



In June 2005 the Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families was set up to advise the Family Violence Ministerial Team on how to address family violence in Aotearoa/ New Zealand. Then in July 2006 the Taskforce set out its vision and a programme of action to achieve it.

Now, three years after it was first set up, the programme is ongoing. Here we outline some of the most important aspects of the Ongoing Programme of Action to eliminate family violence in all our communities.

Who are we?

We are the Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families and we represent the huge commitment on the part of so many agencies to eliminate violence in families throughout Aotearoa/New Zealand.

The Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families

- Chief Executive of the Ministry of Social Development (Chairperson)
- Chief Executive of the Ministry of Women's Affairs (Deputy Chairperson)
- Chief Executive of the Accident Compensation Corporation
- Secretary for Education
- Director-General of Health
- Secretary for Justice
- Chief Executive of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs
- Commissioner of New Zealand Police
- Chief Executive of Te Puni Kōkiri
- Chief District Court Judge
- Principal Family Court Judge
- Children's Commissioner
- Chief Families Commissioner
- Māori Reference Group representative
- Pacific Advisory Group representative
- Deputy Chief Executive, Social Services Policy, Ministry of Social Development
- Chief Executive of CCS Disability Action
- Chief Executive, Strategic Relationships, of Jigsaw
- Chief Executive of the National Collective of Women's Refuges
- Chief Executive of Relationship Services
- Chief Executive of the Tamaki Community Development Trust.

The last five Chief Executives of non-government organisations represent the Te Rito Advisory Committee and the Family Services National Advisory Council.



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora

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The Ongoing Programme of Action was published in December 2007.

TASKFORCE FOR ACTION ON VIOLENCE WITHIN FAMILIES



*The Ongoing
Programme of Action*

TASKFORCE OPA SUM08

SUMMARY

What is our vision?

All families and whānau have healthy, respectful, stable relationships, free from violence.

Our vision is for a society where confident and resilient individuals and families have zero tolerance for violence; where intervention in family violence occurs as early as possible to alleviate damage; and where we all play our part in protecting victims and observers of family violence, and holding perpetrators to account.

What is guiding us?

We know that achieving our vision will take sustained and collaborative effort over time.

We're focussed on actions that will make the most difference, and outcomes that will be effective and sustainable over generations.

We are learning as we go. Evidence from what works informs our actions as we continue to build on work already being done within our communities.

What do we want to achieve?

It's important in our ongoing programme that we:

- enlist community leaders to help change attitudes and behaviours towards violence within families
- empower everyone to take personal and collective responsibility for eliminating violence within families
- improve protection and accountability systems to immediately and effectively meet the requirements of victims, observers and perpetrators
- support and train people who should be able to recognise and respond, when and where violence is occurring.



“Work with communities to change attitudes and behaviours...”

What is our approach?

Encourage and enhance leadership at all levels and across all communities to end family violence and promote stable, healthy families

In 2006/2007

- we committed to drawing on the knowledge and expertise of communities and service providers, seeking advice from government, non-government and community sectors, and
- we began identifying what was already working to prevent family violence.

In 2008 and beyond

- we will develop a specific programme of action to provide leadership and consolidate direction for Māori and Pacific peoples
- Family Violence Free workplaces will be promoted where people are empowered to help prevent family violence
- we will develop a work programme for child abuse identifying where we can make the most difference
- we will also continue to build our knowledge of good practice service delivery models.

Work with communities to change attitudes and behaviours towards violence within families

In 2006/2007

- we launched our Campaign for Action on Family Violence, featuring community leaders, engaging community partners and underpinned by awareness-training packages for media
- as part of this Campaign we established a Community Action Fund to assist community groups to promote violence free messages and support the national campaign at a community level
- we began a process of reviewing family violence-related deaths so we can better understand how and why deaths occur – with a view to preventing further deaths.

In 2008 and beyond

- we will continue to drive the Campaign, establishing links with businesses and supporting related community initiatives to broaden and deepen the reach of the Campaign
- prevention and early intervention will be a key focus for us, specifically supporting Kia Puawai: Giving Our Children the Best Start in Life
- we will also develop and support educational curriculum initiatives that support healthy choices and appropriate decisions by young people.

A highly responsive justice sector to ensure the safety of victims and observers and hold offenders accountable

In 2006/2007

- we developed the Family Violence Interagency Response System to support children affected by family violence and build stronger links between government and non-government agencies
- we achieved a great deal with Police training in family violence investigation and risk assessment and providing Police Family Violence Co-ordinators
- we established four more Family Violence Courts in Auckland and Wellington, building on lessons from existing models in Waitakere and Manukau.

In 2008 and beyond

- we will develop a national protocol for improving how Family Violence Courts are run, and model a social services system around Family Violence Courts to ensure victims and observers are kept safe, perpetrators are kept accountable and responsible, and families are assisted with their recovery needs
- we will establish two more Family Violence Courts – one in Northland and one in Palmerston North
- we will complete training of all prosecutors and implement the Police Prosecutions Service Family Violence Policy
- we will evaluate the Family Violence Interagency Response System and build on the success of this project, rolling it out nationwide.

Service providers in the area of family violence with the capacity and capability to meet the demand for services

In 2006/2007

- we started work on a long-term plan to improve service capacity and capability, and build quality services for victims, observers and perpetrators of violence as part of the Pathway to Partnership initiative
- we began work with the non-government sector on the best approach to costing non-government family support services to achieve sustainable funding for non-government service providers.

In 2008 and beyond

- we will focus on the quality and diversity of approaches to eliminating violence in Māori and Pacific families, with a workforce trained in prevention, early intervention, protection and accountability.