



Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence

Responding, healing, strengthening

Pānui

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Our Channels – Updates and Resources



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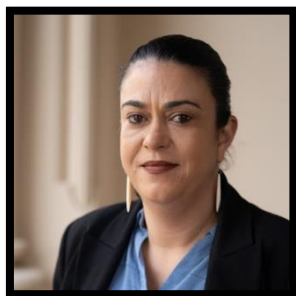
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Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence

Responding, healing, strengthening

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



Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to the June Pānui from the Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence, providing you with highlights and updates across the family violence and sexual violence work of government, providers, and the community.

We are halfway through 2025 and good progress is being made to deliver the Action Plan launched in December 2024. You can read about the work underway in each of the focus areas: Investing and Commissioning Well, Keeping People Safe, and Stopping Violence.

You may have seen coverage on Friday and over the weekend of **Te Puna Aonui reverting their the Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence** – see the press release here: [Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence agency to drop informal name, expand advisory board diversity | Beehive.govt.nz](#).

In June, I appeared before the Justice Select Committee as part of Parliament's scrutiny week. I was happy to update my Parliamentary colleagues on progress made on Te Aorerekura – National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence.

See the Estimates Hearing here – my section is from about 1hr51min onwards:
<https://vimeo.com/1093592633>



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It's important that we keep the conversations going to help people understand the issues, normalise reaching out for help, and letting people know what to do if you are one of the helpers that people reach out to when they have been a victim of violence – or if they have used violence and want to change.

Social media is a good way to spread information and show support with victim-survivors who may or may not have come forward – you never know who may see your post and feel able to seek help because they see people they know taking these issues seriously.

The first week of May was Rape Awareness Week – I filmed a video with the Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence to talk about what work still needs to be done to reduce stigma and connect victim-survivors with the help and resources they need.

See the video here: [Acknowledging Rape Awareness Week - Hon Minister Karen Chhour](#)

There is evidence to show that we are successfully breaking down some of the stigma around sexual violence – during the last seven years of the New Zealand Crime and Victim Survey, there has been a significant increase in the number of sexual violence incidents being reported to Police - from 7% to 32%. That is a massive increase that shows people are recognising harm, trusting the Police to listen to them and take action, and that we as a nation are starting to stand up against this.

June 15-22 was Elder Abuse Awareness Week – Age Concern Aotearoa has done a great job with their “Spot the Signs” campaign to help people recognise what elder abuse can look like. I talk about some of the signs in the video below and encourage you to go to the Age Concern Aotearoa website (ageconcern.org.nz) to learn more.

See the video here: [Acknowledging Elder Abuse Awareness Week | Minister Karen Chhour](#)

Much like other victims of family violence and sexual violence, older people are often hurt most by those they know and trust. **88% of alleged abusers are family members, and**



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61% of alleged abusers are adult children or grandchildren.

I have also raised the issue of protection for pets in family violence situations. It's well known that **violence against pets frequently features in family violence**. Many of us have strong emotional connections to furry (or scaly) companions so harming pets, or threatening to harm pets, is a common way for abusers to keep victims afraid and compliant.

See the video here: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1KmLh32vHf/>

Pet Refuge is a useful source of information on this issue ([Domestic Violence & Pet Abuse | Pet Refuge](#)). **53% of those experiencing family violence delayed leaving that situation due to fears for their pets' safety**. Places like Pet Refuge provide a safe place to temporarily home pets while owners free themselves from family violence situations. I also released a public statement calling for stronger protections - [Protecting Families by Protecting Pets – a national call to action | Beehive.govt.nz](#).

Since the last Pānui in April, I have met a range of experts and community organisations - including the continuation of my visits to all Oranga Tamariki sites, Te Haumirimiri Ngākau Mōkōpuna, ECLIPSE family violence services, Tautoko Tane Waikato, Whangaroa RSA, He Waka Tapu, STOP and AVIVA.

While every visit is impactful and valuable in its own way, I was particularly inspired by the success of the **“I AM ME” programme** which recently finished their pilot and released their findings. It is an 8-week course which supports family violence survivors to build life skills, confidence, and community connections. All fifteen women who started the programme graduated, and every single one described it as a truly uplifting experience.

Read more in the pilot evaluation coverage: [Next phase for graduates | Cambridge News](#)



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Minister Chhour at the I Am Me programme celebration with Anne Morrison (founder, centre-left), and women from Dress for Success (far left, far right), who are partners in the programme.

As always, please reach out to my office if you or your organisation would like to request a meeting with me – in-person, or online. Wishing all the best to kaimahi/ workers across the system who work to improve the safety and wellbeing of people impacted by violence.

Ngā mihi nui,
Hon Karen Chhour

Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence

Te Puna Aonui Name Change – the Executive Board

Te Puna Aonui is reverting to its legal name: the Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence, responding to a request from the outgoing members of Te Pūkotahitanga, the tangata whenua Ministerial Advisory Group.

Our aim as a Business Unit is to continue building and nurturing relationships with iwi and hapū to improve outcomes for Māori and support whānau and communities to live free from violence. While the Ministerial Advisory Group will not continue, these relationships will



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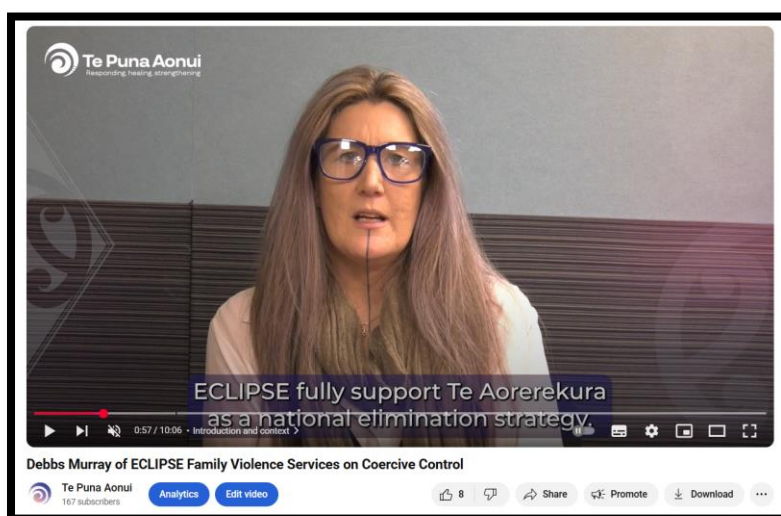
continue for the Business Unit. We welcome collaborations and partnerships that enable us to work collectively with iwi, hapū and hapori Māori to progress our shared aspirations.

Our logo tells the story of our work: whānau and communities are at the centre (the koru), surrounded by the light that comes as do our work. That light is generated through collaboration, innovation and learning to deliver responses that heal and strengthen families, whānau, and communities. He korowai manaaki wraps around the system. The 3 lines at either end of the korowai represent: responding, healing and strengthening, and collaboration, innovation and learning.

It will take time for us to transition to new branding, but we will gradually change all of our collateral to reflect this change, and we will communicate as changes are made. Our emails remain the same for now, and we'll communicate when these are changing.

If you have questions related to this change, contact: deborah.morris@tepunaonui.govt.nz

One Soul, One Survivor – Debbs Murray of ECLIPSE Family Violence Services



Debbs Murray is the founder of ECLIPSE Family Violence Services and uses her lived experience to train frontline family violence responders and practitioners. She is on a



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personal mission to highlight the true position of coercive control in the context of family violence, as an overarching tactic that exists within all perpetrated acts of harm.

Debbs Murray is the founder of ECLIPSE Family Violence Services and uses her lived experience to train frontline family violence responders and practitioners. She is on a personal mission to highlight the true position of coercive control in the context of family violence, as an overarching tactic that exists within all perpetrated acts of harm.

Her book, **One Soul, One Survivor** shines a spotlight on the many risks of non-physical coercive control, including the very real risk of suicide as a final desperate act to break the chains of entrapment in order to reclaim freedom.

You can order her book on the ECLIPSE website here: [One Soul, One Survivor by Debbs Murray | A book about a journey into and out of family violence](#)

Debb recently visited the Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence to talk about the work being done with leads of the various workstreams. The Business Unit filmed an interview with Debbs which can be seen on their YouTube channel here: [Debbs Murray of ECLIPSE Family Violence Services on Coercive Control](#)

RNZ interview of Debbs here: [How Debbs Murray found freedom and safety | RNZ](#)

Family Violence Training Directory

We are pleased to announce the launch of the **Family Violence Training Directory**, now available as a downloadable resource on the Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence website.

Over the past year, the Business Unit has worked closely with various family violence training providers to explore the alignment of their training offerings with the **Family Violence Entry to Expert (E2E) Capability Framework**. Since our initial engagements in



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2023, many providers have updated their training to better align with the E2E Capability Framework. The directory reflects these latest updates, providing an overview of Essential Level and Entry Level training opportunities and their alignment with the E2E's modules and capabilities.



This resource is designed to support individuals, agencies, and organisations in identifying training that builds workforce capability to recognise, respond to, and refer those affected by family violence, while ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all involved. It offers practical guidance for navigating the training landscape and making informed capability-building decisions.

As a **living document**, the directory will be regularly updated to include new or revised training offerings, ensuring it remains accurate and relevant. Explore the directory and discover training options that align with your goals and contribute to building a skilled, safe, and responsive workforce: [Family Violence Training Directory](#).



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Updates – Stopping Violence, Investing and Commissioning Well, and Keeping People Safe

Investing and Commissioning Well

Focus area lead: Rachael Child from the Business Unit (Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence)

This work will help us give visibility to what is being invested in, where and why, to help make informed investment decisions in line with a social investment approach.

The Business Unit is working with agencies to complete a Baseline Review as set out in the Te Aorerekura Action Plan. A cross agency working group is currently working to identify the key information required, plan the data collection and analysis process, and establish information sharing protocols. We anticipate this will begin in full in the next few weeks.

The Government has recently [announced](#) new funding of \$275 million to establish the Social Investment Fund. The Fund will provide an alternative way to procure services that is focused on outcomes. The Business Unit is working with the Social Investment Agency to identify ways to use social investment concepts to improve family violence and sexual violence services.

Agencies are also working together to identify opportunities to apply social sector commissioning principles and align contracting to increase the efficiency, accessibility, and effectiveness of services.

Keeping People Safe

Focus area leaders: Eleanor Butterworth (multi-agency responses) and Gabrielle O'Connor (Project Whetū) from the Business Unit.

The Keeping People Safe work programme is focused on strengthening multi-agency responses to family violence. This includes improving national consistency in key areas of



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practice, such as governance and leadership, high-risk approaches, case management, information sharing, and collaborative case coordination.

Achieving this requires government agencies to work more cohesively with each other and in partnership with iwi, communities, and service providers. The programme is guided by the six core components of effective multi-agency response and is supported by national tools such as the Risk and Safety Practice Framework, and the Whetū case management platform (currently in business case development).

The Business Unit is working to develop the operating model for multi-agency responses, underpinned by technology that will enable more effective ways of working.

Project Whetū

Project Whetū is a platform to enable safe information sharing, case management, triage, and consistent risk assessment. The project will deliver technology and data elements, along with a strong governance structure at the regional and local levels.

On 3 July, Deputy CEs who sit on the Action Plan Governance Group will participate in a walk-through of the Project Whetū business case. Ministers will be briefed at the Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministerial meeting on 16 July, and the Business Unit will be offering bilateral briefings with Ministers during July/August.

The Business Unit is working to prepare for a business case for consideration by Cabinet in October 2025.

Stopping Violence

Focus area lead: Mark Henderson from the Ministry of Social Development

A cross-agency *Stopping Violence* governance group is headed by the Ministry of Social Development. This is responsible for monitoring and governing actions under this focus area and is currently working at pace to deliver the action to '*review current interventions for people who use violence*'.



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The scope of this project has now been agreed, and work is underway to:

- procure a supplier to deliver an evidence and literature review on stopping violence services, and
- engage with stakeholders and providers.

The relationship between this project and other actions in the Action Plan will also be explored.

We are aware that communities are keen to be involved in the review of this work. These opportunities will be canvassed through the engagement plan under development.

Evidence to Practice Webinars

The Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence regularly hosts Evidence to Practice webinars to engage people across the family violence and sexual violence sector with evidence and data to enable good practice.

The full playlist of all webinars can be found here: [Evidence to Practice Sessions - YouTube](#)

Men's Journey of Change

Researchers discuss elements of these men's mindsets and share what they have learned about the environments and conditions that support or hinder men's change.

This is part of a body of research which includes the 'Man Rules of New Zealand', 'Understanding the Support Needs of Users of Violence', an ongoing longitudinal study, and development research for the 'In Your Hands' web portal In Your Hands.

As a whole, the research the position and the perspectives of men with harmful behaviours, those who are often unwilling, unable, or feeling powerless to change. The research has informed Change is Possible, the latest phase of the Campaign for Action on Family



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Violence, which seeks to mobilise men around change journeys and create environments that support men's change. Change Is Possible.

Watch it here: https://youtu.be/xcmZsOwfmYU?si=yMWjt_RzhviP3h96

Data Relating to Stalking - Family Violence Death Review

This discussion was about the recent review of Family Violence Death Review (FVDR) data relating to stalking. The review looked at stalking within the context of the intimate partner violence (IPV) and child abuse and neglect (CAN) homicides reviewed by the Committee between January 2020 and June 2024.

The research presented in this session provides compound narratives of stalking, key themes from the evidence, and some reflective questions for people to use in practice settings.

Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/XWkmdtIKsAE?si=gmaTJzLlcCSqTZFe>

Atawhai – Responding to Violence in Primary Care

An hour-long session on policy and practice insights from the recent HRC funded study 'Atawhai'. This research aimed to make it easier to respond to family violence in primary care settings. Developed by providers, the 'Atawhai Network' builds trusted quality relationships between health care and family violence agencies to support safe responses to whānau and families.

Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/y8RNbktMpNA?si=7EzdELghAH4B9LNN>

Professor Michael Salter

This session is with Professor Michael Salter, who is the Director of Childlight University of NSW, the Australasian hub of Childlight. This work is part of the Global Child Safety Institute,



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which undertakes research for impact on child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Professor Salter conducts national and international research on child sexual exploitation, gender-based violence and complex trauma.

Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/EpXURdQQvHg?si=V35SYnUilweKRSsE>

All upcoming Evidence to Practice sessions are advertised on [LinkedIn](#).

Press Pause – Breaking the Cycle of Sexual Violence in Aotearoa



In April 2025, Stop were honoured to welcome Hon. Karen Chhour, Minister for Children and for the Prevention of Family & Sexual Violence to visit. Stop work across Te Waipounamu supporting tamariki, rangatahi and adults to stop engaging in concerning or harmful sexual behaviour. They also provide prevention education training and consultation to equip adults to respond effectively to sexualised behaviour.

During this visit, Stop shared Press Pause with Minister Chhour. Released in 2024 with funding from Oranga Tamariki, Press Pause is a website designed to help adults understand, recognise, and respond to rangatahi demonstrating or engaging with sexualised behaviour.



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Minister Chhour on her visit to Stop

Press Pause provides information and educational resources, along with practical advice, encouraging kōrero with the rangatahi as a starting point.

Stop were proud to demonstrate how their work is centered around the wellbeing of tamariki, rangatahi, whānau, and communities in an effort to "break the cycle" of sexual violence in Aotearoa. They were also heartened by the Minister's forward-thinking approach and vision for the sector. Stop remain committed to working collaboratively towards safer, more informed communities.

To learn more:

- Visit the Press Pause website. www.presspause.co.nz
- Watch the video for an overview [Press Pause - Promo Video on Vimeo](#)

New Campaign from Are You OK

Concepts for the new Are You OK campaign have now been developed and audience tested. The concepts tested positively and cover the following:

Phase One: launching on 16 May, this first phase reframes 'helping' to 'supporting' and



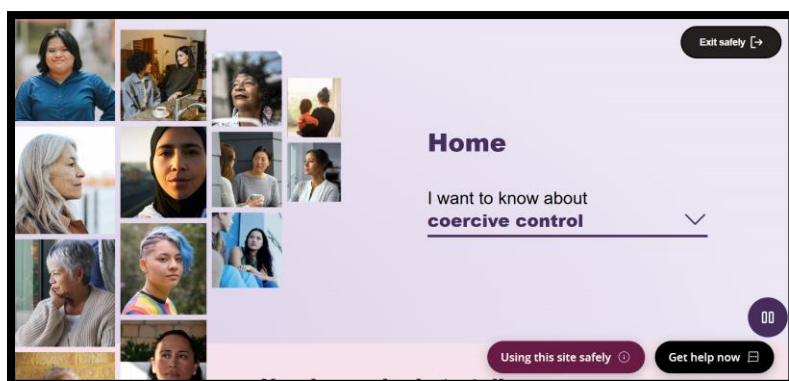
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aims to encourage more people to visit the Are You OK website to find out what support for people experiencing intimate partner violence looks like. The website actively and openly talks about the role of a supporter and what that means from those who have been there.

Phase Two: launching on 30 July, which is International Friendship Day. Phase two will normalise supporters asking if friends are safe at home, by framing it as a question of care. This phase will prompt people to think deeply about how they connect with friends and how deep they really do or don't go, giving them a way to reflect if there's anything important that they're currently missing.

Both phases include video and audio components shared on social media and mainstream media, driving people back to the website for more information, advice, and support.



See the website here: [Are You OK | Family Violence Information and Support](#)

Friendship House Trust – Entry to Expert Framework Tools





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Over the past year, **Friendship House Trust** has proudly collaborated with the **Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence** to develop a new tool supporting the **Entry to Expert Capability Framework**—a key part of Shift Three in Te Aorerekura: The National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence.

This framework is designed for any organisation whose staff may encounter individuals affected by family or sexual violence—whether as victims or users.

To bring this vision to life, we partnered with the talented team at Run with Run to create a set of four user-friendly booklets. These resources are crafted to help individuals and organisations across the sector map their training and development needs with clarity and confidence.

Friendship House is excited about the potential impact of these tools.

Interested in learning more or pre-purchasing the booklets? Please contact Neil Denney at Friendship House Trust: neil@friendshiphouse.org.nz

Women's Refuge – Risk Assessment Data in Family Violence and Safety Work



Women's Refuge has a range of resources about understanding risk, best practice to ensure victim safety, and data. All links below can be found on this homepage here: [Women's Refuge new approach to 'risk', new risk tool, and what risk data tells us | Womens Refuge](#)

[Nāhana Tūraru \(the risk belonging to her\): making risk information count for victims' safety](#)



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'Nāhana Tūraru' can be used to record risk information that is gleaned from the natural flow of conversation, so the client can tell her story the way she wants to.

This enables clients' kōrero about their experiences to be told in a trauma-informed and violence-responsive way (until their natural end at a time of feeling safe) so sharing them is more likely to have a beneficial rather than harmful impact.

What Risk Data from 500 Clients Tells Us

Analysing a wider range of risks enables a wider range of safety responses. Refuge's new approach moves away from a single-risk focus, and instead looks at how risks of physical harm sit alongside other complex, overlapping, and insidious risks to every part of clients' lives.

In short, it looks at 'risk' as occurring across a spectrum of harm, rather than on a continuum of physical severity.

Risk Data Infographic



(Screenshot of part of the infographic)



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'Evidence-Based RED FLAGS for Intimate Partner Homicide'

As stated in other parts of the Guideline, ***all*** risks and needs relating to safety and wellbeing for victim-survivors must be seen as important and addressed with appropriate responses.

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE RED FLAG From MARAM	EXPLANATION
Victim-survivor planning to separate or recent separation	Victims are at greatest risk of being killed from the moment they intend to leave until they have been separated for several months. For victims who are experiencing intimate partner violence, the high-risk periods include when a victim starts planning to leave, immediately prior to taking action, and during the initial stages of or immediately after separation. Victims who stay with the perpetrator because they are afraid to leave often accurately anticipate that leaving would increase the risk of lethal assault. Victims (adult or child) are particularly at risk during the first two months of separation.
Escalation — increase in severity and/or frequency of violence, particularly a recent increase	Escalation can mean violence is happening more, involves more tactics than it used to, is getting more severe, is becoming more threatening, personal, or degrading. A recent or rapid escalation can signal an immediate risk of homicide.
Physical assault while pregnant/following new birth	Family violence often commences or intensifies during pregnancy and is associated with increased rates of miscarriage, low birth weight, premature birth, foetal injury, foetal death, and fatal health consequences for the mother.
Controlling behaviours	Use of controlling behaviours is strongly linked to homicide. Perpetrators who feel entitled to get their way, irrespective of the views and needs of, or impact on, others are more likely to use various forms of violence against their victim, including sexual violence. Perpetrators may express ownership over family

(Screenshot of part of the list – please see link for full context)

Auckland University of Technology's Rachel Smith – Violence & Trauma Studies



Become familiar with different approaches to respond to violence and trauma and assist with healing with the Postgraduate Certificate in Health Science in Violence and Trauma Studies.

This postgraduate certificate caters to:

- community agency workers,
- social workers,
- counsellors,
- group workers,
- psychotherapists,
- probation officers,



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- refugee workers,
- the military,
- the police,
- marae and iwi services,
- prison workers,
- teachers,
- occupational therapists,
- Civil Defence,
- health workers,
- health promoters, and
- first responder emergency services.

This violence and trauma studies programme suits professionals working with children, young people, adults, families and whānau experiencing interpersonal violence and trauma, drug and alcohol issues, mental health issues, and disability issues.

See more information here: <https://www.aut.ac.nz/study/study-options/health-sciences/courses/postgraduate-certificate-in-health-science/violence-and-trauma-studies>

DECULT Voices – Beyond Belief documentary



Decult is committed to increasing awareness, reducing stigma, and securing tangible support for those impacted. Coercive control in spiritual groups, churches and self-help organisations is a human rights and mental health issue.

Over 50,000 people in Aotearoa are former or current members of cults, many with lasting trauma.



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In 2024, the Decult conference was filmed and turned into a documentary – which recently premiered. It weaves together raw insights from experts, cult survivors, authors, and advocates.

If you are interested in seeing the documentary, or scheduling a screening for your community or organisation, contact info@decult.net.



Watch the documentary trailer here: [DECULT VOICES – BEYOND BELIEF | Trailer](#)

Learn more about Decult here: [DECULT - Raising Cult Awareness](#)

Join the Decult Collective group on LinkedIn here: [Decult Collective | Groups | LinkedIn](#)

Treating Takatāpui with Mana – MSD online modules and resources

[Rainbow Ready – preventing elder abuse](#) is a new, interactive, online module for those who work with older people, including in aged care, healthcare or social services.

The module was designed by [Hohou Te Rongo Kahukura | Outing Violence](#), based on its community engagement research with older takatāpui (Māori members of LGBTQ+) and rainbow people, with a specific focus on identifying elder abuse risk and protective factors.

[Rainbow Ready – preventing elder abuse](#) teaches workers about who older takatāpui and rainbow people are, what elder abuse includes, and the specific ways in which elder abuse



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is experienced in rainbow communities. The module features quotes, audio clips and short videos with older takatāpui and rainbow people.

Hohou Te Rongo Kahukura is a specialist takatāpui and rainbow organisation focused on promoting wellbeing and preventing and responding to violence. They offer in person and online training in creating safe environments for takatāpui and rainbow communities.

Consultation Opportunities – Working for Families, Legal Aid, and Pay Equity

Public consultation on the Working for Families scheme launched

The Government has launched public consultation on proposals to improve the Working for Families scheme. The objective is to increase certainty for families about their Working for Families payments and help families avoid getting into Working for Families debt.

Submissions are open now and close on 3 July 2025. [Find out more](#) and read the consultation for Working for Families document.

Submissions open on the Legal aid scheme review

The Government has decided to undertake a review of the legal aid system in 2025. The Ministry of Justice has released a [discussion document](#) which is open for public submissions until 23 July 2025. Find out how to complete the [online survey](#) or where to mail your submission [here](#).

Submissions on Pay Equity opened by the People's Select Committee

The People's Select Committee has been established by a group of 10 former women MPs from across the political spectrum to hear submissions. It will serve as an extra-parliamentary committee tasked with considering public submissions and independently examining the amendments to the Equal Pay Act.

Parliament passed the law changes, under urgency, on 12 May 2025 which meant it did not



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go through the select committee process or have input from the public.

The committee will consider submissions and evidence over the next several months and then work to produce a report by the end of the year. [Submissions can be made online](#) until 31 July 2025.

About the Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence

[The Executive Board](#) brings government agencies together to align whole-of-government strategy, policy, and investment to eliminate family violence and sexual violence. The Board is supported by a small Business Unit that coordinates the collective actions of government agencies.

This Board includes:

- [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.

Visit our website tepunaaonui.govt.nz or contact us: contact@tepunaaonui.govt.nz.

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To share stories in the next e-update, contact: Holly.Blackler@Justice.govt.nz.