



Te Puna Aonui
Responding, healing, strengthening

Te Puna Aonui Pānui

14 December 2023

Contents

[Introduction from Hon Karen Chhour, our new Minister](#)

[Update from MSD](#)

[White Ribbon New Zealand](#)

[ACC – Seeking Cultural Safety Training and Resources Information](#)

[University of Auckland - Violence Prevention Study in 2024](#)

[Love Better campaign – ‘Own the Feels’](#)

[Sexual Safety for Disabled Children – Emily Writes podcast](#)

[Second Anniversary of Te Aorerekura](#)

[Online Help During the Holiday Period](#)

To share stories and updates in the next e-update, contact:

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



Kia ora koutou,

The last few months have been a whirlwind of activity, and I'm excited to start working with you all to prevent family violence and sexual violence. As Minister for Children – alongside

the portfolio for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence - the importance of protecting future generations from harm is a central focus for me.

I was elected an ACT MP in 2020 and have been the spokesperson for Child Poverty Reduction, Children, and Social Development. I currently live in Auckland with my partner and four children, and I am of Ngā Puhi descent.

In my maiden speech to Parliament, I started by saying, “I’ve come into this role, knowing that I’m going to have to have some of these hard conversations about the care of our children in this country”. I am committed to using my time as Minister advocating for the most vulnerable, breaking the cycle of violence and ongoing harm.

I have my own experience of child protection services and I want to ensure that government services support and protect – rather than hurt and divide. Listening to those in my community tell their stories, it is clear we have a way to go to strengthen families and ensure our system works for those who have been hurt.

Meeting and working with experts and frontline workers within the family violence and sexual violence sectors will be important as I start this work. I look forward to fully understanding the context that you are all working in, and what can be done to improve things for generations to come. There is a lot of information to take in – I have started receiving briefings and getting a sense of the work already in progress and I will confirm my priorities in the near future.

With the holiday season coming up, I know there will be families that are stressed. Please support those around you and make sure the children are well supervised and safe while tired parents unwind and relax.

I will finish with something else I said in my maiden speech – “I stand here today not only as a survivor of abuse as a child, but as a survivor of our system’s abuse – it is time we said what needs to be said: enough is enough, and we won’t tolerate it anymore”.

Our system needs to provide integrated responses to family violence and sexual violence, and support the longer-term healing of families, whānau, and communities.

Enjoy this e-Update Pānui. There are some great stories in here.

Ngā mihi nui. I wish you all a restful and restorative holiday period.



Update from MSD

Family violence services for tamariki, designed by tamariki

Making life safer for children coming into refuge is central to the Child Advocate Pilot. The National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges have implemented the Child Advocate Pilot in six of their refuge sites, and their programme is called Kōkihi ngā Rito. The programme is designed to work alongside tamariki (children) between four and 14 years old.

MSD is investing \$5.9 million over four years to expand the child advocacy pilot in eight Women's Refuges.

The programme is led by what tamariki need and is the first of its kind to draw on feedback from tamariki about how advocacy works for them.

The Child Advocate Pilot acts on some of the recommendations from a 2021 report *'Kids in the Middle'* in which children share their experiences of going through a refuge. They wanted a service that was designed for them.

The programme assigns a specialist child advocate for each child. From August 2021 to April this year, 126 tamariki entered the programme run in six refuges across the motu. The specialist advocates were the go-to people for children at refuge and stayed in touch when they returned home to work with them on safety plans, provide guidance and information, and give them confidence.

You can read more about the programme, including quotes from some of the children involved, in the article below.

[Read Women's Refuge Evaluation of Kōkihi ngā Rito - Women's Refuge website](#)

['If we are not going to advocate for tamariki, who will?' – The Post website](#)

Men share their stories to inspire change through 'In Your Hands'

For men who are looking to change their behaviour, hearing stories of change from other men can be an important catalyst for taking the first steps towards living without violence.

Last year, MSD launched *In Your Hands* to support people to change violent behaviours. Ete and Corban have very different stories but one thing in common: they both realised they were hurting their loved ones and made the decision to change their behaviour. Their stories

are shared on the *In Your Hands* website, along with stories from other brave men who talk about breaking their cycle of violence, to inspire others.



Corban is a tradie and mixed martial arts champion from the Wairarapa. After a night at the Police station, he knew he needed to take action and get on top of his behaviour. He joined a local men's group where he learned how to manage his emotions and be a better partner.

[Watch Corban's story here – In Your Hands website](#)



Ete is a well-known entertainer and member of 'The Laughing Samoans' comedy duo. He is now sharing his story of having used violence and changing his behaviour, and hopes it will resonate with others, particularly in Pacific communities.

[Watch Ete share his story with his wife Mele – In Your Hands website](#)



Te Puna Aonui
Responding, healing, strengthening

White Ribbon New Zealand

White Ribbon is a community-led initiative that brings people together to highlight the impact of family violence and promote respectful relationships. White Ribbon New Zealand invites men to stand up, speak out and act to prevent men's violence towards women. [Te Aorerekura - the National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence](#) highlights the role of social norms and attitudes – including gender equity – in protecting against violence.

Violence is related to attitudes that are shaped by family, friends, social media, and entertainment. Understanding that our boys will become the men we teach them to be means we all have a responsibility to teach our young men about respectful relationships.

Resources for the campaign are available here <https://whiteribbon.org.nz/act/downloads/> and here <https://whiteribbonnz.myshopify.com/>

ACC – Seeking Cultural Safety Training and Resources Information

ACC have released a Request for Information (RFI) on GETS to learn more about the cultural safety professional training, development, information, and resources available for providers delivering services to survivors of sexual violence in Aotearoa.

As part of ACC's efforts to evolve and strengthen how they support survivors through the Integrated Services for Sensitive Claims (ISSC), they're exploring how to support ISSC suppliers and providers to deliver culturally safe services for all survivors.

ACC are seeking information about resources and training solutions that support providers in attending to the intersectional identity of a survivor's ethnic culture, age, disability, gender identity and sexual orientation in a culturally safe way. This is to ensure everyone feels welcomed into culturally safe environments and they receive appropriate and equitable health care whatever their culture or community.

For more information, please read the RFI:

[GETS | Accident Compensation Corporation - Request for Information \(RFI\) for Provision of Cultural Safety Professional Training and Resources for Integrated Services for Sensitive Claims \(ISSC\) Providers](#)



University of Auckland - Violence Prevention Study in 2024

Interested in taking your violence prevention work to the next level? Looking for a good professional development opportunity?

The University of Auckland offers a number of postgraduate courses that are relevant for those working in violence prevention or interested in working in that area. These can be taken as part of a postgraduate certificate/diploma in Health Sciences or Social Work.

Courses include:

- Interpersonal & Family Violence
- Domestic Violence: Challenges and Responses
- Issues in Child Welfare and Protection
- Specialist Counselling Skills and Approaches
- Stress and Trauma in Health and Human Services
- Applied Research in Social Sciences
- Mental Health Promotion
- Community Health Development
- Health Promotion: Theory & Models
- Health Promotion Strategies

Courses available in Auckland in Semester 1 2024.

For further information: auckland.ac.nz/violence-prevention

Love Better campaign – ‘Own the Feels’

The *Love Better* campaign promotes positive, safe, and equal relationships, with a current focus on better relationship breakups for young people.

Throughout the year, social media content has been promoted at [@LoveBetterNZ](https://LoveBetterNZ) | TikTok, and there has been significant radio and TV presence for the campaign.

As of 31 July, *Love Better* social media has received over 31 million impressions and over 5 million engagements across Instagram, Facebook and TikTok and these numbers continue to rise each month. Campaign podcasts have been listened to over 101,000 times.



See the posters here: [The Broken Heartline — Clemenger BBDO](#).

Sexual Safety for Disabled Children - Emily Writes podcast

The Courage Club is a podcast hosted by Emily Writes, which discusses children, disability, and sexual safety, made in partnership with HELP Auckland and Rape Prevention Education. *The SpinOff* referred to it as “[the podcast no-one wants to listen to](#)”, as it tackles the uncomfortable issues of how to ensure the sexual safety of children, particularly those who are deaf, disabled, medically fragile, or neurodivergent.

In her own words, “it’s not a topic that will get us on the top 10 most-streamed, but if it helps to empower just one parent, and helps prevent just one instance of sexual harm against a child, it’s totally worth it”.

In an [article on her website](#), Emily Writes says, “we recorded the podcast over five days. There were tears but also laughter. There was joy, jokes, heavy stuff, big truths, realisations, epiphanies. On my final day of filming, I was exhausted but grateful. I knew what we had set out to achieve and I felt like we had achieved it.”

“In the podcast you’ll hear about how we can help tamariki understand their body and their needs, navigating carers and visitors in and out of the home, and building the foundations for their positive sexual well-being and identity.

You’ll also hear us trying to navigate this in our own ways. Because every guest is in the same place you are, I mean *I’m* in the same place you are. We all decided we want to protect our tamariki. We all decided that no matter how hard it is, we are doing it.”



Te Puna Aonui

Responding, healing, strengthening

Listen to The Courage Club on [Spotify](#), [Apple](#) or [YouTube](#).

Find more resources and info at [The Courage Club](#).

Second Anniversary of Te Aorerekura

December 7, 2023, marks the second anniversary of the launch of Te Aorerekura – the National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence. It is the framework and pathway forward for our collective efforts to eliminate violence in Aotearoa so all people can live good lives in peace.

This represents two years of learning and changing the way government agencies work together, laying the foundations, and building relationships with communities who have contributed their expertise. The focus on wellbeing, healing, strengthening, and responding is clearly articulated through the Shifts Te Aorerekura seeks for our system.

The name Te Aorerekura draws on the knowledge of a cluster of stars that guide human navigation to gain knowledge and comprehension. Aorere is responsible for ensuring the safe journey of her whānau as they travel across the celestial skies.

The [Outcomes and Measurement Framework](#), published in September, defines national outcomes and the indicators that will be used to measure progress to implement the shifts in Te Aorerekura. Shared outcomes will support collective impact, and better measurement and reporting will help us learn what is working to achieve the shifts. The OMF will support government and public understanding about progress, to help shape planning and investment.

We are acting now - guided by our strategy, by tangata whenua leaders, by Te Puna Aonui – the Joint Venture for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence, and community leaders - so that our mokopuna can know a new way - in a society that is peaceful, respectful, and no longer tolerates violence.

Thank you for your continued support as we go on this journey together.

Online Help During the Holiday Period

The festive season and summer holidays can be an incredibly hard time for people who may be at risk of family violence and sexual violence.

The Ministry of Social Development has online help available for people impacted by violence — we want people to reach out for help if they're worried.

Online help is available over the holiday period.

MSD's online and telephone services provide one-stop entry points into government-funded family and sexual violence services.

Family Violence Online Help

Call for family violence support anytime on 0800 456 450. If you have internet access you can get advice, support and a service finder here: www.areyouok.org.nz.

If you feel at risk of using violence and are worried your behaviour is hurting or scaring others, there's help to make a change.

Call 0800 456 450 and, if you have internet access, you can get advice, support and a service finder here: www.inyourhands.org.nz

Sexual Violence Online Help

If you have experienced sexual harm, contact Safe to Talk on 0800 044 334 (or text 4334). If you have internet access, visit the website to webchat or email: www.safetotalk.nz

Elder Abuse Service

If you have concerns about how an older person is being treated, please call the Elder Abuse Response Service on 0800 32 668 65 (or text 5032). You can also email: support@elderabuse.nz.

About Te Puna Aonui

[Te Puna Aonui](#) brings government agencies together to align whole-of-government strategy, policy, and investment to eliminate family violence and sexual violence.

*Te Puna Aonui includes:



Te Puna Aonui

Responding, healing, strengthening

- [Ara Poutama Department of Corrections](#)
- [Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga Ministry of Education](#)
- [Manatū Hauora Ministry of Health](#)
- [Te Tāhū or te Ture Ministry of Justice](#)
- [Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora Ministry of Social Development](#)
- [Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa New Zealand Police](#)
- [Oranga Tamariki Ministry for Children](#)
- [Te Puni Kokiri Ministry of Māori Development](#)
- [Te Kaporeihana Āwhina Hunga Whare ACC](#)

[Te Tari O Te Pirimia Me Te Komiti Matau](#) (Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet), [Manatū Wāhine](#) (Ministry for Women), [Te Manatū mō Ngā Iwi o Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa](#) (Ministry of Pacific Peoples) and [Te Tari Mātāwaka](#) (the Ministry for Ethnic Communities) are associate agencies of Te Puna Aonui.

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