence and sexual violence are driving an indicated increase in victimisations during the first quarter for Target 4 (adults experiencing violent offending).
- FVSV is prominent within violent crime, and addressing FVSV needs to be a priority.
- Exposure to family violence is a strong predictor of youth offending.
- Reducing family violence and sexual violence is an action in the Target 4 delivery plan. It will also have an impact on Target 3 (reduced youth offending).

FVSV performance in the last quarter

- Recent NZCVS results suggest a rise in victimisations during the first quarter of 2024 of approximately 20,000 adults experiencing violent offending.
- Family violence and sexual violence are driving this indicated increase:
 - The increase in the first quarter was driven by the number of adults experiencing violent offending by family members, which increased from 45,000 in 2023 to 62,000 in the first quarter survey.
 - The number of adults experiencing sexual assault increased from 76,000 in 2023 to 89,000 in the first quarter survey. The number of adults experiencing physical assault and robbery increased less proportionally from 116,000 to 125,000 in the first quarter survey.
- It is normal for survey results to vary from quarter to quarter so further quarterly data will be required to confirm whether this increase is a trend. The NZCVS asks people about their experience over the previous 12 months, so reported data could be from anytime between March 2023 and March 2024.

Accelerating FVSV system improvements is critical to delivering the change we need to reduce serious violent offending and victimisation

- My original Ministerial priority for FVSV was “to improve the current response system to FVSV by strengthening the locally and regionally based multi-agency crisis response models already in place”.
- This work is central to the overall success of the action plan and represents core infrastructure for further work in support of the action plan and achieving Government Targets.

- This work focuses on building the capability of those participating in multi-agency responses; improving processes and systems; and delivering Project Whetū.
- Officials are considering how this work can be further accelerated to demonstrate more immediate impact and investigating links to youth offending responses.
- There is significant opportunity to improve, strengthen and integrate how multiagency responses operate for faster and more significant impact.

Update on the second Te Aorerekura action plan

- The action plan is travelling on a later track to the Target delivery plan.
- I am confident the actions being developed for the second Te Aorerekura action plan will contribute to the achievement of Targets 3 and 4.
 - The interventions being developed focus on what the evidence tells us we should focus on. Specifically, I am confident that these interventions should support the targets by providing better responses where violence has occurred, lowering the amount of revictimisation and reoffending.
 - A focus on the multi-agency response system means that we have an identified group of people who we can support to have better outcomes – this is consistent with social investment thinking. Getting this system right will support a range of benefits felt more widely.
 - These interventions focus on where we can see and are able to monitor change and can intervene in a practical way prevent further offending or victimisation.
- I am continuing to refine actions in the action plan with a group of FVSV Ministers, and I intend to seek Cabinet approval for the plan in Quarter 4 of this year.
- FVSV has been identified as an initial focus area for social investment, and Social Investment will be central to action plan delivery.