



Joint Venture Work Programme e-Update

5 August 2020

In this update, Under-Secretary Jan Logie shares how the Joint Venture for Family Violence and Sexual Violence delivered under the unique circumstances of COVID-19. We also cover progress made over the current term on the Joint Venture's work programme to eliminate family violence and sexual violence in Aotearoa.



Nau mai, haere mai

A guiding goal for all of us over the past three years has been that every person deserves to live free of violence and get the support they need, when they need it. We want to create a world where violence is an aberration, not the norm; and to see an end to family violence and sexual violence in Aotearoa.

That's why our Joint Venture approach to family violence and sexual violence (FVSV) is central to the Government's wellbeing approach. It's only right that we respond as a

Government and as a country to end these kinds of violence.

Refuges, helplines, crisis services and many other organisations sit at the heart of our response to families experiencing violence. In real terms, it means better support for those being abused and help for people who use violence to change their behaviour. I'm pleased with the assistance we've been able to deliver to the sector to keep doing this vital work.

We've also appreciated the need for comprehensive prevention approaches, in every community, because stopping violence before it happens is the only way to address this long-term.

I am more confident than ever that together we can make the changes needed to strengthen the system and end this violence.

COVID-19 response — We've seen the pressure on our families increase during the pandemic – and we know family violence and sexual violence escalate in times of crisis, including during isolation. The lockdown brought the need for specialist services into stark focus. We immediately categorised FVSV services as essential in the Government's COVID-19 response, with our agencies and support services responding swiftly to reprioritise what was needed.





I'm proud of the response from Government agencies over the lockdown period and we will keep working to maintain that response and embed the lessons learned from it.

On 26 March at the start of the COVID-19 Level 4 lockdown, [Minister for Social Development Carmel Sepuloni announced](#) \$27 million for NGOs and community groups that provide essential services to be immediately available.

[In May, I announced a further \\$22 million](#) for family violence initiatives from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund consisting of:

- \$13 million to provide therapeutic services and treatment for children and young people who are exposed to family violence.
- \$8.6 million over two years to provide grants to around 200 family violence providers to increase capacity to respond to the expected increase in demand for their services because of COVID-19.

Separately, the Women's Refuge [Whānau Protect](#) was expanded by \$5.98m. This initiative assists families and whānau by making practical security improvements to their homes.

The Joint Venture Business Unit also worked closely with our Māori-Crown partner, Interim Te Rōpū (ITR) and a Pandemic Working Group of Joint Venture agencies, partners, the community sector and experts to re-prioritise resources and support essential services work already underway in the Government's COVID-19 response.

During lockdown, Joint Venture agencies increased their support for victims, perpetrators, families and whānau, and their use of networks, marketing, and social media to make sure we can reach people and they know who to contact.

While we are at Alert Level 1, the focus on Covid-19 will continue as New Zealand and the rest of the world still struggle to get rid of the virus. Changes to funding, technology, and operations during this time have put FVSV services in a much stronger position to work remotely if needed and continue to provide services to those affected by harm.

Well over half a billion-dollar investment in Joint Venture initiatives: The significant funding for Joint Venture initiatives announced over the last two years clearly signals the value Government places on this work.

In May, [Associate Minister for Social Development Poto Williams and I announced the second Joint Venture Budget package](#) – the second largest Government commitment ever to the FVSV system, building on [last year's Wellbeing Budget commitment of \\$320.9 million](#) over four years.





\$202.9 million will be provided over four years on services for victims and perpetrators of family violence, and a cross-government initiative to enable specialist responses to non-fatal strangulation.

- \$183.0 million over four years for the Ministry of Social Development to ensure continued access to specialist family violence services, including:
 - \$142.0 million to provide support for victims of family violence
 - \$16.0 million to help perpetrators to stop inflicting family violence
 - \$25.0 million to support victims of elder abuse; and
- \$19.9 million cross-agency initiative with Police, Justice and Health to ensure victims of non-fatal strangulation can access highly trained medical practitioners and the forensic services necessary to gather the robust evidence required to prosecute offenders.

We cannot solve family violence and sexual violence on our own as Government and our individual efforts prove to be not as effective as when we work together. We know, based on many attempts, that Government can't do this work on our own, nor impose top-down solutions on communities. That's why we started this term with an analysis of those previous failures, to identify what was needed to make something enduring and sustainable.

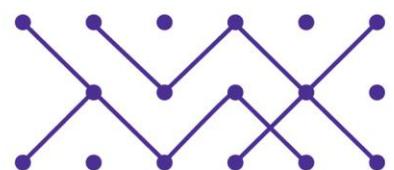
Previous responses to FVSV sat with individual agencies, and victims, survivors and their families faced a system that was fragmented, difficult to navigate, and did not provide the support they needed. Moreover, the system failed Māori and is not effective at preventing or reducing FVSV.

And, that's why we have put in place the funding and mechanisms like the Joint Venture Board and the Joint Venture Business Unit to ensure government is communicating, sharing power with and valuing the expertise of our community partners.

We need strong partnerships to find new, shared solutions to these difficult and persistent issues. ITR, who concluded their term on 30 June 2020, have been assisting [Ministers and Chief Executives](#) to work in partnership with Māori on an integrated response to family violence and sexual violence, which includes developing a National Strategy and Action Plan to eliminate family violence and sexual violence.

It's a big job that demanded and will keep demanding from us a sustained, integrated response, with all parts of the system working together towards a shared outcome: ending family violence and sexual violence.

ITR has made a significant contribution to the development of a draft engagement document, for the first time started from the perspective of Māori. Their input provides rich system-level evidence to inform our transformation.





I want to thank each member of ITR for their commitment and valued contributions — Prue Kapua (Chair), Roni Albert, Ngaropi Cameron, Ange Chaney, Paora Crawford Moyle, Te Ōwai Gemmell, Roku Mihinui, Susan Ngawati Osborne, Russell Smith, and Sir Mark Solomon.

We are incredibly grateful for the work, expertise and perspectives of all the people and organisations who have supported the development of a future national strategy, including victims and survivors, frontline agencies, and all our government departments.

Advice to inform a strategy and enduring form of Te Rōpū will be provided to the Government after the election, once a new government is formed.

Originally planned to take place in April, we look forward to engagement on a transformative, enduring National Strategy by the end of 2020. Unfortunately, this was waylaid by COVID-19 and the risks posed by the pandemic around mass gatherings, which would have severely limited our options for engagement.

Shortly before New Zealand went into COVID-19 Alert Level Four lockdown, FVSV Ministers were aiming for the draft National Strategy discussion document to go to Cabinet for approval and release in April 2020. Consequently, the National Strategy was put on hold and to enable the Joint Venture Business Unit and FVSV sector to focus on the FVSV COVID-19 response.

This month we also witnessed a historic moment when [Parliament passed the Public Service Act 2020](#). It's a key piece of legislation that establishes and governs the public service.

I spoke in Parliament in support of the Act and used the Joint Venture as evidence of what can be achieved when government comes together around a shared issue. We are already working in this way to bring together agencies and people from across the public service to achieve a shared outcome in a complex and challenging area.



(Image from left to right: Under-Secretary Jan Logie, Chief Victims Advisor Dr Kim McGregor and Director of the Joint Venture Fiona Ross at the dawn blessing of the Joint Venture Business Unit's new office space).

Finally, it was amazing to be at the recent blessing for the new Joint Venture Business Unit office – the name Puāwai gifted by Te Āti Awa. This is another important step towards embedding our work and ensuring we maintain

our focus and drive change across all of Government.





A tremendous amount has been achieved over these past three years and I think everyone involved, no matter what their role, should be proud of that. There is a long way to go but we know that by embedding and sustaining this work, we can create that world free of violence.

Kia kaha tō mahi mo ngā whānau.

Jan Logie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Domestic and Sexual Violence Issues)

Select Committee and Estimates review

We've had our annual Select Committee hearing where Parliament checks on the performance of government organisations over the previous year; and the Estimates Review where Select Committees look ahead at the spending proposed for the coming year.

On July 1, the Under-Secretary presented on the performance of the Joint Venture on Family Violence and Sexual Violence before Parliament's Finance and Expenditure Committee.

The annual Estimates hearing is an important event in our democratic processes, but also at a more granular level, it's useful for the Joint Venture and Ministers, in terms of ensuring all of our focus is where it needs to be as we go forward, and that we are accountable for the work being done.

It's an opportunity to provide more information about what the Joint Venture is, what it is delivering, and to speak to the Government's very substantial investment over the past two years in ending family violence and sexual violence, and what results we expect to see.

Improved Justice Response

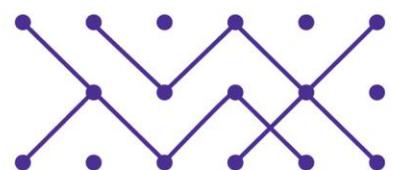
Addressing family violence and sexual violence is a strategic priority for the Ministry of Justice.

We've taken a number of steps to improve Family Violence legislation and deliver operational improvements; improve court facilities; and introduce legislation to improve processes in sexual violence cases.

Family Violence legislation and operational implementation

To ensure that people involved in family violence and sexual violence proceedings feel safe, supported, and well informed, the Ministry of Justice has a new three-year work programme.

It involves an exciting range of initiatives, including training for Ministry staff and professionals who provide advice and services to the courts, as well as training for lawyers.





The response to Family Court orders will be improved and court property is being upgraded to ensure the safety of participants. Ministry staff are working through all its information resources for family violence participants to ensure that the material meets their needs.

Finally, the Ministry will be supporting a consistent approach to achieve best practice throughout sexual violence and family violence proceedings.

Improvement of court facilities



The Ministry of Justice is responding to calls from victims and survivors to improve court facilities, so witnesses can feel safer and aren't confronted by defendants or their supporters.

The improvements to courthouses began in 2018 and include a newly refurbished Victims' Suite at Auckland High Court (pictured).

The Auckland High Court facility consists of a suite of three rooms: a whānau meeting room, a victim waiting room (with ensuite) and office for Victims' Advisors, and a dedicated witness room with Audio Visual Link technology. Following the opening of the Auckland High Court facility, staff said, "Having such a fantastic and fit-for-purpose

facility for our victims is a really great feeling."

The programme of work is in its final few months and a total of \$600k has been spent over 24 sites. Recently completed rooms include those in courts in Hamilton, Tauranga, Invercargill, Timaru, Pukekohe, North Shore, Queenstown, Rotorua, Wellington and Dunedin.

These improvements to facilities are a tangible example of what we can achieve when we put victims and survivors of violence at the centre of our decision-making.

Progress on the Sexual Violence Legislation Bill

Unfortunately, the Sexual Violence Legislation Bill was not able to be passed this term.

The Sexual Violence Legislation Bill aims to reduce the re-traumatisation that sexual violence complainants can experience through the court process. It was introduced to Parliament in November 2019 and was sent to the Justice Select Committee.





A large number of expert submissions were made to the Committee from the legal and sexual violence advocacy sectors. The Select Committee was unable to agree on the whole Bill, but it did make several improvements.

Key changes include:

- Extending the ban on defendants personally cross-examining sexual violence complainants, which currently applies in criminal cases, to cover civil cases as well.
- Widening the list of rape myths that judges may need to educate juries about, to include sexual violence within relationships, and the prevalence of false complaints.
- Finally, clarifying the judge's duty to intervene when witnesses are asked inappropriate questions. This duty will now more clearly apply not just when the question itself is inappropriate, but also when it is asked in an inappropriate way.

You can read the submissions and advice on the Bill, and the Justice Committee's report, at www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL_93010/sexual-violence-legislation-bill.

Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) performance audit of the Joint Venture

As indicated in their 2019/20 Annual Plan, the [Office of the Auditor-General \(OAG\) is undertaking a performance audit of the Joint Venture](#), to be completed in first quarter of 2021.

The audit will look at how effectively the joint venture has been set up to support reductions in family violence and sexual violence, drawing on three lines of inquiry:

- Are the role, mandate, objectives and accountabilities of the joint venture understood and communicated within the family violence and sexual violence system?
- How does the joint venture intend to support the delivery of better outcomes in significantly reducing family violence and sexual violence?
- Does the joint venture possess the levers necessary to support the delivery of improved outcomes?

The Office of the Auditor-General undertakes performance audits to understand whether agencies are carrying out their functions effectively and efficiently and delivering value for money. Their aim is that this audit is carried out in a constructive way, and that it identifies useful insights to support improved performance of the Joint Venture.





The Public Service Act 2020

[Minister of State Services Chris Hipkins announced the passing of the Public Service Legislation Bill](#) to deliver the most significant change in the public service in 30 years.

The new Public Service Act 2020 is a key piece of legislation that governs the public service. It establishes in law the purpose, principles and values of the public service and recognises the spirit of service that public servants bring to their work every day. It is another step towards the vision of a unified public service that can more effectively join up around the needs of individuals, organisations, whānau and communities.

The Joint Venture for Family Violence and Sexual Violence is an example of this way of working that brings together agencies and people from across the public service to achieve a shared outcome in a complex and challenging area.

The Act continues this work of breaking down the silos of government, ensuring understanding and collaboration across all of government and supporting joined up leadership. Agencies are already working together to consider what opportunities the new Act brings to support the ongoing work of the Joint Venture.

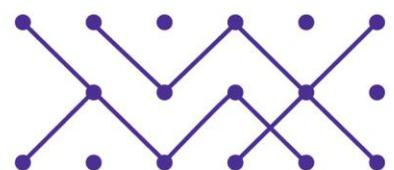
Ministry of Social Development launch three five-year family violence prevention frameworks

[Associate Minister for Social Development Minister Poto Williams](#) launched three five-year frameworks for family violence prevention in Wellington on behalf of the Ministry of Social Development (MSD).

Developed in partnership with communities around New Zealand, the prevention frameworks are for three existing MSD initiatives to prevent family violence across Aotearoa – **E Tū Whānau, Pasefika Proud and The Campaign for Action (It's Not OK)**.

Community-led approaches are central to each framework. They each have their own particular community focus and audience, but the collective focus is on creating long-term, positive change for families.

The event was about celebrating kotahitanga and the huge contribution made by communities in the prevention space. Debbie Power, MSD Chief Executive, and Professor Tracey McIntosh, MSD Chief Science Advisor, were keynote speakers.





E Tū Whānau, Pasefika Proud and The Campaign for Action draw on the power of tikanga Māori, eight ethnicity-specific Pacific cultural concepts and values and the lived experiences of people in our communities.

They have been going strong for over a decade and proven the effectiveness of a community-led approach. Emerging evidence validates the importance of communities driving their own solutions.

The three frameworks make a valuable contribution to Government’s cross-agency Joint Venture and the development of a national strategy for the elimination of family violence and sexual violence. The work will be crucial in the Government’s COVID-19 response and recovery.

[Read about and download the three frameworks here](#)



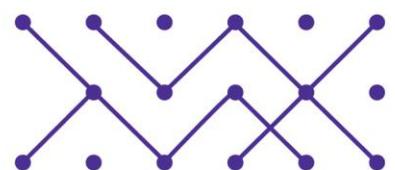
The three framework teams celebrate their launch: Mikaira Pau, Pam Fleming, Teresa Pomeroy, Julie Anne Garnons-Williams, Zaffa Christian, Anne McKenzie, Arif Saeid, Scott Waring-Flood, Ann Dysart, Pohswan Narayanan, Roku Mihinui (MSD Māori Reference Group member), Marama Edwards, Heni Turner and Nicky Noble.



(Left to Right) Elizabeth Mati (Le Va), Marama Edwards (MSD Deputy Chief Executive – Māori, Communities and Partnerships group), Niuean Community Leader Mali Erick and Tongan Community Leader Reverend Saane Langi.



E Tu Whānau kaimahi Adele Harrison (2nd from left) and Jenny Janif, with community members Marcela Cardona (left), and Jamila Slaimenkal (right) with Sheryl Hann (middle) from the Joint Venture Business Unit.





Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern opens the Multi-Disciplinary Family Harm Prevention Hub *Te Taanga Manawa* in Manukau



Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Police Minister Stuart Nash at the opening of the new Multi-Disciplinary Family Harm Prevention Hub Te Taanga Manawa in Manukau on 7 July.

Addressing family violence and sexual violence requires a whole-of-government approach in partnership with iwi, kaupapa Māori providers, Police, and community partners. Te Taanga Manawa brings together Māori, the community sector and government agencies in a shared working space in Manukau, with the intention of supporting whanau, especially those with young children who are experiencing family harm.

The hub, named and launched in July, is a joint initiative between Police and Te Whare Ruruhou o Meri with the support of the South Auckland Social Wellbeing Board. They work collaboratively with Counties Manukau District Health Board including mental health, the Ministry of Social Development, the Department of Corrections, Oranga Tamariki and Kāinga Ora along with Te Kahui Mana Ririki, Barnardos and several other community providers.

MC for the event, Pihopa Kito Pikaahu, explained that the name, Te Taanga Manawa, refers to the warm embrace of the heart — the feeling and action that is intended to be provided through the hub to families and whānau.

Counties Manukau District Commander Superintendent Jill Rogers says the district deals with over 23,000 family harm episodes a year. Sadly, up to 35% of children present at these episodes are repeatedly exposed to violence in their family situations.

Dee-Ann Wolferstan, Chief Executive of Te Whare Ruruhou o Meri Trust, says the idea of the hub was developed in consultation with the Police, the South Auckland Social Wellbeing Board, community leaders and agencies.





Information in one place – New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse

The New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse (NZFVC) has family violence and sexual violence COVID-19 tools and information on their website. The COVID-19 pandemic brings specific risks as self-isolation can mean more severe violence from a partner, family member or other household member. Victims of all ages may also experience challenges connecting with support people or accessing help in the usual ways. The NZFVC website is specifically dedicated to providing information on family violence, sexual violence and COVID-19 in one place.

<https://nzfvc.org.nz/covid-19>

- [For people experiencing abuse](#)
- [For people using abuse](#)
- [How to help](#)
- [For specific communities](#)
- [Wellbeing](#)

Services and Contact information

In an emergency, contact Police on 111.

- [Elder Abuse](#) — 0800 EA NOT OK (0800 32 668 65)
- [Women's Refuge](#) — 0800 733 843, info@refuge.org.nz, or Facebook message, or contact through the shielded site  at the bottom on websites like The Warehouse, TradeMe, Countdown websites and others
- [Safe to Talk](#) — sexual harm helpline 0800 044334, text 4334, email support@safetotalk.nz
- [Shine domestic abuse services](#) — free call 0508 744 633 (9am and 11pm)
- [1737, Need to talk?](#) — Free call or text 1737 for mental health support from a trained counsellor
- [Hey Bro helpline](#) — supporting men to be free from violence 0800 HeyBro (439 276)
- [Oranga Tamariki](#) — for concerns about children and young people 0508 326 459
Email contact@ot.govt.nz
- [Youthline](#) — 0800 376 633, free text 234, email talk@youthline.co.nz
- [Shakti](#) — for migrant and refugee women - 0800 742 584 – open 24 hours
- [People First](#) — Disability Information and Advice Service. Call 0800 20 60 70 or email mail@peoplefirst.org.nz.





About the Joint Venture

The Government's mission is to eliminate family violence and sexual violence in New Zealand.

The role of the Joint Venture is to provide the stewardship role needed for leadership and alignment across government — influencing at strategic, practical, operational and community levels. JV Agencies deliver a collective work programme aimed at improving the system, and so the experience of adults and children impacted by this kind of violence.

The JV work programme is overseen by Parliamentary Under-Secretary Jan Logie and supported by a Ministerial Group. It provides cross-agency leadership that is committed to delivering meaningful change in responses to family violence and sexual violence. It aims to stop the intergenerational nature of this violence, improve our Māori-Crown partnership associated with this violence, and transform how Government operates.

The 10 JV agencies are:

- Accident Compensation Corporation / Te Kaporeihana Āwhina Hunga Whare
- Ara Poutama Aotearoa / Department of Corrections
- Ministry of Education / Te Tāhuhu o Te Mātauranga
- Ministry of Health / Manatū Hauora
- Ministry of Justice / Tāhū o te Ture
- Ministry of Social Development / Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora
- New Zealand Police / Nga Pirihimana O Aotearoa
- Oranga Tamariki / Ministry for Children
- Te Puni Kōkiri – Kāinga / Ministry of Māori Development
- The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet / Te Tari O Te Pirimia Me Te Komiti Matau

Contact us

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