

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

## Options for obtaining Ministerial Advice

**Date:** 30 May 2025

**Reference:** 2025.122254

### Action sought

### Timeframe

<b>Note</b>	expectation for Ministers and agencies to work through minor issues outside Cabinet, as per Cabinet office circular distributed on 30 April 2025	13 June 2025
<b>Agree</b>	which option provides you with the necessary FVSV advice to support you in your Ministerial role	13 June 2025
<b>Agree</b>	to Te Puna Aonui Chief Executive, as the delegated fund holder, holding and making decisions about the Māori-Crown relationships funding (currently given effect in part by Te Pūkotahitanga), to support the delivery of the Action Plan, in line with the scope of the original Budget initiative	13 June 2025
<b>Note</b>	the Business Unit will provide you with separate advice on how to utilise this funding	13 June 2025
<b>Note</b>	next steps and path for operationalising your preferred option	13 June 2025

### Contacts for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone (work)	First contact
Emma Powell	Chief Executive, Te Puna Aonui	9(2)(a)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Manda Grubner	Manager, Māori Outcomes and Partnerships		<input type="checkbox"/>

### Minister's office to complete

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Noted</b>        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Approved</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Overtaken by events</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Referred to:</b> |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Seen</b>         | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Withdrawn</b>           | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Not seen by Minister</b> |

### Minister's office comments

## Purpose of this briefing

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1. This briefing sets out options for receiving Ministerial advice on the family violence and sexual violence (FVSV) portfolio, following your decision to discontinue Te Pūkotahitanga tangata whenua Ministerial Advisory Group. All options include an assessment of the form of support you can expect and can be implemented independent of a Cabinet process.
2. It also seeks your agreement to Te Puna Aonui Business Unit holding the funding for 'Māori-Crown relationships' (currently enacted through Te Pūkotahitanga), and using it towards the delivery of Action Plan priorities. This funding must be used in accordance with the scope of the original Budget bid (*Building partnerships and collaboration to transform the system: Māori Crown relationships*), otherwise Cabinet approval is required.

## Background

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3. Te Pūkotahitanga, a tangata whenua Ministerial Advisory Group, was established in 2022 to provide independent advice to the Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence with the goal of improving outcomes for Māori.
4. In March 2025, you decided not to reappoint Te Pūkotahitanga members, whose terms will expire on 30 June 2025. You also indicated your interest in establishing a new advisory group that canvassed the views of all victims and survivors, including Māori. You would need Cabinet approval to repurpose funding currently allocated for Māori-Crown partnerships towards a new general advisory group. This risks Cabinet deciding to return all initiative funding to the Crown.
5. An updated Cabinet Office circular was distributed on 30 April 2025, noting that '*papers on minor issues that can be dealt with between Ministers and agencies, and do not require consideration by a Cabinet committee, are filtered out*'. **9(2)(a)(i)**
6. At the officials meeting of 5 May 2025, alternative avenues for Ministerial advice were discussed and it was agreed that a Ministerial briefing setting out different options was required.

## Options for securing independent Ministerial advice

7. As advised on 18 February 2025, you wanted to create a new general advisory group to reflect your need to expand the membership of Te Pūkotahitanga and ensure the voices of all victims and survivors are heard; making sure our work and direction of travel is grounded in a range of lived experiences.
8. There are a range of different ways this wider representation could be achieved. To support your decision-making, we have only proposed options that will help you achieve the following objectives:
  - greater clarity and visibility of the FVSV programme and activities.
  - deeper understanding and what is and is not working, focusing on barriers and challenges.
  - stronger partnership working with a wider, more representative group of stakeholders.
  - upholding government obligations and delivering on commitments.
9. Described below is a summary of the options that could be set up to provide you with independent FVSV advice. These options build off our existing relationships and networks, broadening the advice you receive and formalising your access to different communities and FVSV specialists.

### Summary of Advisory Group options for receiving Ministerial advice

#### Option 1: Establish a dedicated FVSV expert advisory group

**Description:** This could be a new, small group, made up of representatives from our FV and SV specialist peak bodies (i.e. Te Kupenga and TOAH-NNEST) and key partners and stakeholders we have existing relationships with, such as the Chief Victims Advisor. Representation from FVSV peak bodies will meet your expectation for expanded representation as these networks bring perspectives from different communities, such as Māori, disabled people, and rural areas.

**Type of Ministerial support on offer:** This will help *build your understanding* of what is and isn't working, enable *stronger partnership working*, and ensure we *uphold our commitments*.

This group would be tasked with providing recommendations and guidance, helping monitor the second Action Plan implementation, and facilitating community and government collaboration.

**Implications:** Implementing this option is possible outside the Cabinet process and can be established and managed at low cost or within baseline. We will look to achieve this,

by leveraging our existing funding and stakeholder relationships and ongoing support from the Business Unit to administrate this Group.

**Option 2: Schedule regular meetings with FV and SV specialist peak bodies**

**Description:** Te Kupenga (FV specialist peak body) and TOAH-NNEST (SV specialist peak body) represent specialist FV and SV providers across the country, with wide-ranging membership spanning rural areas through to kaupapa Māori providers and provision for disability organisations. This option would see you meet monthly with nominated representatives from each peak body (e.g. co-chairs of the Systems Working Group) to discuss issues, share information, and ensure you are kept abreast of different sector needs or challenges.

**Type of Ministerial Support on offer:** This will help *build your understanding* of what is and isn't working and ensure we *uphold our commitments*.

This option could be a more targeted forum, framed to provide you with assurance that the work of Te Puna Aonui is effective and provide insights on how services and interventions are landing – particularly under the 'Agencies Taking Action' priorities of the second Action Plan.

**Implications:** This is a quick and easy option to implement that will provide you with the expanded membership you seek (given the reach into different communities and areas). It may also be received more favourably than option 1, as the membership is drawn from the accepted peak bodies for FV and SV rather than selected from our existing relationships. It may not, however, provide the voices of victim/survivors as strongly as option 1, because the focus will largely be provider driven.

10. **9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(g)(i)**

Alternative options for receiving Ministerial advice

11. Other options available to you instead of – or in addition to – establishing a dedicated advisory group are set out below. These options are not mutually exclusive, and may be coupled with your preferred advisory group option above to ensure you have the right level and type of advice.



### Option 3: Visits with individual providers and localities tied to Action Plan delivery

**Description:** This option seeks to formalise monthly visits (or conversations) with providers who are tied to delivery of Action Plan focus areas (e.g. Manaaki Tairāwhiti multi-agency response).

**Type of Ministerial support on offer:** This will help you achieve greater *clarity and visibility over the FVSV priority programme* and will *build your understanding* of what is and isn't working at a regional level.

These visits will provide you with first-hand information about experiences of FVSV services on-the-ground and provide you with assurance that we are focusing on the right things or identify if we need to do things differently.

**Implications:** This will provide you with an unfiltered view of progress and performance under the Action Plan. However, the advice you receive will be limited to localities identified in the Action Plan and this is a potentially a more resource intensive option.

### Option 4: Regular meetings with FVSV providers and/or community groups

**Description:** Schedule regular meetings with FVSV providers (e.g. Rape Crisis, Family Action) and/or community groups (e.g. Pacific Practitioners Forum)

**Type of Ministerial support on offer:** This will help *build your understanding* of what is and isn't working and will enable *stronger partnership working* with key stakeholders.

These groups will more directly connect you to communities and the FVSV sector and provide you with advice about how to improve outcomes and flag barriers or issues that need resolution.

**Implications:** It will provide you with an unfiltered view of progress under the Action Plan and it will ensure victim/survivor voices are central to planning. This is a resource intensive option given the number of FVSV specialist and community groups. There may also be funding expectations from communities in return for their contribution.

## Recommended option and path for operationalisation

12. Being able to hear directly from FVSV specialists and advocates on our priorities, the impact of our FVSV work programme, and current or emerging issues is critical to understanding whether our work is making a difference, and what additional measures may be needed across government.

13. To that end, we **recommend Option 1**, which will see the establishment of a small FVSV expert advisory group consisting of representatives from the specialist FV and SV peak body representatives (Te Kupenga and TOAH-NNEST) and other key partners and stakeholders. Although membership may be limited to existing FVSV partners, there is scope to complement this group with additional community engagements and draw from the FVSV network under development. This will expand the breadth of advice you receive and ensure the voices of victim/survivors remain central to decision-making.
14. Pending your agreement, further detailed information on implementation will be prepared. This will broadly cover the process for:
  - confirming participation in the FVSV advisory group
  - drafting and agreeing the terms of reference and expectations for the group; these should emphasise the value of establishing open and honest communication
  - setting up a schedule of regular meetings so you stay connected to emerging issues and concerns.

## Plan for assigned funding

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15. You would need Cabinet approval to change the nature of the initiative funding (i.e. the \$1.950 million initiative called *Building partnerships and collaboration to transform the system: Māori Crown relationships*). This initiative funding is currently being given effect to through Te Pūkotahitanga, but can be used for other activities towards the goal of Māori-Crown relationships.
16. Given the risk that a request to Cabinet may be unsuccessful, we advise that the initiative funding be retained in the Business Unit to support delivery of the Action Plan, in line the intent of the Budget bid. This is consistent with your direction in March when you indicated that the remaining funding from the new Advisory Group be invested in the delivery of the Action Plan.

## Next Steps

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17. Once you have indicated your preferred option above, we will provide you with further advice about the reallocation of funding within the defined parameters of the appropriation.
18. We will also outline the process for implementing your preferred option and start to reach out to FVSV partners to gauge interest in participating in a FVSV Expert Advisory Group.

19. We will work with you to agree roles and expectations for any group, and we will also prepare some key messages for you to communicate your new approach.

## Decisions sought

After considering the contents of this briefing, please indicate your decision below. Please circle which option you agree with:

<b>Agree</b>	<p>which option provides you with the necessary advice to support you in your Ministerial role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Option 1:</b> Establish a FVSV expert advisory group</li> <li>• <b>Option 2:</b> Schedule regular meetings with FV and SV specialist peak bodies</li> <li>• <b>Option 3:</b> visits with individual providers and localities tied to Action Plan delivery</li> <li>• <b>Option 4:</b> Regular meetings with FVSV providers and/or community groups</li> <li>• <b>Alternative option/s:</b></li> </ul>	<p><i>K. Chhour</i></p>
<b>Agree</b>	<p>to Te Puna Aonui Chief Executive, as the delegated fund holder, making decisions that support delivery of the Action Plan, in line with the scope of the original Budget initiative</p>	<p><b>YES / NO</b></p>

*Emma Powell*

Emma Powell  
Chief Executive, Te Puna Aonui

Date: 30 / 05 / 2025

APPROVED / SEEN / NOT AGREED

*K. Chhour*

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

Date: 16 / 6 / 2025