

Response ID

Submitted to **National Strategy and Action Plans - Have Your Say**

Submitted on **2021-06-30 12:06:29**

Survey

1 Vision: What do you think or feel about it? (vision above)

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

2 Principles: what would you add or change so these principles feel relevant to you and your experience? (principles above)

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

3 How do you maintain wellness and safety in your whānau, family and community?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

4 What support does your whānau, family and community need to make this happen?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

5 What things need to be in place to eliminate family violence and sexual violence in Aotearoa New Zealand?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

6 What needs to happen first? What's the priority?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

7 Age

Not Answered

8 Gender

Not Answered

9 Partner and/or community: select all that apply to you

10 Do you live in an urban or rural area?

Not Answered

11 Where do you live?

Te Whanganui-a-Tara - Wellington

Focus Area #2: Bring government responses together - Whakapiri ngā mahi ā te kāwanatanga

1 What would you add or change?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

While government agencies deliver their services in a variety of ways, all must be centred on two goals: reducing violence and supporting survivors. Regional Public Health (RPH) highlights the value of a Kaupapa Māori approach, especially when focussing on an issue that disproportionately impacts Māori and Pasifika communities.

2 Is this a right focus area?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Yes. When government responses are siloed, service delivery lacks direction, resulting in a variety of adverse outcomes including “duplication of resources, poor service delivery, failure to resolve cross-cutting ‘wicked problems,’ and difficulties in collaborating with non-governmental actors.” (1) Bringing government responses together is necessary in eliminating familial and sexual violence across Aotearoa.

(1) Scott, I., Gong, T. Coordinating government silos: challenges and opportunities. GPPG 1, 20–38 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43508-021-00004-z>

3 What have you seen that has worked?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Services such as ACC's Mates and Dates previously sought to open up conversation around healthy relationships, yet the programme received heavy critiques that it was "a waste of money." (2) Now that it is being cancelled, there has been no alternate programme to fill its place. In order to effectively respond to familial and sexual violence, government departments must establish programmes to create a common understanding of family violence, sexual violence, trauma, and how to overcome these issues in a culturally competent way. RPH recommends that where some services may be identified as inefficient, having programmes in place to generate conversation and awareness of violence is necessary in addressing the issue.

(2) Tapaleao, V. Sex education experts slam \$18m cost for ACC's Mates & Dates programme to go nationwide. NZ Herald (August 2018).

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/sex-education-experts-slam-18m-cost-for-accs-mates-dates-programme-to-go-nationwide/XHXN6WIZFGSZQVJQQGXTQ2J6UQ/>

4 What do you want for future generations?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

We would like to see integrated service delivery across government departments with accountability and funding based on a collaborative strategic plan.

5 What needs to happen in this focus area?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

To achieve streamlined service delivery that is integrated across government departments, three areas must be reviewed: organisational structure, goals in eliminating family and sexual violence, and service delivery. While dismantling and then restructuring a siloed system is one way to effect change, strengthening existing coordinating mechanisms across departments can also be effective in increasing communication and collaboration. That is, regardless of the way in which the government promotes integrated service delivery across departments (ACC, the Police, Ministry of Health, etc...), RPH highlights that a collaborative organisational structure must be integrated in order to deliver an effective response.

Similarly, government departments must collaborate and align action to achieve the goal of eliminating familial and sexual violence. As a first step, developing a national strategy and action plan is an essential way to ensure departments align their responses. Following this, strategically planning and delivering services together will be necessary to ensure cohesive service delivery, working towards a shared goal. A cross-department working group might be one way in which departments can ensure that they are on the same page and are collaboratively working to achieve a shared vision and outcome.

6 What is most important for you and your community in this focus area?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

On a community level, integrated service delivery between government and community channels is also needed. In particular, social responsibility is necessary within New Zealand Police, especially understanding community need and demonstrating compassion towards survivors of familial and sexual violence. Support for survivors within the justice system is also needed to ensure that survivors are protected and empowered to share their experiences if and/or when they are ready.

7 Where could we begin?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Continuing to create Māori wards in local governments is one way to shift power to marginalised communities. Māori wards uplift Māori voices and contribute to achieving equitable outcomes. Despite previous legislative rejections, it is important to continue advocating for their creation to better engage with tangata whenua and uphold partnership and participation responsibilities as determined by te Tiriti o Waitangi. By the end of the current local government triennium, 20 councils will have established Māori wards.(3) Continuing this work is pertinent in ensuring familial and sexual violence elimination strategies is done in collaboration with tangata whenua.

Enhancing family and sexual violence support services in rural areas is also imperative in ensuring all victims can access help. This includes counselling, therapy, rehabilitation for alcohol and drug users and safe spaces for marginalised communities. Evidence shows that the lack of access to services and isolation in rural communities increases the risk of internalising problems, especially for men, leading to alcohol-fuelled assaults, domestic violence and sexual assault.(4) Removing physical, cultural and financial barriers allows for government responses to better support victims and contributes to eliminating family and sexual violence. This will maintain close working relationships and streamlined service delivery between local governments and service providers.

(3) Porirua City Council. Porirua votes for Māori ward. (2021). <https://poriruacity.govt.nz/your-council/news/m%C4%81ori-ward-possible-for-porirua/>

(4) Carrington, K., McIntosh, A., Hogg, R., & Scott, J. Rural masculinities and the internalisation of violence in agricultural communities. *International Journal of Rural Criminology*, 2(1):3-24. (2013). Retrieved from <https://eprints.qut.edu.au/65967/>

Focus Area #3: Recognise tangata whenua leadership and community-led approaches - Hāpaitia te mana ā tangata whenua me kaupapa hapori

1 What would you add or change?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

We strongly support the recognition of tangata whenua leadership to oversee equity-focused family and sexual violence strategies for Māori. Similar approaches must also be taken to address family and sexual violence for other marginalised groups, such as the Pasifika, LGBTQIA+, and disabled communities. It is

important to reject a “one-size-fits-all” approach to ensure each groups’ needs are accommodated.

2 Is this a right focus area?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Yes. Family and sexual violence disproportionately affect Māori communities. Creating equitable outcomes and culturally safe interventions relies on giving Māori the autonomy and power over their own health.(5) It is important to empower tangata whenua and actively build relationships with iwi and hapū to lead violence prevention approaches.

(5) Sewell, J. Profiling the Māori health workforce 2017. Wellington, New Zealand: Te Kīwai Rangahau, Te Rau Matatini. (2017).

3 What have you seen that has worked?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

The creation of Māori wards in local councils allow for better Māori representation and autonomy. They succeed in connecting communities with decision-makers to ensure government responses align with community needs and promote equity.(6) Successfully eliminating family and sexual violence relies on continued engagement with and leadership by tangata whenua.

(6) Wellington City Council. Council votes for Māori ward in Poneke. (2021).

<https://wellington.govt.nz/news-and-events/news-and-information/our-wellington/2021/05/maori-wards-decision>

4 What do you want for future generations?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

It is important that tangata whenua leadership and community-led approaches continue to be recognised to ensure lasting success. Continued commitment to te Tiriti o Waitangi is necessary to foster quality relationships between tangata whenua and government. Strategies to eliminate family and sexual violence in Aotearoa will remain ineffective without input from Māori every step of the way.

5 What needs to happen in this focus area?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

The resource document Te Hau Tangata cites the lack of resourcing and implementation, which have precluded significant changes in the past.(7) While secondary and tertiary prevention are needed, RPH supports Te Hau Tangata’s recommendation to focus on primary prevention taking a Kaupapa Māori approach, addressing prevention of violence before it even happens. Additionally, the systems-based approach, addressing violence prevention from individual, whānau, and structural levels will be necessary in creating the effective and lasting change needed to reduce violence across Aotearoa.

Investment must be fed into the development of the Māori workforce at all levels. Those working with support service providers often lack formal training both in dealing with family and sexual violence, as well as providing culturally safe practices for Māori. This impedes their ability to provide efficient and high-quality services. Building capacity and skills for Māori to help survivors heal their experiences must be prioritised. Additionally, training and opportunities for Māori to take on leadership roles must be prioritised to ensure that Māori input is actively included in decision-making and resource allocation.

(7) Interim Te Rōpu. Te Hau Tangata. (2021). <http://violencefree.govt.nz/assets/National-strategy/1ed211b2fd/Te-Hau-Tangata.pdf>

6 What is most important for you and your community in this focus area?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

RPH’s work relies on localised efforts to engage communities in public health initiatives. National interventions to eliminate family and sexual violence must reject paternalistic approaches and actively involve Māori members of the community. They must be listened to and have significant influence over system-level strategies.

7 Where could we begin?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Establishing culturally safe family and sexual violence support services must be a priority. This includes services for both survivors and offenders. Currently, there is a severe lack of Māori-led services, especially in the Wellington region, that would help those affected by family and sexual violence. As discussed, it is important to ensure that a Kaupapa Māori approach is at the centre of these services and that they cater to the specific needs of Māori communities. The service providers must also have specialised training in dealing with family and sexual violence. Doing so will ensure that appropriate care is provided and equitable outcomes are fostered.

Focus Area #4: Strengthen workforces to prevent and respond to family violence and sexual violence - Whakakaha i te hunga mahi ki te autaki me te whakautu ki te tūkinu whānau

1 What would you add or change?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Violence is a “wicked problem” to tackle, given the multitude of factors that play off of each other in perpetuating and exacerbating it. In strengthening a workforce to identify best ways to ameliorate and respond to violence, RPH recommends focussing on prevention and targeting various channels that can lead to violence. In particular, diversifying a workforce to address these channels, including toxicity of strict gender roles and expectations, financial stressors, mental health, and the role that alcohol and drugs play in perpetuating violence, will be key.

2 Is this a right focus area?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

RPH supports this focus area, especially the need to support a workforce that is diverse, skilled, resourced, and has clearly defined roles in responding to and preventing familial and sexual violence. Ensuring that work is approached through a trauma-informed lens, acknowledging the specific needs of individuals, whānau, and communities will also be essential in creating an equitable response.

3 What have you seen that has worked?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Work that focusses on the root causes of violence have been successful in generating conversation around healthy relationships and preventing violence from happening in the first place. In particular, InsideOUT is a Wellington-based organisation that works to support rainbow youth across Aotearoa as well as generate conversation around gender diversity. Breaking down the idea of gender as a social construct and exploring how everyone’s concept of gender might be different dismantles traditional norms that perpetuate inequity. While InsideOUT’s focus may not be to end familial and sexual violence, their work inadvertently tackles one of the primary issues that marginalises women and non-binary individuals, putting them at increased risk for experiencing violence.

By targeting channels that perpetuate violence, we can prevent abuse from happening at the root instead of focussing on how to best respond after it occurs.

4 What do you want for future generations?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Violence is often normalised for younger generations, especially in the media. Archetypes of what it means to a man or woman portrayed across the media construct binary gender expectations and perpetuate unequal power dynamics. Across video games, TV shows, and movies, especially in content coming from the United States, we see gun violence normalised. Alcohol abuse becomes a topic to joke about and binge drinking is socially embraced as common behaviour. Yet while these factors are part of the common social dialogue, discussing personal experience with familial or sexual abuse is still incredibly taboo.

We want future generations to feel safe being themselves and to behave respectfully towards people around them, especially those closest to them. We want future generations to feel comfortable talking about themselves and their relationships with friends and whānau. Diversifying a skilled workforce to address various stressors that perpetuate violence will be essential in creating this future.

5 What needs to happen in this focus area?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

As previously outlined, violence is a challenging issue given the multitude of factors, which are often context-specific, that perpetuate it as a public health problem. Similarly, research identifies a variety of ways in which prevention efforts have been successful across high-, medium-, and low-income settings in the past. Drawing on a similar multi-pronged approach to tailor programmes for diverse communities across Aotearoa will be helpful in guiding appropriate and more effective responses in each.

In particular, evidence suggests that women-centred, advocacy, and home-visitation programmes can reduce women’s risk of victimisation in cases of familial and sexual abuse. Interestingly, evidence on the success of preventive programmes for perpetrators is less conclusive, indicating that working to empower potential victims and survivors may be more effective. Meanwhile, in medium- and low-income settings, research suggests promising results in group training for women and men, community mobilisation interventions, and combined livelihood and training interventions for women. (8)

Across all settings, studies show that effective programmes are usually participatory, engage multiple stakeholders, support critical discussion about gender relationships and the acceptability of violence, and support greater communication and shared decision making among family members, as well as non-violent behaviour. (9)

Drawing on evidence-based implementation research, tailoring a workforce to appropriately respond to community needs depending on the history, culture, and situation of people and whānau is needed.

(8) Ellsberg M, Arango DJ, Morton M, Gennari F, Kiplesund S, Contreras M, Watts C. Prevention of violence against women and girls: what does the evidence say? *Lancet*. 2015 Apr 18;385(9977):1555-66. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61703-7. Epub 2014 Nov 21. PMID: 25467575.

(9) Lundgren R, Amin A. Addressing intimate partner violence and sexual violence among adolescents: emerging evidence of effectiveness. *J Adolesc Health*. 2015 Jan;56(1 Suppl):S42-50. doi: 10.1016/j.jadohealth.2014.08.012. PMID: 25528978.

6 What is most important for you and your community in this focus area?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Strengthening workforces must include strengthening the system within which workforces operate. The inequities in family and sexual violence incidents are perpetuated by power imbalances embedded in the health system which caters to the needs of certain population groups and ignores those of others. (10) Redistributing power to marginalised groups, namely Māori, Pasifika and gender-diverse communities, should therefore be a priority. This may be through having elimination strategies specific for these groups or implementing needs-based and/or rights-based approaches to resource allocation. An equity focus on a system level allows for equity to be embedded in the mahi that is done within it. Consequently, workforces can better meet the diverse needs of our communities, leading to the elimination of family and sexual violence for all.

(10) Fanslow, J. Sticks, stones, or words? Counting the prevalence of different types of intimate partner violence reported by New Zealand women. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 20(7): 741-759 (2011). <http://doi.org/10.1080/10926771.2011.608221>

7 Where could we begin?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

A factor contributing to the insufficient funding available for preventive services is the lack of good quality information available. Prevention measures must aim to combat the social taboo around talking about violence and fear victims have of their offenders that stops up to 94% of sexual assaults from being reported to Police in New Zealand. (11) Empowering victims to share their experiences ensures data is accurately recorded and represented. Knowing more about the issue helps to inform interventions that aim to stop the issue from happening in the first place.

In addition to increasing conversation and knowledge of familial and sexual violence, robust data collection is also needed. The most recent figures on sexual victimisation on the Ministry of Justice website come from 2013 (when there were 5.2 sexual offences for every 100 adults).(12) Working with data that is eight-years old is significantly less useful in informing gaps in 2021. To address this, RPH recommends revisiting channels for recording violent incidents, whether through hospitals or the NZ Police. Additionally, diversifying the workforce will be valuable, especially in ensuring that there are roles created to identify gaps and measure programmatic impact in closing gaps.

(11) Ministry of Justice. New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey: Key findings cycle 2 (October 2018 – September 2019) descriptive statistics.

<https://www.justice.govt.nz/about/news-and-media/news/latest-crime-survey-reveals-surprising-high-levels-of-unreported-sexual-violence/>

(12) Ministry of Justice. Research and Data: How much sexual victimisation is there? (4th March 2020)

<https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcass/survey-results/results-by-subject/sexual-violence/>

Focus Area#5: Increase the focus on prevention - Whakanui i te arotahinga ki te aukati

1 What would you add or change?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Successfully eliminating family and sexual violence necessitates going beyond “investment” in prevention measures and into ‘commitment’ to prevention. “Investment” implies that the Joint Venture’s role is only to fund prevention strategies. However, to be successful, the Joint Venture must oversee the development and implementation of prevention interventions as well to ensure they are kept aligned with the overarching vision of creating safer environments.

2 Is this a right focus area?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Yes. The best way to eliminate family and sexual violence is to stop it from happening before it begins. We agree that prevention strategies should focus on wellbeing and the root causes of violence including poverty and inequity.

3 What have you seen that has worked?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Integrating Kaupapa Māori approaches is proven to ensure prevention measures are culturally safe and promote equity. This includes increasing autonomy, incorporating te ao Māori worldviews, following community aspirations and understanding whānau and whakawhanaungatanga.(13) Effective strategies to prevent family and sexual violence are ones that are guided by the same principles.

(13) Rangahau. Principles of Kaupapa Māori. (2021). <http://www.rangahau.co.nz/research-idea/27/>

4 What do you want for future generations?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

The causes of family and sexual violence, like poverty and inequity, are deeply rooted in society and are reinforced by broken systems that do not work for all. They have effects that span generations (e.g. intergenerational poverty, trauma), which result in lasting cycles of violence. Preventive measures must tackle family and sexual violence at their root causes and continually promote equitable outcomes to ensure lasting success.

5 What needs to happen in this focus area?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Hazardous alcohol use interlinks and exacerbates family and sexual violence, and their root causes. For example, to cope with poverty and financial stress, people often consume alcohol which feeds back into their poverty and financial stress. Violence prevention measures must also contribute to promoting healthy alcohol drinking behaviours. Over 25% of physical or sexual assault incidents in New Zealand involved alcohol.(14) Heavy episodic alcohol consumption is shown to increase aggression involving alcohol within relationships. As reported by victims, drinking by one or both partners increases levels of severity, anger and fear involved in violent incidents. (15) Increasing focus on reducing alcohol-related harm goes hand-in-hand with eliminating family and sexual violence.

Gender differences also exist in the ways alcohol affects family and sexual violence. Evidence shows that while alcohol-related violence is more common among men, men are more likely to be victimised in public by males who they do not know, whereas women experience a disproportionately higher rate of alcohol-related violence from males who they do know.(16) Prevention measures that take on a “one-size-fits-all” approach will not be effective. Historically, campaigns to reduce alcohol-related violence stemmed from injuries and deaths of young, cis-gendered men in public. When designing preventive interventions and public health policies, greater focus must be put on alcohol-related violence against people of other genders. Promoting the safety of women and gender-diverse individuals in programming and policy will be especially important in ensuring equitable outcomes.

(14) Connor J. L., Kypri, K., Bell M. L. et al. alcohol involvement in aggression between intimate partners in New Zealand: a national cross-sectional study. *BMJ Open*, 1(1):e000065 (2011). <http://doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2011-000065>.

(15) Connor J, You, R, & Casswell S. Alcohol-related harm to others: a survey of physical and sexual assault in New Zealand. *New Zealand Medical Journal*, 122(1303):10-20 (2009).

(16) Taft, A., Wilson, I., Laslett, A. M., & Kuntsche, S. Pathways to responding and preventing alcohol-related violence against women: why a gendered approach matters. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 43(6):516-518 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1111/1753-6405.12943>

6 What is most important for you and your community in this focus area?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Our community has highlighted how methamphetamine use is known to lead people to being violent towards their family members or sexual partners. Users are told by their peers to remove themselves from social relationships to avoid causing harm. Prevention measures stemming from this strategy should aim to address methamphetamine (and other drug) use as key facilitator for violence and contributor to harm.

7 Where could we begin?

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Increasing funding to existing violence prevention programmes is imperative to ensure victims are given the support they need and further incidents are prevented. Services such as Wellington Rape Crisis, Family Planning and Wairarapa Rape & Sexual Abuse Collective face high demand but are stretched thin due to low capacity. Insufficient resources (e.g. infrastructure, finances, and staff) means services are unable to adequately reach certain groups such as rural, Māori and Pasifika communities. This means support is not given to people in these communities who are at risk of or are facing family and sexual violence. Ensuring adequate funding is given allows these programmes to develop their services, extend their capacity and provide support to all who need it.

Reducing the accessibility of alcohol is shown to contribute to reducing family and sexual violence. Increasing tax on alcohol is associated with decreased levels of violence against children as alcohol consumption is reduced across the whole population and amongst heavy drinkers.(17) Restrictions such as reducing trading hours for on- and off-license premises have also shown to reduce alcohol-related violence. New Zealand data suggests that reducing the density of on-license premises can contribute positively as each additional bar and sports club contributes to 5.3 and 0.8 more violent incidents per year, respectively.(18) In addition, there is an association between proximity to alcohol outlets and higher rates of assault, non-aggravated sexual assault and aggravated sexual assault.(19) In partnership with reducing availability of alcohol, increasing health promotion to combat the culture of binge drinking must be put in place.

Currently, the sale of alcohol is managed fairly well. However, alcohol remains to be consumed hazardously especially in homes and outside off on-license premises. These are common sites for family and sexual violence to occur. Prevention must also be paired with greater investment to health education to ensure harmful behaviours are replaced with healthy ones. This involves engaging with local community groups, especially at-risk groups like Māori, Pasifika and youth to ensure health promotion messages are appropriate and acceptable to their communities.

(17) Connor J, You, R, & Casswell S. Alcohol-related harm to others: a survey of physical and sexual assault in New Zealand. *New Zealand Medical Journal*, 122(1303):10-20 (2009).

(18) Cameron, M. P., Cochrane, W., Gordon, C., and Livingston, M. Alcohol outlet density and violence: A geographically weighted regression approach. *Drug Alcohol Rev*, 35: 280– 288. (2016). doi: 10.1111/dar.12295.

(19) Hobbs, M., Marek, L., Wiki, J., Campbell, M., Deng, B. Y., Sharpe, H., et al. Close proximity to alcohol outlets is associated with increased crime and hazardous drinking: Pooled nationally representative data from New Zealand.