



Joint Venture E-Update

1 December 2021

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Introduction from Hon Marama Davidson

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to the December E-Update on activity in and around the Joint Venture for the Prevention of Family Violence and Sexual Violence.

I'd like to begin by mihi to the extraordinary effort our sectors have contributed as part of Aotearoa's COVID-19 response. I know that it hasn't been an easy few months, and there will continue to be challenges as we learn to live with COVID-19 in our community.

I am extremely grateful that despite these challenges, so many of you have given your time and energy to help us finalise the **National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence**. I've been inspired by the commitment, energy and determination that has brought us to this point. I hope the experience has been as energising for you as it has for me.

I firmly believe the Strategy will change the path of this country for the better and improve the lives of all, especially our women and children.

I would love to have you all join me for the launch on Tuesday, 7 December. However, as I'm sure we all understand, COVID-19 puts limits on such gatherings. I do invite you to join us online at 8am on launch day for the live stream of the Strategy launch. You will find the live stream details below.



In other news, you will see below that Fiona Ross, Director of the Joint Venture, who led the establishment of the Joint Venture and the development of the Strategy, is leaving us this month. Fiona has given much to this cause and I want to acknowledge her significant contribution and leadership. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing her well in her next engagement.

I would like to welcome Emma Powell, currently Chief Customer Officer at ACC, and who has a long and close involvement with the Joint Venture to date, as she takes over as Interim Director in mid-December. The recruitment process for the permanent director will commence in the New Year.

Waiho i te toipoto, kua i te toiroa

Marama Davidson

Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence and Sexual Violence

Launch of the National Strategy – join us on the YouTube live stream

As Minister Davidson has stated above, next Tuesday, 7 December, the National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence will be launched

The importance of the Strategy for this country going forward cannot be overstated.

It – alongside the Action Plan to be launched with it – will be the foundational document for creating a better, safer future for everyone, but especially for the women and children of Aotearoa New Zealand.

It is the lynchpin for everything that the Joint Venture was created to help deliver.

Family violence and sexual violence are a shameful blot on our nation. This Strategy is a significant step towards changing that.

Join us at 8am on Tuesday, 7 November, as we live stream the launch on the Joint Venture's YouTube page – [Joint Venture YouTube](#)

Note that after the launch, the National Strategy will be available on the Joint Venture website: www.violencefree.govt.nz



Fiona Ross departs as Joint Venture Director; Interim Director Emma Powell appointed

Joint Venture Director **Fiona Ross** will finish on 10 December, having shepherded the National Strategy through to its launch next week.

Ms Ross said she leaves with “a huge mixture of sadness and pride”.

“At this point, our work as a Joint Venture is well underway: a comprehensive set of actions will be committed across and between the Joint Venture and agencies, relationships with tangata whenua, community and the sectors are on a good footing, and the Strategy sets a new direction for a much more community-led, holistic and learning-based approach to eliminating violence.

“It’s been the most remarkable journey and one I have learnt and grown from hugely.”

Ms Ross has been in the role since April 2019.

Justice Secretary and Deputy Chair of the Joint Venture, Andrew Kibblewhite thanked Fiona for her leadership and service to the Joint Venture and her absolute commitment to the cause of eliminating family violence and sexual violence.

He also announced that **Emma Powell**, ACC representative on the Joint Venture Deputy Chief Executives’ group as ACC’s Chief Customer Officer, will take over as Interim Director of the JVBU from 13 December.

He said that Emma has worked to build positive and sustainable partnerships across multiple government agencies, sectors and communities for improved harm reduction and injury prevention and has been at the forefront of ACC’s commitment to delivering better outcomes for Māori customers and whānau.

During her time as ACC’s Strategy Manager for Sexual Violence, Emma led the end-to-end transformation of how ACC manages sexual violence claims and therapy services.

Funding of \$1.58 million for diverse communities

Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence and Sexual Violence Marama Davidson last week announced the approval of five funding grants to support national-level family violence and sexual violence prevention initiatives for LGBTQIA+ people, disabled people, older people and new migrant communities.

The funding provides:



- \$399,000 for **LGBTQIA+**-centred violence prevention initiatives, including the development of practice guidelines, healthy relationships and consent resources, and an awareness raising campaign
- \$350,000 to mobilise **disabled communities** to begin the process of addressing systemic barriers faced by tāngata whaikaha, deaf and other disabled people, implement the Safeguarding Framework and grow and strengthen the Safeguarding Adults From Abuse (SAFA) response in the Waitematā to safeguard adults at risk
- \$242,000 for new violence prevention initiatives for **ethnic communities**, including the expansion of the Shama community development programme to six new locations and the expansion of Let's Talk, plus the development of community conversations and healthy relationship resources
- \$200,000 to support the violence prevention needs of **older people**.
- \$250,000 to build relationships and capacity for diverse communities to engage with Joint Venture agencies
- \$137,500 for Community Advisory Groups established by Massey University Center for Culture-Centered Approach to Research and Evaluation (CARE) to develop localised violence prevention initiatives and frameworks in five locations.

You can find the full press release at www.beehive.govt.nz/release/empowering-diverse-communities

Elder abuse – a hidden scourge

In our last two **Joint Venture E-Updates**, we have provided the family violence and sexual violence sector and its many stakeholders with safety messages around the increased risk of family violence and sexual violence in the COVID-19 environment.

In this edition, we look briefly at the situation faced by **older people** and the under-reported risk of elder abuse.

While family violence and sexual violence are often perpetrated 'behind closed doors', elder abuse is probably more invisible than most other forms of violence and abuse. It is not always physical. It can be psychological, financial and abuse by neglect.

It is misuse of power over people in a vulnerable position or life stage. The perpetrators are most often family and/or carers, making it largely invisible from the outside, and often perpetrated against people not equipped to defend themselves, remove themselves from the situation, or seek help.



The Office for Seniors has some excellent advice at [Elder abuse awareness | Te Tari Kaumātua \(officeforseniors.govt.nz\)](https://www.officeforseniors.govt.nz)

*“Get help If you have concerns about how you are being treated or feel frightened or at risk, help is available. It’s free, and available 24 hours a day. **Contact details provided (phone, text, email)***

If you are in immediate danger, call 111 and ask for the Police.

What is Elder Abuse?

Elder abuse can involve many different types of behaviour – it’s not just violence or assault. It could also be:

- *being threatened, humiliated or harassed*
- *someone misusing or stealing your money*
- *someone trying to pressure you to sign legal documents*
- *any non-consensual sexual activity.*

If you feel scared, frightened or at risk, the Elder Abuse Response Service can help.

What happens when you call the helpline?

When you call the helpline, you’ll be put in touch with a trained coordinator who works in your region.

The coordinator will:

- *ask for consent to assess your situation*
- *work with you to make sure you are safe and help you manage the risk of abuse or neglect*
- *identify and work with other organisations who can help and support you, including police, health providers, lawyers, banks and government agencies.”*

In the next issue of the Joint Venture E-Update, we will take a deeper look at family violence and sexual violence issues impacting the Rainbow community.

White Ribbon – 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence

We are well into the internationally recognised 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence – a global initiative designed to galvanise individuals, communities and organisations to address gender inequalities, gender-based violence and take action to prevent violence before it starts.



These observance days are promoted by the United Nations and celebrated around the world with marches, protests, campaigns, advocacy, gatherings and memorials.

The 16 days started last Thursday, 25 November – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (and also White Ribbon Day. The day commemorates the Mirabal Sisters, political activists in the Dominican Republic who were killed by police in 1960. The Mirabal sisters became symbols of the feminist resistance, and in 1999 this international day was formally recognised by the United Nations).

If you've not joined in already some of the activities, you might want to! It's such a worthy cause. You can find out more at www.whiteribbon.org.nz

ACC funding to reduce incidence and disparity of sexual violence

Funding of \$44.95 million has been approved for ACC to establish a fit-for-purpose, enduring sexual violence primary prevention systems approach over the next four years.

This Te Tiriti-informed primary prevention approach will provide long-term, sustained investment in an effort to prevent sexual violence, and includes \$11.715 million of investment for kaupapa Māori approaches. A range of initiatives will be invested in, including education, workforce development, community mobilisation, and behaviour change communications.

This new approach, announced in early October, aligns with the Joint Venture's development of the National Strategy being launched next week, and ACC will continue to work across government, and with iwi, communities and providers.

ACC commissioned economics and business research consultancy, BERL to undertake research to help understand the total economic cost of sexual violence in New Zealand. This is estimated to be over \$6.9 billion annually. The final report: *Estimate of the total economic costs of sexual violence in New Zealand* is published on the ACC website at [Estimate of the total economic costs of sexual violence in New Zealand \(acc.co.nz\)](http://acc.co.nz)

About the Joint Venture

Nine core agencies make up the Joint Venture (JV) to provide cross-agency leadership who is committed to delivering meaningful change in responses to family violence and sexual violence.

The Joint Venture agencies are:

- **Te Kaporeihana Āwhina Hunga Whare** (Accident Compensation Corporation)
- **Ara Poutama Aotearoa** (Department of Corrections)



- **Te Tāhuhu o Te Mātauranga** (Ministry of Education)
- **Manatū Hauora** (Ministry of Health)
- **Tāhū o 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 Kōkiri** (Ministry of Māori Development)

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) are associate agencies of the Joint Venture.

The agencies aim to stop the intergenerational nature of this violence, improve our Māori-Crown partnership associated with this violence, and transform how Government operates.

The JV reports to the Minister for Family Violence and Sexual Violence, Hon Marama Davidson.

Visit our website at www.violencefree.govt.nz or contact us at familyandsexualviolence@justice.govt.nz