

What We Have Understood – He aha ta mātau

National Strategy and Action Plans to eliminate family violence and sexual violence

Summary 2 : 19 May – 8 June 2021

This paper provides a summary of submissions received between 19 May and 8 June 2021. Submissions were made through hui discussions, the Citizen Space website, emails and postcards. Engagement runs to 30 June and this update does not come to any conclusions about what should or should not be included in the National Strategy and Action Plans.

Quotes for ‘what we have heard’ were selected as representative of a range of submissions received between 19 May and 8 June. These quotes are the voice of contributors. They have not been edited or selected to reflect any government views.

If there are ideas in this summary that you agree with, or disagree with, please take the opportunity to provide that feedback by emailing submissions@violencefree.govt.nz

Focus	What We Have Heard	What We Have Understood	Summary
<p>Vision: Our vision is for the end of family violence and sexual violence in Aotearoa New Zealand – so that people are safe, well, and thriving</p> <p>This can only occur when there is a significant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “The national strategy needs to have a big vision it’s good to have the end of violence as the aspiration” “I think the vision statement is great. Prevention is obviously key and educating our youngest is the place to start.”[V/Y] Protect our children our mokopuna our futures...Where are the rangatahi voices? [H/TW] 	<p>The majority of submissions supported the vision. [V/TW/ERM/R/D/Y/O/P/FV/SV/H]</p> <p>Many submissions supported the inclusion of prevention in the vision, but noted that educating children was key to prevention and that the voice of young people should be stronger in it. [H/TW/V/Y/EMR]</p>	<p>Overall feedback on the vision was positive.</p>

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<p>increase in prevention and when tangata whenua and communities have the power to lead solutions that meet their needs and aspirations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the FV sector and often missing from the SV space is the conversation about a gendered analysis. A gendered analysis is not saying all men harm and all women are victims, it's not saying that at all. It's saying that the nature of gender socialisation within our society sets up certain dynamics of harming and sets up other layers of impacts when someone is harmed because of the way gender is constructed. We have got to have that named at a high level in the strategy, it should be in the vision, otherwise we won't solve this. [H/SV] • “The vision is fine, so far I have read no 'how'. Putting it into practice, and understanding that practice is paramount.” [OV] • “There needs to be a large amount of kōrero about realising how far spread the issue is in our communities. It can affect anyone, at any age, whether you are rich or poor, gay or straight.” [V/R] 	<p>Many submissions noted that a gendered analysis is complex and was missing from the vision. [H/SV/TW/O/V]</p> <p>There were multiple submissions that supported the vision, but also pointed out that the real test will be putting it into action. [O/V/TW/V/H/P]</p> <p>Multiple submissions also expressed that the vision would not be achieved without greater societal awareness of FVSV and underlying assumptions, particularly related to discrimination. [ERM/Y/H/D/O/V/R/SV]</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We cannot get rid of FVSV without a different kind of society because of the investment this society has in the violence and abuse...Look at the foundation of FV in our societies – it's discrimination. The violence and abuse are the tools that are used to reinforce and perpetuate the discrimination in the kind of society we have. [H/D] 		
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<p>Principle 1: Oranga whānau The safety and wellbeing of people, families, whānau, communities is at the centre of all we, as a country, do</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Wāhine Māori experience discrimination as wāhine, mama and Māori...address equity specific to wāhine Māori.” [TW] “Men may be 10% of the victims, but do they not deserve a say too?” “Mauri Ora needs to include what’s good for Māori is good for all of us. This principle talks about partnerships and tangata whenua, and we know government is committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and what this echoes and what sits in front is the notion of by Māori for all.” Why would you only have two principles in Māori? [H/TW] 	<p>Opinions on the principles were mixed. [V/TW/ERM/D/Y/O/H] Comments were wide ranging about what was missing and could be changed in the principles. A few submissions noted that gender should be specifically referenced in Principle 4. [TW/V]</p> <p>The principles can be interpreted in different ways, and some submissions offered opinions on this, particularly regarding Principle 2. [H/TW/EMR/Y]</p> <p>A few submissions commented on the inconsistency of having only two names for the principles in te reo Māori, and most noted that all should have te reo Māori names. [H/TW]</p>	<p>There were comparatively few submissions that commented on the principles, and opinions on them were mixed.</p>
<p>Principle 2: Mauri ora Partnerships and the empowerment of tangata whenua, communities, whānau, and families</p>			
<p>Principle 3: Healthy relationships Relationships are based on mutual respect and the mana of everyone involved</p>			
<p>Principle 4: Equitable and inclusive approaches To ensure that people are free from discrimination, receive culturally informed support, and have their inherent dignity and mana upheld</p>			

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Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Resilience comes from support. Encourage opportunities for communities of all cultures to come together and take part in learning opportunities such as cooking. This would develop connections and build relationships.” 	<p>Relatively few submissions commented specifically on wellness. Those that did mainly noted the importance of maintaining supportive relationships within whānau and communities for wellness. [H/TW/FV/O/Y/V]</p>	<p>Submissions commenting on wellness were all responding to a Citizen Space survey question.</p>
Focus Area #1: Recognise te ao Māori Whaimana tea o Māori	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Te Ao Māori should not be the focus but part of a solution for a bigger problem.”[V] All our mahi should be underpinned by values that are Māori as they are inclusive of everyone in New Zealand. Tangata whenua have a clear understanding of the whakapapa to violence. [H/TW] “Curious about what it means to recognise Te Ao Māori.” “There might be recognition, but across government we have a long way to go to make those ways of working central to how we work.” 	<p>The few submissions commenting on this focus area were overall supportive. [H/TW/O/N/FV/SV/Y/P/D]</p> <p>However, several noted that a te ao Māori perspective should underpin all focus areas and not be its own focus area. [H/TW/V]</p> <p>Some submissions questioned the definition and scope of the focus area, and how it would be achieved. [O/N/TW]</p>	<p>This focus area has similarities to Focus Area #3 – there was some overlap in comments.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honour The Treaty of Waitangi for our people of New Zealand. [H/TW] • If it's only a Crown response we're not upholding Te Tiriti so justice can never truly be there as a whole. [H/SV] • "A generation that accepts the truth of colonizations violence on wahine and tamariki, learning compassion and empathy as opposed to silence and shaming. Truly embracing Te Ao Māori in its fullness." [TW] • "Acknowledgement of the past hurts and wrongs. Restitution to a level of dignity for Māori and acceptance that there are more ways to live in the world than the Western way." [O] 	<p>Specific comments were made about The Treaty of Waitangi and/or Te Tiriti o Waitangi providing the framework for this focus area, particularly a Tiriti-based justice response. [H/SV/Y/TW]</p> <p>Specific comments were also made that recognising te ao Māori would require education and government acknowledgement and/or restitution of past wrongs, particularly around colonisation. [TW/O/V/Y/H/D]</p>	
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<p>Focus Area #2: Bring government responses together Whakapiri ngā mahi o te kāwanatanga</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I struggle with the notion the government doesn't know how to, or what to do better. During the COVID-19 lockdown and the Christchurch earthquakes government agencies found ways to make it work. Why can't it do this all the time? [H/TW/FV] We've been talking for years about government working together – why are CEs recycling through our system and don't know how to work together? Why don't agencies know how to work together? [H/D] “Getting Police, Education, MSD, DHB's etc meeting to discuss a case is a very expensive and ineffective process.” “I love the work that the ISR team are doing” “One week a Minister announces that funding goes into FV services to ensure continuation and another week an agency withdraws funding 	<p>Submissions that commented on this focus area were in strong support of government agencies being better aligned and collaborating, with many expressing frustration that this was not happening more. [H/TW/FV/D]</p> <p>Submissions were mixed about the success of current Integrated Service Responses (ISR). [TW/V/Y]</p> <p>A few submissions particularly focused on the lack of alignment and consistency with current</p>	<p>This focus area has some similarities to Focus Area #6 – there was a lot of overlap in comments.</p>

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	<p>from providers because the agency they're contracted to no longer holds the funding.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractual requirements need to align for everyone across the sector, why do they seem to be delivered differently when we all receive the same contracts and money. [H/TW] • “It shouldn't just be government working together – it should be NGOs too – neither government agencies nor NGOs should be working in silos.” • There are examples of individuals within government agencies working collaboratively, but the system isn't geared up to work collaboratively and in partnership with the sector. Need to operationalise trust between government and NGO partnerships. [H/SV] 	<p>government funding and contracting practices. [H/TW/D/SV/Y/P]</p> <p>Some submissions commented that this focus area should be about bringing government and NGOs together better. [H/SV/TW/V]</p>	
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<p>Focus Area #3: Recognise tangata whenua leadership and community-led approaches Hāpaitia te mana ō tangata whenua me kaupapa Māori</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is nothing in our partnerships with government that shows they value and respect the specialist expertise involved in delivering the services we do. [H/TW/FV] • Rather than [government] just coming to us and asking us for outcomes and feedback into your work, we need recognition and acknowledgment that Pacific peoples (and other groups like disability) have not been invested in – in the specialist sector – and we require government support to resource us to network, to have the space to connect and share our stories and build our own models of practices. [H/SV] • “Less people at the top talking and more resources put into the people at the coal face who know what their community needs... Each community has its own experts who know how their community works.” [V/Y] • Flexibility is an issue – when someone misses a session for a good reason there’s little leeway for either the client or the provider. [H/TW/FV] • Allow NGOs to be creative and responsive to the communities they are serving and really 	<p>Many frustrations were expressed in this focus area about government not trusting, supporting and/or not acting on the knowledge of communities and FVSV sector experts. [H/TW/FV/V/Y/P/SV/O]</p> <p>Some submissions explained how tangata whenua leadership and community-led approaches meant more flexible and people and whānau-centred services for all. [H/TW/FV/SV/P]</p>	<p>This focus area has some similarities to Focus Area #1 and #6 – there was a lot of overlap in comments.</p>
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	<p>broaden the pathways they are offering to healing. We don't want to see a situation where we're only working with the top five percent. [H/SV]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When national strategies are rolled out, rural communities miss out. How will the strategy meet the need of rural whānau [H/TW] • The research and our own experiences confirm there is a gap in services for the rainbow community – both at a national and regional level...we know that violence (in all its forms) can look different for people in rainbow relationships. [H/TW/FV] 	<p>A few submissions talked about specific FVSV service gaps, including for Pacific peoples, young people, Rainbow and LGBTQI+ communities and rural communities. [H/TW/SV/FV]</p>	
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<p>Focus Area #4: Strengthen workforces to prevent and respond to family violence and sexual violence Whakakaha i te hunga mahi ki te autaki me te whakautu ki te tūkinu whānau</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Supporting victims should be a general part of functions within organisations and HR practice in the same way workplace bullying is". • Police need better training around family violence analysis and understanding as we see a lot of incorrect reports. They need to take the time to understand the dynamics and the responses needed for our whānau. [H/TW] • "Training for those who are around tamariki and rangatahi (teachers, caregivers, ECE educators) so they can detect first signs of family or sexual violence and be able to act in consequence." [V/EMR] • "As to not for profit services in the community, many are the subject matter specialists already, but they are trying to do so much with few people who are not well paid on the whole. There almost needs to be a standard framework for training as there is in healthcare. Being a member of SWRB, ANZSWA, NZAC is in itself no guarantee of understanding." 	<p>The majority of submissions made on this focus area commented on the need for workforce training about FVSV. This included the general New Zealand workforce, frontline workers (especially police and schools) and FVSV specialist providers. [V/TW/ERM/R/D/Y/O/P/FV/SV/H]</p>	<p>This focus area has some similarities to Focus Area #5 and #6 – there was a lot of overlap in comments.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have the specialisation of sexual violence response and support as well as then the culturally specific and appropriate ways of supporting as well as for example for disability which requires a different clinical knowledge of working with those diverse abilities...There are very few people who can work across those specialisations. And so those communities who already experience marginalisation or oppression and have the highest burden of harm, also have the least equitable support. [H/SV] • Services need to be flexible and responsive – recognise that we need staff and resources that can be outside the hours of 9am-5pm. [H/P] • There needs to be more resources for workers...Sometimes they don't have the resources to take all the cases that come their way. [H/SV/Y] 	<p>A few submissions emphasised the specialist nature of the FVSV workforce, particularly to respond safely and effectively to diverse and often marginalised groups of people. This results in capacity issues and the need to build capability to ensure all communities are supported. [H/SV/P/O/EMR/D/V]</p> <p>Some submissions commented that funding increases were needed to address the lack of resources, poor pay and hours for the FVSV workforce. [H/SV/Y/D/V/P]</p>	
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<p>Focus Area #5: Increase the focus on prevention Whakanui i te arotahinga ki te aukati</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a real lack of knowledge in the community about how to support survivors, so a lot of the harm caused to people occurs after the assault or crisis, because they can't talk about it with other people, or other people say inappropriate things that cause further harm, whether that's services or even friends and family or schools or communities who say that. This could be done by providing resources to families, communities and people that shows them what to say and how to say it. [H/SV] • “Revamp school programmes and include parents and other whānau to give them language and a need to open up the subject”. • “School is a great place to start... Education around this topic so young people possibly recognise when a relationship is not ok early enough to get out before damage is done. Hopefully abusers can be changed if they are educated early enough.” [O/V] 	<p>An overwhelming number of submissions emphasised that the focus should be on education. [V/TW/ERM/R/D/Y/O/P/FV/SV/H] This included educating the New Zealand public on FVSV, educating parents and, most importantly, educating children, specifically about healthy relationship.</p>	<p>Most submissions commented on this focus area and identified it as a key priority. This focus area has some similarities to Focus Area #6 – there was a lot of overlap in comments, particularly on education and addressing wider societal issues.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention informs intervention and vice versa (especially in the healing space), but I find it interesting that we don't talk very much about what prevention looks like in this space, as much as we talk about what better intervention and service response look like. [H/SV/Y] • “There needs to be more focus on positive language and appreciation rather than the negative bullying culture that is created where violence on a rugby field is considered manly and acceptable.” [V] • There needs to be a specific focus on perpetrators or users of violence....Users of violence are [only seen] as bad, or monsters who can't change. We need to talk about what they need and what they can do so there can be change and it can assist accountability for perpetrators, victims and survivors ...If we can get the perpetrators to change their behaviour then we won't have victims and survivors” [H/TW/FV] 	<p>A few submissions noted the strong link between prevention, response and/or restoration. [H/SV/TW/Y/P/FV/D]</p> <p>Some submissions emphasised the need for a societal attitude shift to prevent FVSV. [H/TW/FV/ON]</p> <p>Other submissions noted the need for a greater focus on people who have used violence to ensure accountability and that change occurs and the violence stops. [H/TW/FV/SV/D/N/R]</p>	
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<p>Focus Area #6: Develop ways for government to create changes Whakawhanake ngā mahi o te kawanatanga ā tōna wā</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So few people go through the Justice system because it is so counter to real justice for survivors and is just not safe, so really putting survivors at the centre of that justice system in line with the 2011 Law Commission possibilities so that we have a system that looks for truth rather than an adversarial system which is another fight which a victim is often likely to lose and become more traumatised by. [H/SV] • We find the Family Court particularly horrendous, with their lack of specialisation and almost every week we hear a story of something terrible that has happened and this week it was a lawyer for the child, telling a mother of a 3 year old who had disclosed sexual abuse, that 3 year olds can't disclose sexual abuse therefore it can't be true. [H/SV] • "A protection order needs to be considered in the parenting order - a man (or woman) who is an acknowledged psychological/emotional abuser should not have equal parenting rites with a child - it is cruel." [O/V] 	<p>Numerous submissions made general comments about reforming and/or informing the justice system to make it more victim/survivor/child-centric and/or reduce injustice. [H/SV/V/TW/Y/O]</p> <p>A few submissions raised particularly concerns about the Family Court, especially in relation to the treatment of children. [H/SV/Y/O/EMR/V/TW]</p> <p>A few submissions focused specifically on issues with protection orders, and the need to ensure they include parenting orders so that children are protected from further violence. [H/SV/O/V]</p>	<p>Most submissions commented on this focus area and identified it as a key priority. Many comments overlapped with those made across all other focus areas.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thinking about disabilities – we really need to think about our physical spaces – are our spaces, at a minimum, physically accessible; do we understand neurodiversity enough to have spaces that can cater for sensory needs. We need to think about those elements in our services because they’re also really important. [H/SV] There needs to be wrap around services so when those people [offenders] come out and are going back to family, there are services in place to make family safety plans and to do the kind of therapeutic work with the non-offending parents, with the children, with other siblings so that any kind of reintegration can function healthily and safely. What we know is that even when services tell families not to reunite, nearly eighty percent of them do and so we need to be providing services that recognise that desire of families and support all the parties in that to do that safely and healthily. At the moment it’s just luck – very few people coming out of prison have access to therapeutic services for their family. [H/SV] 	<p>Several submissions made general comments about government needing to increase service funding and/or making services more responsive to diversity and a range of accessibility needs. [H/SV/O/V/EMR/D]</p> <p>A few suggestions particularly focused on the need for government to provide safe services for families who had experienced violence and chose to stay together. [H/SV/D/O/EMR]</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACC need to cover people when they have experienced the violence overseas...we need to ensure people get good, timely therapy and we don't have all these bureaucratic hurdles. We don't want to take away the good bits of ACC, but we do want to reduce the barriers so more people can access it. [H/SV] • "Better mental health support...not just for the top 3% who meet the service threshold...[and] access to ACC counselling without cost." [V] • Living allowances need to be sustainable for whānau to survive, live healthy, comfortable lives and not struggle. No whānau should be homeless. This just adds to whānau who are already exposed to family and sexual violence. [H/TW] 	<p>Numerous submissions focused on government, specifically ACC, providing more accessible counselling, therapy and/or mental health support. [H/SV/O/V/EMR/D/R/Y/P]</p> <p>Numerous comments were made about the government needing to address a number of social issues, including poverty and alcohol, which impact on the experience of violence and the ability to be safe and recover from it. [H/TW/V/Y/EMR]</p>	
<p>Focus Area #7: Enable continuous learning and improvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "There is already enough data and research. Every ethnicity knows what its problems are and have for decades." [O/V] • "The reports have shown where the flaws in the systems are, but they are ignored and new reports are done every few years." [TW/V] 	<p>Multiple submissions noted that enough research has already been done and ignored. [O/M/V/TW/V/H/SV]</p>	<p>There were comparatively few submissions that commented on this focus area.</p>

Key – where did we hear about this?

V – People who have experienced violence
UV – People who have used violence
TW – Tangata Whenua

ERM – Ethnic, refugee, and migrant peoples
R – Rainbow communities
D – Disabled peoples

Y – Young people
O – Older people
P – Pacific peoples

FV – Family violence sector
SV – Sexual violence sector
H – Hui

What We Have Understood – He aha ta mātau

National Strategy and Action Plans to eliminate family violence and sexual violence

Summary 2 : 19 May – 8 June 2021

<p>Whakamanatia te mātauranga me te whakapai tonu</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There needs to be more understanding research and tailored responses to same sex relationships, rainbow communities (LGBTQI +) as well as relationships where wāhine are perpetrators and tāne are the victims. [H/TW] • “Good diverse and sensitive research started with the people involved (Māori/women/people with disabilities/rainbow community) that are at the centre. Guiding and adding value and interpretation to the data at every step of the way.” [O/V] • Proper funding needs to be put in place for population-based surveys and we need to ensure these surveys are carried out across the country and over longer periods of time so we can see what’s happening over time... We need a fully funded research arm that can feed into our practice so we can do the continuous learning. [H/SV] 	<p>Conversely, a few submissions identified specific FVSV research gaps that needed to be addressed, including sexual violence, expansive gendered analyses, and the different forms of abuse. [H/TW/O/V]</p> <p>A few submissions noted that a strategic approach and more funding was required for FVSV research. [H/SV/TW/V]</p>	
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