



The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention

Responding, healing, strengthening

May Pānui

11 May 2026

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



Tēnā koutou,

Welcome to the May Pānui - providing you with highlights and updates on the implementation of Te Aorerekura - the National Strategy for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence across the work of government, providers, and communities.



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In this Pānui, you will find updates on the implementation of the Action Plan, recent legislation changes about name suppression in sexual offence cases, workshops and events, information about ACC's 'Little Matters' campaign to prevent child sexual abuse, and more.

I recently visited the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention, for a walkthrough of their current work related to sexual violence. The priority focus areas in the Action Plan for 2025-2026 were *Investing and Commissioning Well, Keeping People Safe, Stopping Violence*, alongside the ongoing work to increase workforce capability to ensure safe and effective responses. While that work continues, attention is also turning to the next phase of the Action Plan.



Minister Chhour at the Centre for a walkthrough of current state of the sexual violence system and workforce capability frameworks

During the walkthrough, the main discussion was the **Sexual Violence Workforce Capability Frameworks**, set to launch very soon, which will uplift and upskill workforces to safely recognise, respond to, and refer victim-survivors of sexual violence. Planning is underway for the implementation of the Framework to enable organisations and workers to use them to ensure safe practice that meets the needs of victim-survivors. The Frameworks have been developed through a robust process of engagement with specialists, communities, and government agencies.

I look forward to championing the Framework and encouraging frontline workers – new and experienced alike – to use them to understand the gaps in their training, and how best to improve their abilities.



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We also discussed a Sexual Violence Discovery and Insights Report, delivered to the Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence (the IEB) in April. The IEB Board is currently exploring the most effective areas to focus on. I look forward to their advice, as this is an important area for continued focus.



Minister Chhour with the NZ Police Family Harm and Integrated Safety Response team in Hamilton.

Recently, I met with KidsLink and other community groups in Rodney, North Auckland about the care and protection of children – it is important to me to hear directly from frontline workers about their experiences, and what changes are working for them. Last month I also met with the Police Family Harm and Integrated Safety Response team in Hamilton, and seeing progress in the interagency relationships and multi-agency responses to people in crisis situations is heartening to see. Even though there is progress, we still have a lot of work to do – in agencies, organisations, communities, and our homes – to make New Zealand a safer place.

I look forward to continuing to update you on progress and highlighting opportunities throughout 2026, and the next Pānui will be in June.

Ngā mihi nui,

Hon Karen Chhour

Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence



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Introduction to Cam Sherley, Acting Chief Executive of the Centre



Tēnā koutou,

As you know from our last Pānui in February, Emma Powell has stepped down from the role of Chief Executive after four years of service - doing a tremendous amount of work that has set us up well for delivery of Te Aorerekura in the years ahead. She has now taken up her new role as Deputy Chief Executive, System Leadership at Oranga Tamariki for the next twelve months.

Having been at the Centre for nearly three years as Deputy Chief Executive and Director of the System Stewardship team, I am currently leading the team as Acting Chief Executive – these are big shoes to fill! I will be in the role of Acting CE until August, while the Board works through its recruitment processes.

Before this role, I worked in Government roles with a focus on governance, strategy, policy, community relations, customer voice, performance, and investment. I came to the Centre as I have a real drive to help government work well together to best support people in need. The Interdepartmental Executive Board (IEB) construct presents some great opportunities for this, and I'm determined to help make it work to best effect.

One of my main priorities for this year is ensuring the Centre continues its work to coordinate the delivery of the Action Plan. Good progress has been made, with the majority of 2025/26 milestones having been completed. However, while much has been delivered over the past year, there is still more to do.

Preparations are underway for the publication of the Baseline Review, the Sexual Violence Workforce Capability Framework, and the next Outcomes and Measurement Framework report – we will keep stakeholders updated as timings are confirmed, and the publications become available.



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Other current priorities for the Centre include:

- setting Action Plan milestones for 2026/27 as part of the initial two-year delivery plan to ensure progress on priority focus areas is maintained,
- continuing to strengthen how agencies respond to people at high risk of death, injury, and revictimisation by testing the High-Risk Protocol and other core components of effective multi-agency responses in 4 localities (Auckland City, Rotorua, Tairāwhiti, and Hawke's Bay),
- development of a workforce plan that sets out how we address the capacity and capability requirements of the family violence and sexual violence workforces – one of the activities listed in the Action Plan, and
- considering how we take forward and better understand the key findings from the Outcomes and Measurement report and the voices of communities that we hear through regular engagements.

More detail about progress in our specific focus areas (Keeping People Safe, Investing and Commissioning Well, Stopping Violence, and Strengthening the Workforce) can be found below.

Thank you to those who have made time to connect with me as I've stepped into this role. I have been enjoying meeting leaders across the family violence and sexual violence sectors and working with partners across government to enable continued momentum. As always, the Centre will focus on delivery through collaboration, integration, and innovation with agency partners to continue improving the system for people affected by violence.

Ngā mihi nui,

Cam Sherley

Acting Chief Executive of the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention

Progress on Te Aorerekura

Keeping People Safe

Strengthening multi-agency responses

The Keeping People Safe team is working at national, regional and local levels to strengthen multi-agency responses to high-risk family violence in Hawke's Bay, Tairāwhiti, Auckland City and Rotorua.

The focus is on better supporting families with complex needs – including those with children and young people – who face the greatest risk of serious injury or death.

This initial 'test and learn' phase involves rolling out the new high-risk protocol, supported by updated information-sharing guidance, workforce training, resources, and enhanced leadership and governance at local, regional and national levels.



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Centre teams are working closely with NGOs and iwi in the test localities, alongside Police, Oranga Tamariki, Corrections and Regional Public Service Commissioners in the relevant regions. Building strong, trusted partnerships is central to the success of this work.

The Centre will monitor what works well and what needs adjusting, to guide wider implementation across the country in the future.

Multi-agency responses: Outcomes Evaluation

The [Outcomes Evaluation reports](#) provide evidence about what enables improved outcomes for whānau affected by family violence and identify where system design matters. The evaluation shows how coordinated multi-agency action, strong leadership, workforce capability, and relational whānau-centred practice contribute to improved safety and reduced fear for those affected by family violence.

It also highlights the strong social return on investment from multi-agency responses to family violence, based on data from the Canterbury model, with a conservative estimate of \$4.07 value for every dollar spent.

Findings drawn from practitioners, agencies and whānau in Canterbury, Rotorua, Wairoa and Tairāwhiti also highlight the differences across the sites, identifying gaps and showing how local context shapes the response.

Investing and Commissioning Well

On 26 March, Ministers discussed the Baseline Review of direct government investment in the FVSV system. Ministers were interested in prevention and the distribution of spending across regions.

The Centre is preparing the insights report for publication – likely in June.

The Baseline Review is designed to show:

- how much government agencies are investing in different parts of the system
- what services are being purchased, for who and where
- the number of contracts held with community providers
- opportunities to invest more effectively to prevent and respond to family violence and sexual violence and improve how government agencies work together to contract services in a way that is consistent with the social investment approach.

The IEB is developing an FVSV investment strategy to ensure more effective and impactful spending, which is expected to be presented to Ministers in July.

Stopping Violence

Following feedback from stakeholders, the initial review of stopping violence interventions will be completed in June/July 2026. This report will reflect victim-survivor views, ahead of decisions about the next steps.



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This work will identify what's needed to ensure stopping violence services are effective at enabling behaviour change.

Work is underway to implement the new stalking and harassment law. The Centre hosted an engagement with FVSV Stakeholders on 15 April, to enable the Ministry of Justice and Police to discuss the approach to implementation comms and identify any information needs for specialists and communities.

Workforce

The Centre continues to support the government's work to increase workforce capability to enable safer responses to family violence and sexual violence.

New Sexual Violence Workforce Capability Frameworks are close to completion, and planning is underway for their launch and implementation. The Frameworks set out the essential, entry, enhanced and expert capabilities required by workers, and standards required by organisations to effectively support their workers' practice and wellbeing.

The Centre is contributing to work to develop online child protection training for the core children's workforce to increase capability to recognise the signs of abuse and to know when to report it. This forms part of the work to give effect to recommendations from Dame Karen Poutasi.

The implementation of the Family Violence Workforce Capability Frameworks is continuing. More than 18,500 frontline staff have been trained to date.

First-ever Kaupapa Māori workforce framework launched

The first dedicated Kaupapa Māori workforce capability framework for the mahi tūkinu (sexual violence) sector in Aotearoa, He Ara Toiora, has been launched online by Ngā Kaitiaki Mauri (NKM) in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD).

"This is our pathway to well-being. Our response to a long-standing national gap in structured, Māori-led workforce development for those committed to healing, restoration and transformation of our whānau," says Ngā Kaitiaki Mauri board member, Russell Smith.

"We know our people are disproportionately impacted by sexual violence and intergenerational trauma and continuing to experience systemic barriers to accessing mātauranga led, safe, specialist support."

Across Aotearoa, the specialist mahi tūkinu (sexual violence) workforce continues to face significant capacity and capability shortages, particularly within Kaupapa Māori service provision.

He Ara Toiora is part of a broader multi-year MSD-funded programme, alongside the Centre, focused on strengthening workforce capability nationally across family violence and sexual violence prevention and response services through a suite of integrated resources.

"MSD has a longstanding partnership with TOAH-NNEST and Ngā Kaitiaki Mauri, having worked together over many years to support the Kaupapa Māori and wider Sexual Violence sector and is glad



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to have been able to support this important work,” said Mark Henderson, General Manager, Safe Strong Families & Communities at the Ministry of Social Development.

“*He Ara Toiora* will enable the strengthening of the Kaupapa Māori sexual violence sector and acknowledges that Kaupapa Māori specialist services have a unique role in providing culturally appropriate responses to meet the needs of whānau. This framework is a vital resource for current and future kaimahi in our efforts to have a strong workforce able to provide support for whānau to prevent, respond and heal from sexual violence.”

The Kaupapa Māori workforce capability framework serves as a valuable companion to the national Sexual Violence Workforce Capability Framework developed by the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention for specialist, generalist, government, and informal workforce settings to support system-wide capability uplift. That framework will be launched in the near future.

It responds to identified gaps in Kaupapa Māori-specific workforce development pathways and aligns with Te Aorerekura – the National Strategy and Action Plan which, under Shift 3, prioritises building a skilled, culturally competent workforce.

He Ara Toiora will also be a companion to Te Ara Kōkōurangi *He Ara Toiora: Good Practice Guidelines for Preventing and Responding to Mahi Tūkino*, previously published by Ngā Kaitiaki Mauri and developed by Associate Dean Māori, Dr Jade Le Grice of Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland.

Created through a two-year Ngā Kaitiaki Mauri-led process that started in 2024, *He Ara Toiora* supported by MSD, with a Rōpū Whakahaere brought together Māori sector practitioners, workforce development expertise, and lived experience perspectives from across the motu.

For more information, go to: [First kaupapa Māori workforce capability framework for sexual violence sector launched | RNZ News](#)

Family Violence Skill Standards and Micro-credentials Approved

The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) has approved new family violence skill standards and two associated micro-credentials at Levels 4 and 5 on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework.

This is a key deliverable under Shift 3 of Te Aorerekura, which focuses on building skilled, culturally competent and sustainable workforces, including improved career pipelines in family violence and sexual violence work.

In 2024, the Centre partnered with Toitū te Waiora Workforce Development Council, with input from specialist sector representatives, to develop the skill standards and micro-credentials. They are grounded in the Family Violence Risk and Safety Practice Framework and align to Level 4 Essential and Level 5 Entry capability.



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Four NZQA skill standards underpin the micro-credentials. They translate the Essential and Entry capability levels of the Risk and Safety Practice Framework into nationally recognised, assessable standards focussed on recognising family violence risk, responding safely within role, making warm referrals, and recording appropriately.

Impact

- Provides workforces with a nationally recognised pathway to build and evidence capability in family violence risk practice.
- Supports organisations to strengthen frontline capability in family violence risk practice through nationally recognised, assessable standards aligned to the Risk and Safety Practice Framework.
- Supports safer, earlier and more consistent responses for people and whānau experiencing family violence.
- The standards and micro-credentials were submitted to NZQA in October and are now approved for delivery by accredited providers.

Next steps

The Centre is supporting transition into delivery, including early engagement with potential delivery partners so workforces can begin accessing the micro-credentials.

Evidence to Practice - Patterns of Family Violence Harm

Evidence to Practice Sessions

Translating evidence into practical outcomes in the Family Violence and Sexual Violence sector.

Evidence to Practice Sessions are conversations that bridge the gap between research and practice. Each session highlights recent research, and includes a discussion on the implications for real-world practice.

The April session focused on patterns of family violence harm committed by people who come to the attention of Police, presented by Dr. Apriel D. Jolliffe Simpson, a co-author of this research (alongside Dr Chaitanya Joshi, and Professor Devon Polaschek). Dr Apriel D. Jolliffe Simpson is a Lecturer at Te Puna Haumaruru the Centre for Security and Crime Science, which sits within Te Kura Whatu Oho Mauri the School of Psychological and Social Sciences at the University of Waikato.

This research collected information about people who came to police attention for using family violence in Aotearoa New Zealand, and modelled patterns over time (whether the harmful behaviour



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continued or escalated). The study identifies varying probabilities of further verbal abuse and physical violence. The findings can help improve how family violence risk is conceptualised in practice.

Link to the April session here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uqyc8iU-ccE>

The May session focused on the Canterbury Family Violence Collective's work to respond to and prevent family violence in the five years that followed the Canterbury earthquakes in 2010 and 2011, presented by Dr Lesley Campbell, Director of Lebern and Associates. Dr Campbell has over 25 years of experience in strategy, policy, and research evaluation across the justice, health, education, and social development sectors.

As the Director of Lebern and Associates, she leads diverse research and evaluation projects focusing on social service collaboration, restorative justice, and disaster recovery. She also brings a wealth of experience from across senior management within both government and NGO sector. Her work often addresses complex social issues, including family and sexual violence, older person's wellbeing, and offender rehabilitation.

Link to the May session here: https://youtu.be/_ufguPHWwDA

Link to all previous sessions in a playlist: [Evidence to Practice Sessions - YouTube](#)

Little Matters – new sexual violence prevention initiative



Little Matters is a new sexual violence prevention initiative that is going live over the coming weeks. It is designed to help families and whānau take small, practical actions – “*Little Matters*” – to help build healthy relationships and create safe environments for children.

It's based on a simple idea. Sexual harm can grow from everyday harmful attitudes and behaviours, which means prevention can start in everyday life too.

Little Matters was developed by ACC with parents and caregivers, alongside experts in sexual violence prevention, clinical guidance, and community insight. It was also tested with diverse parents/caregivers across Aotearoa to make sure it is practical, relevant, and motivates kōrero and action.

Little Matters is designed to feel practical and doable – by parents and for parents.



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You'll see:

- **Videos and posts** on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) that introduce the kaupapa and the 10 Little Matters.
- **Content** from parents and prevention experts via Little Matters social channels.
- **A simple framework:** 10 "Little Matters" that people can choose from, adapt, and build on (no pressure to do them all).
- **A toolkit** to support local delivery and integration into existing services and programmes including, for example, a playbook, posters, social tiles, workshop or wānanga guide, and templates.
- **If anyone needs support** related to sexual harm, they will be directed to the national sexual harm helpline, Safe to talk.

It's a phased rollout. Static content went live on 28 April, with video content from 7 May, then the toolkit in June.

If you have any questions or opportunities, please get in touch at LittleMatters@acc.co.nz. You can also email LittleMatters@acc.co.nz to join the mailing list to receive updates about the initiative, the toolkit, and new resources.

Safeguarding Children Initiative wins Kiwibank NZ Community of the Year

The Safeguarding Children Initiative is a nationwide movement developed by charity Safeguarding Children, dedicated to preventing abuse and protecting tamariki and rangatahi. Since its inception, it has trained more than 85,000 advocates, including 16,000 in the past year alone, equipping people in homes, workplaces and community settings across Aotearoa New Zealand to recognise concerns early and respond to abuse. For example, in Te Tai Tokerau alone, 94 kaimahi received training and funding was secured for 300 free e-learning courses for frontline workers. Over 900 resources were downloaded, while confidence to identify and act on abuse rose from 58% to over 90%.





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More than 70 organisations across health, education, sport, justice, faith and community sectors have embedded safeguarding into their culture, creating safer environments nationwide. Because this growing community is stepping up, tamariki and rangatahi are safer where they live, learn, play and receive care.

Through innovative training, prevention-focused policy advocacy and collaboration with communities across the motu, the Initiative is growing one advocate, one organisation, one community at a time, proving that when collective responsibility meets compassion, we can prevent abuse and create change for tamariki and rangatahi.

[Safeguarding Children Initiative - Kiwibank New Zealander of The Year Awards](#)

Atu-Mai – violence prevention programme for Pasifika young people

Le Va is a national organisation that supports Pasifika families and communities across Aotearoa to live safe, connected, and purposeful lives. One of the ways we do this is through our violence-prevention programme called [Atu-Mai](#).

Atu-Mai is a violence prevention programme that strengthens Pasifika communities by developing confident and resilient Pasifika young people. Atu-Mai equips Pasifika young people and their families with the right knowledge and tools to live violence-free. One way they provide these skills and knowledge is through FREE workshops.

The Le Va team have been actively delivering workshops in secondary schools, communities, and organisations, and are continuing delivery from now until mid-May. Bookings are on a first book, first served basis.

Atu-Mai offer face to face delivery, and workshops are aimed at groups of 20–35 Pasifika students aged 16–24 years old.

The three workshops are:

- I AM – strengthening self-worth through culture. Discover our Pasifika values and the benefits of being Pasifika.
- Respectful Relationships – equipping our youth with the knowledge and skills to build healthy and respectful relationships and understanding how these impact mental wellbeing.
- Upstander – equipping Pasifika youth and communities with the skills to take a stand against violence.

To learn more, go to www.atumai.nz.

About the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention

[The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention](#) supports the Interdepartmental Executive Board, made up of the Chief Executives of nine government agencies, to align whole-of-government strategy, policy, and investment to eliminate family violence and sexual violence.

These agencies include:



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- [Ara Poutama Department of Corrections](#)
- [Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga Ministry of Education](#)
- [Manatū Hauora Ministry of Health](#)
- [Te Tāhū or 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 Kokiri Ministry of Māori Development](#)
- [Te Kaporeihana Āwhina Hunga Whare ACC](#)

[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) and [Te Tari Mātāwaka](#) (the Ministry for Ethnic Communities) are associate agencies.

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