



Joint Venture Work Programme e-Update

December 2019

Keeping you informed about the Joint Venture's cross-government work programme. Our mission is to eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence in New Zealand.

Nau mai, haere mai.

In this edition, Under-Secretary Jan Logie looks back over a year of major achievements under the leadership of the Joint Venture. Director Fiona Ross shares her proudest moments. Joint Venture agencies share their progress to improve the Family Violence and Sexual Violence system. We also share a snapshot of milestones in the news, and provide links to useful information.

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Update from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Domestic and Sexual Violence) Jan Logie MP



Kia ora koutou

We're ending 2019 on a high note! With everything we've achieved over the last 12 months, I hope you all feel proud of the progress we're making towards our ultimate goal – to prevent and end family violence and sexual violence in Aotearoa NZ.

I'd like to acknowledge the hard work, dedication and strength of everyone involved in this important mahi. People supporting their communities; people providing the frontline crisis response; people supporting victims and survivors in their recovery. You all deserve our gratitude and thanks.

I also want to acknowledge all the officials working across government who are embracing this new Joint Venture way of working. What started as an ambitious work programme is now becoming a reality because of your efforts. We can see this in the policies and new laws being implemented, and new funding models and partnerships being developed across agencies.

We're continuing to work with the Māori leadership group, Interim Te Rōpū, on the initial design of a national strategy and action plan. It's been really important for officials and Ministers to understand the perspectives of Interim Te Rōpū, including the context and interconnected nature of the violence experienced within whānau. Our work on the strategy will continue in 2020.

There are a number of big milestones that stand out for me this year.

The new [Family Violence Act 2018](#) makes changes to improve responses to **family violence in criminal and family law**. The ultimate purpose of the Act is to stop and prevent family violence.

The changes mean family violence, in all its forms, is recognised as unacceptable. Family violence includes physical abuse, psychological abuse, controlling behaviour, letting a child see or hear family abuse, hurting a pet, or destroying property.

The law also provides guidance so that decision-makers, such as the courts, can prioritise the victims and their children. Police can now arrest and prosecute strangulation or suffocation offences. It's also an offence to force someone into a marriage or civil union, and a new offence of assault on a family member was established to reflect that family violence happens in a range of relationships.

[The Sexual Violence Legislation Bill](#), which will improve the court system's response to sexual violence and aims to **reduce the trauma of sexual violence complainants' experience in court**, was introduced to Parliament, and the Justice Select Committee is receiving submissions on the Bill until 31 January 2020.





We marked the first anniversary of the Joint Venture. In a little over a year, we have established an enduring commitment to share accountability and leadership across ten government agencies. Leading the Joint Venture is its Chief Executives, who are transforming the way agencies work together. It enables us to prioritise services and interventions that will achieve our mission to eliminate family violence and sexual violence.

Through the Joint Venture mechanism, we are also seeing a significant rise in the profile of sexual violence and family violence. A snapshot of some stories is in this newsletter.

We've overseen the largest ever investment in family violence and sexual violence as part of the Government's [Wellbeing Budget 2019](#), which came out of the Joint Venture agencies' collective Budget bids.

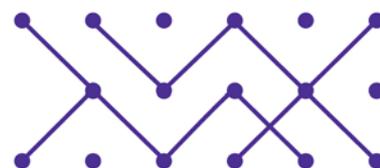
The initiatives in this package will be delivered over four years and are spread across five priority areas—prevention; consistent community responses; specialist services; improvements to court processes; and sustained leadership—the Joint Venture. Initiatives in the package include:

- \$47.8 million goes towards **prevention** in early years violence prevention sites; violence prevention needs in diverse communities; and family violence prevention.
- A further \$84.3 million goes towards **consistent and effective responses to family violence in every community**. We're extending and learning from community-based pilots; strengthening family violence responses in every community; developing ambitious proposals for genuinely integrated responses in every community; and improving screening for family violence in the health sector.
- **To expand essential specialist sexual violence services**, [Oranga Tamariki](#) and the [Ministry of Social Development](#) are strengthening their support for children, youth and adult victims/survivors and perpetrators of sexual violence, and their families and whānau, with a collective investment of \$131 million.
- The Ministry of Justice is investing \$32 million to change legislation that gives complainants alternative ways of giving evidence. To [improve the justice response to victims of sexual and family violence](#), these changes are critical to reducing the trauma of court processes for people affected by sexual violence.

As we head into the holidays, I know we're all mindful that this time of year traditionally sees an increase in family violence and sexual violence. And I know that many of you will be out there doing critical work to respond to and try to prevent this violence. Please know you have our support and we are so proud and cognisant of everything you do.

It can be a difficult time for victims of family violence and sexual violence, their whānau, and communities. A list of services and contact numbers are provided in this newsletter.

I look forward to working with you again in 2020.





Fiona Ross, Director of the Joint Venture's proudest moments



We asked Fiona Ross, Director of the Family Violence and Sexual Violence Joint Venture, to tell us about a proud moment in 2019.

“When people from the Joint Venture tell me that they now have the ability to work differently across government, that makes me proud.

“It shows what a difference the permanency of the Joint Venture, its leadership, and having collective accountability is making to the way we work.

“It’s giving agencies working in family violence and sexual violence the mandate to reach out and work together – from planning to delivery.”

Since joining the Joint Venture eight months ago, Fiona has seen positive changes reflected in this new way of working. “We are making progress in harnessing the knowledge and insight of people across agencies and the sector. With a shared and collective knowledge base, we can start identifying ways to improve the system.”

Whānau Resilience: A new way of working with providers to help people to live violence-free

This year has marked the start of a [brand new funding approach](#) for the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), and service providers in the family violence sector.

A key initiative from this approach is [Whānau Resilience](#), which aims to create strong, resilient communities where whānau are supported to live violence free, and to eliminate violence for the next generation.

It brings key changes to how MSD works with providers, including a shift from a nationally designed and delivered model, to a regionally designed and delivered model.

Whānau Resilience will involve regional groups of providers working together to design long term healing services for people.

This design process will take around a year, and it will involve providers working together to build a picture of the needs and strengths of their region, along with testing and learning about what works for whānau to build resilience.

The services that are designed at the end of the process will then be delivered into communities.





“We tried a brand-new approach to procurement for this kaupapa,” says Edwina James, who is leading the Whānau Resilience team at MSD.

“Instead of asking for just written applications, we included a combination of written and kanohi ki te kanohi (face-to-face) presentations that providers gave in front of their peers, as well as panel members, which comprised strong Māori, Pacific, and migrant representation.

“The aim was to make a fairer process for all, and in particular to ensure Māori and Pacific providers were not disadvantaged –which we’re seeing reflected in the make-up of the regional groups of successful providers.

“Peers presenting in front of each other meant that we could offer providers the opportunity to connect or reconnect with each other, and learn more about how each provider focuses on different things. For example, some providers focused on risk and safety, while others really focused on whakawhanaungatanga and building strong connections and relationships with service users.”

Feedback was captured to find out how people found the process, and it has given great insights into what the best and worst parts of the process were, along with suggestions on how to improve.

The full results of the feedback can be found on the Ministry of Social Development website [here](#).

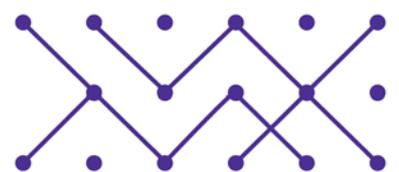
The regional groups of providers who will undertake the Whānau Resilience design process are just being finalised. Most should be in a position to start their design process as we head into the new year.

For more information on Whānau Resilience, go to the [Ministry of Social Development website](#).

Police: Whāngaia Ngā Pā Harakeke ki Ōtepoti (WNPH) was officially launched in Dunedin

On Monday the 25th November, after two years of hard work, Whāngaia Ngā Pā Harakeke ki Ōtepoti (WNPH) was officially launched in Dunedin.

It sees Police working in close partnership with local iwi/Māori, government, and NGOs to achieve sustainable change with and for whānau, by providing culturally appropriate support and interventions to prevent further victimisation and offending. It has necessitated boldness and innovation by the community.





With police responding to between 10 and 12 family harm incidents in the city per day, the need for a different way of working was definitely there, Kaiwhakahaere Senior Sergeant Janelle Timmins said.

"We're trying to get to a point where whānau aren't working with the system, the system is working for and with whānau."

Part of getting it up and running in Dunedin was identifying what needs were present, and what services were not.

Family violence also often happened alongside other issues, such as drug and alcohol dependence, which meant a co-ordinated approach was needed, she said.

The launch has also been welcomed by Te Rūnanga o Ōtakou manager Michelle Taiaroa-McDonald, who called the service "absolutely vital".

"Family harm is at a point of crisis, it has been for some time, and it continues to be on that trajectory," she said.

It needed to be looked at in a different way, and that meant examining the cause of family violence, rather than the symptoms, she said.

Taiaroa-McDonald said she had been involved in the criminal justice sector since 1986, and WNPH was the first programme that she thought could work.

"It's a community issue, it needs a community response."

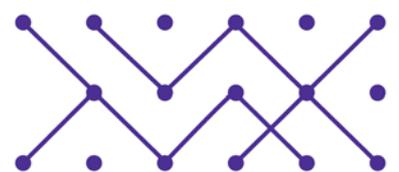
About Whāngaia Ngā Pā Harakeke ki Ōtepoti

Whāngaia Ngā Pā Harakeke (WNPH) is a collective way of working for Police, Iwi, non-government organisations (NGOs), and government agencies.

The initial pilot sites chosen were Counties Manukau (CMD) in 2016, Tairāwhiti in 2017, and Te Hiku in 2017.

Attending family harm episodes with social workers (kaiāwhina) and employing an 'eyes-wide open' approach to understanding the intergenerational nature of family harm - has shown the value of the WNPH approach.

It sees interventions that are holistic (victim, offender, children, and wider whānau needs are addressed), increased engagement through quality interventions and services that meet their needs not what is available, improved inter-agency wrap-around services for high risk families, and improved referral pathways to services.





Feedback from communities, victims, and their whānau express their belief that WNPH has helped them to feel safer, and better protected - and trust and confidence in Police has increased. Following the success of the three pilot sites, the model is being implemented across New Zealand.

News snapshots

- “...Domestic Violence - Victims' Protection Bill, which came into effect in April, requires employers to give victims of family violence up to 10 days leave from work.” – Jan Logie - [Newsroom](#)
- “Everyone who has been harmed by sexual violence deserves to have justice delivered without going through more, avoidable, trauma,” said Under-Secretary Logie when speaking to media and stakeholders in Auckland.” [News and Media - Justice](#)
- “We can already see positive results, with the changes Police have made to the way they investigate sexual assaults reflected in a 34% increase in the number of investigations resulting in court action just in the last year, and a substantial decrease in the proportion of victimisations not classed as a crime.” – Jan Logie - [Beehive](#)
- “... we're going to change the law to ensure victims of sexual violence don't face more, avoidable, trauma when they go through the justice process. Another piece of the puzzle to end family violence and sexual violence in NZ! – [Jan Logie on Twitter.](#)

Submissions are open for the Sexual Violence Legislation Bill

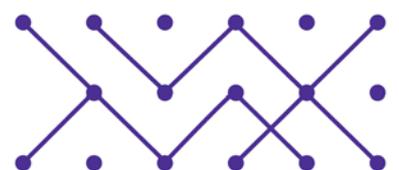
This bill aims to reduce the re-traumatisation of sexual violence victims during court proceedings. The Law Commission’s 2015 report found the judicial system is not conducive to helping victims recover from their experience and receive justice.

[Submissions on the bill](#) are open until midnight on Friday 31 January 2020.

National centre for research and information on family and whānau violence

The New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse (nzfvc.org.nz) is your national centre for research and information on family and whānau violence.

They provide information and resources for people working on the elimination of family and whānau violence. You’ll find the latest statistics, research, resources, consultations, policy, legislation, and community initiatives.





You'll also find professional development events such as trainings, seminars, workshops, and conferences. The searchable library catalogue provides access to hundreds of articles, reports, and resources online – the [quick topic search](#) is often a good place to start. Hard copy books, reports, and DVDs are available for loan.

The Clearinghouse also publishes issues papers and resources. Staff are available to respond to individual queries and requests for information by email or phone, info@nzfvc.org.nz.

The Clearinghouse is based at the University of Auckland. [Subscribe to the NZFVC mailing lists](#) to receive updates on research, resources, news, and events.

Services and Contact information

In an emergency, contact Police on 111. Other services that can help include:

- [Safe to Talk](#)
- [Rape Crisis](#) | 0800 88 33 00
- [Women's Refuge crisis](#) line | 0800 733 843 - 24 hours
- [It's Not OK](#) | 0800 456 450
- [Shine National Helpline](#) | 0508 744 633 - 9am to 11pm
- Shakti - for migrant and refugee women | 0800 742 584 - 24 hours
- Elder Abuse Helpline | 0800 32 668 65 - 24 hours
- [Oranga Tamariki](#) | 0508 326 249
- [Police help for rape or sexual assault](#)
- [Police help for family violence](#)

Need guidance? Justice has an online guide for victims of sexual violence

For victims of sexual violence, their families/ whānau, and supporters, there is guidance on the justice process available in an [online guide](#) to help understand the justice process.

This site also offers [family or whānau who have been affected by crime the support](#) to help deal with the practical and emotional effects of the crime, and information to help you understand the legal process.





About the Joint Venture

We are 10 government agencies collectively responsible for leading a whole-of-government response to reduce family violence and sexual violence. We are governed by a Board of Chief Executives, Chair, and supported by the Director of the Joint Venture. Our agencies lead and are responsible for working where a joint response can make the biggest difference to reducing the impact of family violence and sexual violence on current and future New Zealanders.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Justice, **Jan Logie**, is responsible for the day-to-day oversight of the work programme for the Joint Venture. She works with Family Violence and Sexual Violence Ministers: Minister of Justice, Minister of Social Development, Minister for Māori Development; Minister for Children; and the Minister for Seniors.

The Joint Venture agencies are: Oranga Tamariki, Health, Te Puni Kōkiri, Social Development, Education, Justice, Police, ACC, Corrections, and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The work of the Joint Venture is supported by the Joint Venture Business Unit (JVBU).

We welcome your feedback, so please email us at familyandsexualviolence@justice.govt.nz

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New Zealand Government

