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Te Kupenga

It's a bumper edition. Tau kē!

Te Kupenga Whakaoti Mahi Patunga – The National Network of Stopping Violence Services (NZ) Inc works to enable all people in Aotearoa/ New Zealand to live free of all forms of violence, abuse and oppression.

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Free RAP resources inside

Earlier this year Judge Boshier, a member of the Ministerial Taskforce on Family Violence, gave a speech asking Are stopping violence programmes worthwhile? It generated a lot of media coverage but, in our opinion, not a lot of informed debate. A significant part of the judge's speech is printed within.

There's an article on the Leitner report on New Zealand's efforts to eliminate violence against women. The Leitner Centre for international law and justice at Fordham Law School is an internationally recognised research centre and its findings do not reflect well on Aotearoa New Zealand.

We have devoted space to the speeches by MPs during the first reading of the Domestic Violence (Enhancing Safety) Bill, which was introduced into the House earlier this year. They provide an interesting insight into the personal opinions of our politicians on the matter of domestic violence.

There is coverage of the Bream Bay Classic Car and Motorcycle run, which took the White Ribbon Day message of stopping violence against women to the back roads of Northland. As the story goes, they hit the road to stop hitting women.

We introduce Karen Below-Patara, the new manager of our youth project RAP – Whakamana Tangata. RAP is all about creating environments that encourage youth to behave in a positive and respectful manner. We encourage you to hang up the "Make Time for Youth" poster to mark Youth Week 2009.

We finish this edition of Te Kupenga with a commentary piece by youth worker Daniel Mātaki. He's been inspired by the work of Māori rapper, Young Sid. Young Sid is one of the chart topping trio known as Smashproof.

So read on. Enjoy!



Te Kupenga Whakaoti Mahi Patunga
National Network of Stopping Violence



Parekōtuku Moore

Ngā mihi nui mai te Kaihautū

Tēnā koutou katoa.

In 2009 one of our priorities has been the development of a Māori Best Practice manual and a Programme manual to guide Māori who are working with Māori men and women to address domestic violence. Unfortunately there are not a lot of readily available resources that have been developed by Māori, for Māori, even though many of us work in this sector. The Best Practice and Programme manuals will be components of a larger toolkit that will include practical resources to support facilitators in their work. A further key component will be a cultural audit tool designed to enhance our member agencies' abilities to provide the best intervention responses for Māori and for all.

On that point, there is a range of interesting stories in this edition of Te Kupenga. Some stories reflect the amazing work that is going on at grass roots level. Others, like the Leitner report, indicate that there is still much to be done. Yet other give us food for thought and provide an interesting insight into the thinking of influential people in our sector.

Finally I support an evaluation of our stopping violence programmes as suggested by Judge Boshier. However, this cannot be done in isolation from addressing the urgent need to improve justice systematic responses to victims of domestic violence.

I believe our programmes are good and yet they can always be improved. The Māori Best Practice and Programme manuals (and the planned subsequent training) will contribute to the improvement. Kia ora mai rā.



Brian Gardner

Greetings from the National Manager Taiwi

As human beings we often look for the solution, the pill or the person that will save us from our dilemma.

When I was a kid, there was an old black and white programme on TV about the Lone Ranger. With his trusty stereo-typical friend Tonto, he would save the good townsfolk and always behind his signature mark - a silver bullet. But when it comes to domestic violence, there is no silver bullet.

To make a real difference, there needs to be effective and consistent responses at a number of levels. They need to come from Police, from well trained judiciary, from effective community services. They need to include well-grounded policy development, informed public education programmes, robust media debate, sound data collection processes and culturally-appropriate services available. Of course much of this is impossible without adequate funding.

Two articles in the edition of Te Kupenga consider these issues, but from totally different angles. Judge Boshier raises these issues in direct relation to stopping violence programmes. On the other hand, the Leitner report points to more systemic problems, from the justice system through to the government's obligation to consult with Māori.

For those of us working in domestic violence services, we should be continually reflecting on how and why we do things. We should ask ourselves questions like are we doing the best we can? Do we listen to the challenges of others? Are we simply doing what is comfortable? Are we prepared to change the way we do things if it really makes a difference to the men, women and children we work with? For some the challenges are obvious. My question is whether we face up to our challenges or simply look for a masked man with a silver bullet.



Jorge Contesse



About 60 people attended the launch of the report.

“
The Network is keen to work with the Government to implement the findings of the report
”

Violence against women – an acute social problem in NZ

New Zealand is a world leader in many human rights areas but unfortunately not when it comes to domestic violence against women.

That’s according to Jorge Contesse, who headed a research team to New Zealand last year, from the Leitner Centre for international law and justice at Fordham Law School in New York.

Contesse was in Wellington last month to launch the report “It’s not OK” New Zealand’s Efforts to Eliminate Violence Against Women. His team of 13 researchers met with lawyers, judges legislators, government officials, academics, local leaders and ordinary men and women from Aotearoa New Zealand. The delegation conducted approximately 165 interviews.

Contesse said notwithstanding New Zealand’s commitments under international and domestic law to secure equality for women and to prevent, investigate or punish acts of domestic violence, violence against women continues to be an acute social problem.

“We hope that our work is seen as a positive initiative. The report has identified weaknesses with New Zealand’s domestic law and policies and offer suggestions to address the problems. We also hope that it contributes to the work of the many non-government organisations, services providers, lawyers and academics working on these

challenging issues in New Zealand,” says Contesse.

The Leitner report is written in three parts:

1. New Zealand’s obligations under international law and domestic law regarding domestic violence and its responses.
2. Domestic violence in New Zealand: problems with current regulations and “implementation gaps”.
3. Domestic violence in Māori communities.

The launch was hosted by the New Zealand Roundtable on Violence Against Women and spokesperson Ruth Herbert says the report recommends significant changes in policy approaches.

“The recommendations support what community groups have been saying for a long time – services are underfunded, more support is needed for Māori to address violence against women and children, and we don’t have enough good evidence about what interventions work best in this country”.

The report has also been welcomed by the National Network of Stopping Violence Services. Kaihautū Parekōtuku Moore agrees the report endorses many of the issues raised by the Network and other community groups.

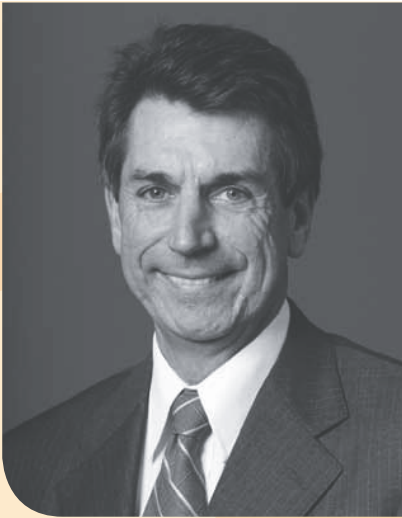
“Over the years, we have consistently advocated to Government for more funding, for capability and skill development in the sector and the need for long term, proactive planning. Even now we need confirmation that the current Pathways for Partnership funding programme will continue in the longer term.”

Ms Moore says we are particularly impressed by the report’s focus on the Government’s Treaty responsibilities.

“The Network is a Treaty-based organisation and we know that there is much to be gained from supporting Māori services in this area.”

She says the Network is keen to work with the Government to implement the findings of the report and is particularly keen to co-operate over the evaluation of the many stopping violence programmes around the country.

“We are confident that our programmes are good and this is a great chance to evaluate, finetune and advance our services to be the best they can be. We also see it as an opportunity for our organisations to be properly recognised and appropriately resourced and funded,” says Ms Moore.



Judge Peter Boshier

Are stopping violence programmes worthwhile?

Debate raged over a speech given by the Principal Family Court Judge Peter Boshier earlier this year, when he asked the question “Are stopping violence programmes worthwhile?”

NNSVS have our thoughts on the matter (no surprises there) but to ensure informed debate around the question, we’ve decided to reprint much of Judge Boshier’s speech. For a full version, go to our website www.nnsvs.org.nz.

Current Programme Uptake

In general terms there are three groups of people for whom the Family Court currently make referrals to programmes: respondents, adult applicants and children. The cost of the court funded programmes is not small. In the last two financial years, the Ministry of Justice spent a total of \$7,549,125 on programmes. This can be broken down as follows:

Programme Type	2006/07	2007/08
Respondent	\$2,861,034	\$2,177,674
Adult Protected Person	\$645,366	\$538,870
Children	\$659,263	\$666,918

As programme attendance is not managed nationally we can not be certain as to the number of respondents who complete programmes, partially complete programmes or do not even attend. What we have instead is an incomplete picture.

Last year, the Ministry of Justice undertook a survey in the 20 busiest courts (in terms of numbers of protection orders made) to generate sample data on completion rates. After noting that 1697 temporary protection orders had been made between 1 July and 31 December 2007 in these courts, the Ministry randomly selected 100 court files, five from each of the sample courts. In each case a temporary protection order had been made and at least one respondent had been directed to attend a programme.

The results of the survey indicated that:

- 50% of all respondents had completed their court directed programme. Another 8% are still attending and are expected to finish soon.
- In 8% of the cases the direction to attend a programme had been discharged and in 3% the direction had been suspended (due to imprisonment or where the respondent has left the country). Where the direction has been suspended the respondents’ attendance will be monitored on release or return.

“ 98% of men reported that others were very or completely safe with them after completing the programme ”

“ 65% [of men] felt they were a lot better able to control their behaviour, communicate with others, manage strong emotions and stress, deal with conflict and anger in non-abusive ways and manage high-risk situations. ”

- 11% of respondents have been, or are being, prosecuted for breach of protection order, non-attendance at programme or are subject to the court processes set out in the Domestic Violence Act 1995 where there is a notice of absence received.
- 6% of respondents were unable to be prosecuted for breach of protection order for non-attendance. This was in cases where, for example, the respondents' whereabouts were unknown or the Crown considers the file inappropriate for prosecution.
- In 7% of cases the reason for failure to complete a programme was classified as "other". This is where there were factors such as poor health or imprisonment, or where the protection order was unable to be served. In the same way as when a programme direction is suspended, the respondent's attendance is monitored to ensure that the programme is completed at a later date.
- Finally in 7% of all cases there was no follow-up by the court concerned.

While we have the above survey we simply cannot be sure of the actual figures nationwide. The picture is woefully incomplete.

Do these programmes really work?

Respondents

In the late 1990s, the Institute of Criminology at Victoria University of Wellington prepared an evaluation of respondent programmes for the Department of Corrections. The evaluation found a decrease in the frequency of violent and abusive behaviour perpetrated by men who attended respondent programmes.

Qualitative data indicated that positive gains had resulted from the programme. 98% of men reported that others were very or completely safe with them after completing the programme and an identical percentage reported that they now had a good understanding of the effects of violence on their partner/ex-partner. Furthermore, 65% felt they were a lot better able to control their behaviour, communicate with others, manage strong emotions and stress, deal with conflict and anger in non-abusive ways and manage high-risk situations. Finally, 77% said they were very confident about staying non-violent in the future.

However, we need to treat evaluations with a degree of caution. As others have sensibly noted, evaluations tend to overestimate the effectiveness of stopping violence programmes for a number of reasons.

These include:

- Ignoring the men who drop out.
- Relying on self reporting, arrests or partner reports.
- Focusing on anger or jealousy levels.
- Measuring physical violence but not threats, so that it is possible to find a so-called successful man not hitting but threatening to hit.
- Utilising a very short follow up period, such as the end of the programme or just three months later – the longer the follow-up the less positive the results look.

Furthermore, with the recent Ministry of Justice survey showing that 24% of respondents have no good reason for not having completed their programmes we should be concerned. Why are nearly a quarter of respondents not completing the programmes?

One suggestion I have is that we are not yet taking full advantage of our knowledge of the context of violence when directing people to programmes. If we accept that family violence – always a choice on the part of the perpetrator – is enormously broad and complex in nature, then consideration of the causes for the violence must surely be relevant to determining how to stop it. Numerous experts have noted that our efforts to eliminate family violence must go to the roots of the problem.

“ **One way we can start to address this is through screening in order to determine the nature and type of family violence in question.** ”

There is significant research available which supports the identification of factors related to risk that may be helpful in differentiating families.

One of the most advocated screening initiatives that has been tested and validated as a screening instrument is DOVE, which groups significant predictors of male partner violence into seven categories: past violence, past abuse, emotional dependency, relationship problems, mental health problems and substance abuse.

This ties into differentiating amongst types of domestic violence, allowing for the development of more appropriate screening instruments and processes that would more accurately describe the central dynamics of the partner violence, its context, and consequences. This in turn could lead to better decision-making, appropriate sanctions and more effective treatment programmes tailored to the different characteristics of partner violence, as has been seen overseas. I believe that we should screen in order to determine whether attendance is likely to be effective.

Following along this theme of ‘one size does not fit all’, we need to increase the number of culturally appropriate programmes that are available. The importance of Māori focused programmes is expressly provided for in the Domestic Violence (Programmes) Regulations 1996.

In terms of respondents to population size this cultural group is hugely over-represented. In 2007 24.4% of respondents in respect of protection order applications were Māori, whereas only 14.6% of the general population identified as such.

Similarly, the last census indicated that the Asian population within New Zealand had increased nearly 50% since 2001, now making up 9.18% of our population. 4.7% of the 2007 respondents to protection orders identified as Asian (and quite possibly a great deal more, given that 19.3% of the respondents’ ethnicities were unknown).

Programme content needs to reflect this. At present, staff are sensitive to issues of culture and provide the best service possible within the boundaries of organisational structure, resource and staffing. However, increased resources and different service provision strategies may have to be developed if the cultural needs of men from a diversity of cultures are to be met. Contextual consideration is important. The above highlights this.

But I would make a further suggestion, even when all that is taken into account. Evaluations have noted that the increased wellbeing experienced by programme participants during and immediately after the programme declined significantly within a few months of the end of the programme. The evaluations proposed that this may well be due to respondents having lost the ongoing support of peers once the programme had concluded, as well as the opportunity to discuss their feelings with others with similar problems.

If we are serious about meeting our objectives respondents need to have the opportunity to return and attend more programmes after they have completed the first programme. At present they can not do this unless they fund their own attendance – for many, an absolute bar to further assistance. Yet giving respondents the opportunity to attend further free programmes would be highly beneficial.

People absorb the value of programmes at different rates and we must be sensitive to this. This issue is of course one of funding and I do not attempt to minimise the problems associated with that, especially in our current fiscal climate. But if we wish to stop violence we must ensure respondents have ongoing access to these programmes.

Adult Protected Persons

The second group of people to whom we offer programmes are the adult victims of domestic violence. Such programmes are of huge importance and it is vital that we get them right. So are our current programmes for adult protected persons of value? In 1998 the Ministry of Justice commissioned an evaluation into whether programmes for adult protected persons contributed to the protection of victims of family violence. The analysis showed that 94% of the women attending programmes had learnt (either partially or completely) how to keep themselves safe, 96% of women said they had (either partially or completely) learnt how to keep their children safe, and 94% said they had (either partially or completely) developed a safety plan for themselves and their children.



While these are outstanding statistics in their own right, the value of programmes for protected persons becomes even more evident when we note that the percentages reporting gains from the programme are higher than the percentage who had acquired the same skills without attending a programme.

I would suggest that one of the core problems in these situations is uptake rates. In the evaluation discussed above, a third of those who did not attend programmes reported that they did not yet feel ready to attend a programme. In that study a quarter of the women who had not attended a programme said they would have found it helpful to have received a letter reminding them of the availability of a programme after three months. We therefore need to move to working towards effective follow up of protected persons so that we can ensure they receive the benefit of a programme in a timely fashion.

A second issue which arises is the need for refresher programmes. As with respondents, many protected persons feel they would benefit from being able to ask for help in the future.

“**Often the need for children to attend programmes is overlooked; however they can be the most vulnerable group of all**”

Children

Not only do recent statistics suggest that 4-10% of New Zealand children experience physical abuse and 24% of girls and 11% of boys experience sexual abuse, but that children are also harmed by seeing, hearing, or living with violence in the home. In 2005, there were 7,924 children involved in the 4,545 applications for protection orders and in the financial year 2005-2006, Women's Refuge provided services and programmes to 12,161 children. The effects on children who have endured and/or observed violence include increased anxiety, fear, depression, aggression, emotional and behavioural problems and impaired social skills. There are also subtle symptoms associated with witnessing violence that can adversely impact on a child's future relationships, such as seeing violence as an effective means of getting what he or she wants.

Programmes for children are therefore as important as programmes for respondents and applicants and deserve our attention. An evaluation akin to that conducted on respondents and adult protected persons' programmes is long overdue if an informed analysis is to be undertaken. It is disconcerting that we have no reasonably attainable information on children sent to programmes or whether they satisfactorily complete those programmes. However two very important observations can still be made.

Firstly, at present children who are

protected by a protection order but are no longer living with the primary caregiver are not eligible to attend a programme. If we are serious about aiding our most vulnerable then this must be rectified. Clause 15 of the Domestic Violence Reform Bill proposes doing precisely that, making it a vital part of the proposed legislation.

A second and very important concern acknowledges that because children are growing and developing, their educational needs around safety therefore change. Children might benefit from attending a programme some time after they experienced or witnessed the violence, either because they are older, or because they are no longer experiencing the events as a crisis situation. While the protection order may by that stage have been discharged, the need to resolve the issues and learn about safety planning may remain.

Conclusion

The causes of violence are complex. While it is always unacceptable we can only hope to reduce its incidence by understanding its causes and focussing better than we are currently doing on changing the circumstances and attitudes of those caught up in its cycles. The ultimate measure is a far healthier society, where violence is no longer seen as an option in people's lives. For the sake of the victims of violence, the price of achieving that must be worth paying. I believe a clearer focus on how we can achieve that is the path ahead of us.

Set Up To Eliminate Māori Child Abuse

by Dr Hone Kaa

Te Kāhui Mana Ririki was set up specifically to eliminate Māori child abuse and maltreatment. Now in its second year of operation, it's a good time to preview. The first year focussed on getting established within the sector and securing funding for their ongoing work.

"We have positioned ourselves as a national Māori child advocacy organisation – and many Māori providers have asked us what this will mean in practice. Do we intend to speak on their behalf? Do we represent their interests?

What is becoming clear to me as we continue on our journey, is that our primary role is to voice and promote the needs of Māori children and young people at a national level. This will be based on our observations of the sector, and Māori generally. And our comment will be guided by the values that underpin our strategic plan.

Research will also inform our comment. We have commissioned a

research project which we expect to be able to publish this year that will look at three areas:

- A literature review exploring indigenous expertise in this area
- The impact of family violence and child abuse on our ririki
- The way in which our young people respond to Māori services

We would never presume to speak on behalf of providers, but our intention is to support and complement the work already underway, with national comment.

In terms of our advocacy role, this national perspective is very important, and that is why we have such a heavy emphasis on media relations. Our intention is to highlight the needs of our ririki with the general public and decision makers. We continue to meet with Māori politicians to continue our discussions about a cross-party approach to Māori child maltreatment.

We have focused quite specifically on the relationship between parents and caregivers and ririki. Ngā Mana Ririki, the Māori Child Abuse Summit that birthed our organisation was precipitated by the amendment to Section 59 of the Crimes Act – and the iwi workshops which we will continue this year have a heavy emphasis on the alternatives to smacking.

We believe that smacking is simply another expression of violence against Māori children. If we can break the habit that our whānau have of hitting children, then more serious forms of abuse and maltreatment will also reduce.

Using existing material developed by organisations like the Office of the Children's Commissioner, Barnardos and Unicef, our Strategy Manager Helen Harte has developed a six step approach to non-violent parenting. We are now in the process of working this into material for providers and whānau."

Te Kāhui Mana Ririki Parenting Tips The Alternatives To Smacking

Stop Kauaka	If you're feeling uptight with your child, take a breath, take ten and calm yourself down.
Go Haere	If your child is making you angry and you think you're going to lose it, walk away.
Enjoy Kia ngahau	Make co-operation fun. Use song, games and toys to teach your child new skills, and change unwanted behaviour.
Praise Whakamihia	Make sure you encourage good behaviour with smiles, praise and affirmation.
Distract Kia whakaware	If your child is doing something you don't want them to do, distract them with another activity.
Ignore E aro kē	Don't sweat the small stuff. Even if you find your child's behaviour annoying, if they are safe and not hurting anyone else – let it go.

Dr Hone Kaa





Karen Below-Patara is used to creating change – so she’s looking forward to her new job as the RAP youth project manager for Te Kupenga Whakaoti Mahi Patunga – the National Network of Stopping Violence Services.

Creating change for youth

RAP – Respect All People Whakamana Tangata is the National Network’s flagship youth programme. Karen has been in the role for a couple of months now and she loves the work.

“I’m really keen to contribute to creating new generations of rangatahi, who choose non-violent lifestyles and who create different, positive pathways for themselves, their whānau and wider community.”

Karen is a registered occupational therapist and, for the past 15 years, has worked in health promotion and injury prevention in New Zealand and the United Kingdom. She’s been on various Ministerial advisory boards and has written papers on cultural and equity issues. More recently she’s specialised in delivering services to Māori in urban and rural setting. Her experience has given a commitment to the vision of RAP.

“I was involved in working alongside individuals and their whānau whom were recovering and re-building their lives after serious injury and trauma, and often these situations resulted from a form of violence. Working within these roles I have been at the bottom of the cliff essentially, seeing the many negative outcomes of violence, and working to maintain or improve situations after the event.

The RAP project has been underway for nearly 18 months. Initially under the guidance of Garth Baker, it was called the Promoting Youth Non-Violence Project and was based in four pilot sites; Whāngarei, Manukau,

Feilding and Motueka. Some of the results have been a hugely popular DVD/CD of Pacific Islands and Māori men promoting non-violence on women, the Local Voices Talking Peace campaign in Tasman, a youth forum in Feilding and a training package for youth workers. The name change to RAP came about after feedback from focus groups with youth. They liked the strong, positive and clear message.

With plans to roll out the project nationally, Karen is clear about the biggest challenge to selling the Respect All People message to youth.

“RAP needs to appeal to the rangatahi of Aotearoa and they need to identify and own the RAP message. Currently, our rangatahi identify with themes and lifestyles from overseas, especially the United States, the culture of hip hop, designer clothing and ‘celebrity. So, I guess the challenge will be how to make RAP sexy, cool and hip.”

A Tapsell on her mother’s side, Karen is of Ngāti Whakaue (Te Arawa) descent. Her marae of Whakaue sits near the shore of Maketū beach in the Bay of Plenty. She also has links to the northern tribes of Ngāti Whātua and Ngāpuhi.

Taking up the RAP job in Wellington has meant her whānau has had to relocate from Kaipara in Northland to their new home in Masterton. Commuting to Wellington four days a week has its challenges when organising her four children Anahere (8), Hari (7), Merekara (6) and

Kaipara (2). But it’s all made much easier because her husband Rāwiri teaches at the local high school.

To fill her spare time and to exercise her creative side, Karen and Rawiri also have a small textile and design company Pohutukawa Red.

Karen is excited about moving the RAP project from the three local sites, to a national level. She considers her answer thoughtfully when asked what she hopes to have achieved at the end of her time.

“I would like to see that RAP has become an integral part of youth work and that the project has evolved to become a foundation for further building of effective, non-violence strategies for youth. On top of that, I would like to achieve a pathway for growing further projects based on the success of RAP. There’s so much potential.”



Karen with Anahere (rear) Merekara and Hari.

Enhancing safety in the House

12 politicians spoke to the first reading of the Domestic Violence (Enhancing Safety) Bill, which was introduced into the House just before Christmas. The bill is with the Justice and Electoral Select Committee, who recently heard submissions on it. The Committee is due to report back to the House soon. The following are excerpts from the MPs speeches as recorded in Hansard, the official record of Parliament.



Hon Simon Power
Minister of Justice

We cannot legislate away behaviour that is clearly the product of broader social attitudes that, we hope, will shift – but only over time. But the way agencies respond to family violence can save lives and reduce the impact on victims. This bill is the criminal justice response to some of those issues. It is predicated on the belief that we can still do more to strengthen the response from the criminal justice authorities to protect victims of family violence and to stop them from becoming another statistic.

Hon Lianne Dalziel
Labour – Christchurch East

I remember visiting the Hamilton Abuse Intervention Pilot Project, as it then was, and being impressed with the approach it had adopted – being built as it was on collaboration and a shared understanding of the nature of power and control against Government and non-government agencies alike. I remember returning there in 2005, and finding that the over-arching violence intervention project was struggling to make ends meet, and that one of the most critical components of the Hamilton Abuse Intervention Pilot Project – the court advocates who appeared for the victims of domestic violence – had disappeared with its pilot status in the late 1990s and no one could tell me why. I could not even find an evaluation of the pilot project, which meant that the real lessons were never passed on, and despite the successful results the project could identify it was still not universally rolled out around the country to every place that needed it.

“
the real lessons were
never passed on”

Hon Dr Richard Worth
Minister of Internal Affairs

What a powerful general policy statement it is in the explanatory note to this legislation that states in these short sentences: “For a significant number of victims of violence, the most dangerous place they can be in is their own home. In 2007/2008 family violence accounted for approximately 39% of homicides, 42% of kidnappings and abductions, 44% of grievous assaults, and 64% of serious assaults.”

I have had the opportunity on a number of occasions to travel with police at night. Almost without exception... we have come across worrying incidents of domestic violence that have imposed considerable difficulties in the context of the police having to deal with those issues. The police are called to about 80,000 domestic violence cases a year. They currently do not have a lot of scope to deal with potentially dangerous situations, beyond advising families to leave the home themselves and to seek help from family or Women’s Refuge.

Lynne Pillay
Labour

I also comment on where this bill is sadly lacking: on the definition of “child”... Simply changing the definition of a child from “under the age of 17 years” to “under the age of 18 years”, which lines up with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, would give so much more protection to minors: it would mean that they could apply for protection orders in their own right. It is very sad that that has not been addressed. ...Also missing is the empowerment of the court to

make interim care or contact orders to protect the welfare and best interests of the child where an applicant with a child applies for a protection order... Also missing is the power to direct attendance of an addiction treatment programme. The bill does not include an amendment to the Care of Children Act to extend the definition of "violence" in section 58 to include psychological abuse.

Sue Kedgley
Green

So in supporting this aspect of the bill, we believe that certain safeguards need to be put in place. The police need more and better training in dealing with domestic violence, victims deserve to be put in touch with advocates immediately and in every such situation, and groups that provide those advocates, like Women's Refuge, need to be funded adequately to cope with the workload professionally, as well... There is an urgent need to lower the costs of obtaining protection orders. It is all very well for the police to grant an order for five days, but victims still have to find a way to fund getting a further order after that if they need one. More training is needed for all involved in implementing the laws around domestic violence – not only the police but also lawyers, counsel for children, and judges. Victims of violence should be eligible to receive free counselling and more support beyond what is available through the Accident Compensation Corporation.

“
More training is needed for all involved
”

David Garrett
ACT

The domestic violence I witnessed as a child was perpetrated exclusively by my mother. My sad, wimpy father took it and never retaliated, and of course in those days he did not call the police, either. I think it is quite important to realise and acknowledge that this problem is not limited exclusively to men on women. Men suffer from it as well. I was also interested to hear references from members opposite to psychological violence..... I think the standard of proof and evidence required in such cases needs to be looked at more closely as well, both for police orders and for protection orders generally. I am not saying for a moment that I would wish to reduce or blunt the protection offered to women, but it is not a one-sided picture, as the figure of one in four for women and one in five for men that I mentioned earlier bears out.

Hone Harawira
Māori Party – Te Tai Tokerau

Over the last 40 years we have accepted the need for fireworks safety, for seatbelts in cars, and for helmets for cyclists; we can hardly do less for whānau. We need to set standards of safety for whānau, to emphasise child protection, and to sign up to legislation that treats domestic violence as the serious and criminal breach of human rights that it is. People tell us that things could be done better if only the existing framework was implemented properly, particularly in areas like having comprehensive training for everyone working in the sector, including judges, lawyers, court staff, and police; better resourcing

for advocacy services; and better collaboration between courts and family violence networks. One factor that keeps coming up in all of the suggestions we are getting is the call from people like Parekōtuku Moore of the National Network of Stopping Violence Services, which is to speak out against violence, to not allow the issue to be hidden behind closed doors, and to denounce domestic violence in all its forms.

Hon Pansy Wong
Minister of Women's Affairs

My first activity after becoming Minister of Women's Affairs was to hand out white ribbons at 7a.m. at Wellington railway station. I am pleased to say that on that day half a million white ribbons were handed out. The Ministry of Women's Affairs is charged with providing the Government with policy that leads to the well-being of women. One of the major barriers and obstacles to their well-being is violence inflicted on them... every 26 days a woman dies at the hand of her partner or former partner. Of course, countless others are injured or scared every single day. That simply is not good enough, and it simply has to stop. The other issue is that the Ministry of Women's Affairs, when examining this legislation, wanted to flag that the issuing of a protection order should never be a substitute for the police arresting perpetrators. It is not a substitution.

“
That simply is not good enough, and it simply has to stop.
”

Enhancing safety in the House (cont'd)

“If we do not focus on the very real outcomes of domestic violence, then we will get the wrong solutions to the wrong problem”

Sue Moroney

Labour

The best that any of the naysayers in our society can do in respect of domestic violence is to somehow diminish it by not accepting there is a gender imbalance in this equation. That, I think, is as close as naysayers will get to not acknowledging the real issue that exists. Yes, although there are men who are affected by domestic violence, overwhelmingly those who suffer are women – women and children, in fact. If we do not acknowledge that, then we will set out down a pathway that does not address the worst of the problem facing this country. ... If we do not focus on the very real outcomes of domestic violence, then we will get the wrong solutions to the wrong problem.

Chester Borrows

National – Whanganui

... there need to be initiatives across pieces of legislation to enhance the ability of the victims, principally women, of domestic violence to be safe. One of the sad things that has occurred, for instance, with the Legal Services Agency provision of legal aid to those in dire need, is that there is less and less of it available because the fees have never been increased... For example, in a recent case a woman on the West Coast of the South Island was unable to have representation through legal aid, because no one was prepared to work for her. One of the things we need to look at, at some stage, will be the availability of legal aid for those people who would be seeking replacement protection orders for what has been a short-term protection order given by the police.

Dr Rajen Prasad

Labour

I want to also reflect on the election campaign we have just had and the way in which, during that campaign, we politicised this question as well, almost beyond belief – even in the way we looked at the violence statistics that were coming out. We kept saying time and time again: “Look at what explains the largest increase in family violence – the 19% increase in family violence offences in the June 2008 year.” Much of that was because of the work we had been doing as a society through the “It’s not OK” campaign and how that came through. Yet we did not have an honest discussion about that. I think the figures were deliberately misinterpreted and the suggestion that crime was rocketing in South Auckland, and that South Auckland was a no-go area, was pushed...I hope we remember the way we had that discussion and debate during the campaign. It was not helpful when it comes down to trying to find real solutions to what is an awful problem.

Simon Bridges

National – Tauranga

We have had police advertising campaigns and the like over quite a period now. Certainly they are praiseworthy and have been positive, but going by that figure of 80,000 incidents, we can also say that those campaigns have substantially failed to reduce domestic violence. I cast no blame on anyone at all for this, but the State’s response has been inadequate. This bill is part of an approach from the State, from the Government, and from all parties to strengthen the provisions and the law in relation to domestic violence and get that terrible statistic – as I say, it is mind-blowing – of 80,000 incidents in this country down and to deal with the issues of this country.



They went to South Africa to present workshops on disability and domestic violence and a Speak-Out on the oppression of disabled women, and ended up on a protest march through Cape Town.

Some of the disabled women delegates and their caregivers at AWID 2008.

The power of movements

It was all part of the journey for New Zealand delegates Wendi Wicks, Lorri Mackness and Rongomaiwahine Higgins who represented the Disabled Coalition against Abuse and Violence (DCAV) at the 2008 International forum of AWID (the Association for Women's Rights in Development).

The forum brings together women's rights leaders and activists from around the world every two to three years to strategize, network, celebrate, and learn in an atmosphere that fosters deep discussions and sustained personal and professional growth. Wendi Wicks said the forum late last year saw more than 2000 women from 120 countries in Cape Town to discuss the theme "The Power of Movements".

"The forum message was that when people struggle together, what was once unimaginable suddenly becomes possible. It was so appropriate for our workshop, which looked at "Disability, Violence and Coalition: Seeing the gaps and joining forces to act."

Beating out a thousand other proposals to be chosen to do two presentations, the New Zealand contingent covered the process of establishing DCAV. The aim of DCAV is to increase disability equality in the domestic violence sector arena and also to increase domestic violence awareness in the disability sector. Wendi Wicks says we hope people learn to be allies to the most marginalised group in the world.

"We are an organisation of disabled people, not for disabled people. One of the ingrained attitudes that has to change is that disabled people need to be taken care of. Too often non-

disabled people come up with the answers for us, and yet sometimes the people that beat us up are our caregivers."

The second presentation was a panel to provide an insight into the experiences and oppression of disabled women. Lorri Mackness says they invited women from the floor to take part in a "Speak-Out", an invitation accepted by delegates from India and England.

Wendi and Lorri were particularly impressed by the way the forum catered for physically disabled participants. At registration, women were specifically asking us about our needs. Those in wheelchairs were assigned our own caregivers. Wendi agreed it was a good start and the next step is to teach them how to support disabled women with sensory impairments.

Wendi, Lorri and Rongomai were three of 16 disabled women from more than 10 different countries, who caucused on the last day of the Forum.

The first Disabled Women's AWID Advisory Committee was created that afternoon. Nigeria and Aotearoa New Zealand are the representatives for the Committee. The Committee intends to make sure disabled women have a much bigger presence in future AWID Forums.

Lorri said delegates were also asked if they would take part in a protest march, through Cape Town.

More than 1,000 women marched, carrying the message "Stop Making War on Women's Bodies".

"The march highlighted the ongoing abuse of women leaders in Zimbabwe. We went to support the local women who were demanding an end to state-sponsored violence aimed at silencing women human rights defenders," says Lorri.

Mackness said she returned from the AWID forum with a sense of vibrancy and strength and an awareness that feminism is very much alive and active around the world.



Wendi (in the hat) and Lorri and Rongomai (in the shades) marched with other AWID delegates and local women through Cape Town.



Garth Baker

The very effective “It’s Not OK” campaign has thrust domestic violence into the limelight. Research shows there was an 89% recall of the advertisements and their messages. Nearly one in five people say they’ve taken action as a result of the advertisements.

What’s OK?

But Garth Baker contends the social marketing campaign is promoting the negative and failing to tell men what we want them to do. It’s not OK!

Baker’s interest in this field grew as part of his work as the former manager of the RAP Whakamana Tangata project. He says men are the target audience for many social marketing campaigns promoting healthy behaviour.

An obvious example is the “It’s Not OK” campaign. Initially, the television, radio and print advertisements identified behaviour that was not OK. This was to identify violent behaviour and to emphasise their unacceptability. The messages were unequivocal.

Now into its second phase, the campaign focuses on positive stories of change with a call for action for violent perpetrators to contact a hotline or website. To challenge these individuals and to prompt them into action, the website and accompanying resources are called Are You OK?

The campaign’s highly visible public messages are about what is not OK and poses the question of whether men are ok. The campaign doesn’t identify, discuss or promote what is actually OK. Why?

The examples of what is “not OK” tend to be more graphic, so easier to use in

a campaign. The words that describe ‘not ok’ actions are more emotionally engaging and more specific. In comparison, the “OK behaviour” is fuzzy, in both a soft, attractive, endearing way and in the sense of being vague and unspecific.

Our ongoing challenge is to precisely identify and effectively communicate what we actually want men to do.

We need to vigorously promote the specific alternative positive behaviours.

Generally, men are concrete thinkers and are task-orientated so learn by doing. We tend to define ourselves by our actions. Using specific, concrete language and demonstrating the action and its benefits will be more effective than talking generally.

Social and health services are, almost by definition, problem focused and are typically funded to stop something bad happening. The funding for the primary prevention “It’s Not OK” campaign is small compared to the government funding for intervention or tertiary services once violence has happened.

Media stories also give great coverage to bad news and highlight extreme cases of bad male behaviour. Yet the majority of men

behave how we want them to most of the time.

Our social norms are still essentially decent, healthy and life-affirming. Publicising this would encourage non-conforming individuals back into the fold. It would also promote the “OK” majority to do what we want even more. We can never have too much health, wellbeing, happiness and respect.

Strategies to move from knowing the negatives to talking the positives

- Identify what specific behaviour we want (instead of the behaviour we don’t want). Describe with words that make them real, strong and part of popular culture.
- Accentuate the positives with as much emphasis as we give the negatives.
- Tackle the solution instead of the problem.
- Continually specify and demonstrate what we want men to do. Spell it out.
- Draw attention to the prevalence of the OK behaviour we want. The fact that most men do the right thing most of the time is invisible. Making it visible will accelerate social change.

“Generally, men are concrete thinkers and are task-orientated so learn by doing. We tend to define ourselves by our actions.”



It was a convoy!



Supporters lined the roads.



Hitting the road so we don't hit our women

The whole country heard about the rumble through Northland on White Ribbon Day 2008! That was thanks to the 200 plus motorcycle and classic car enthusiasts who took to the roads with their message of stopping violence against women.

Aboard their Harleys, hotrods and modified Japanese cars, riders wore black t-shirts with the slogans 'Whakamana wahine – respect women' or 'Man, mana manaakitanga,' reinforcing the message of the convoy. Organiser Phil Paikea says their passion for the road is matched by a shared passion for safe families.

"The ride was an opportunity to represent our opposition to violence in our homes and to challenge each other to end violence against women and children. There's nothing soft about choosing to change or seek help."

The ride also made great material for national television and newspapers, who ran pictures and stories of the convoy on its journey from Ruakaka, to Whāngarei and Kawakawa. Yet the back blocks were not forgotten. The convoy also left the main highway and hit the dirt roads to Moerewa, on the way to Kaikohe, then Dargaville, before heading back to Ruakaka via Ruawai.

Communities at stop-off points along the way organised activities like cultural performances, waiata and breakdancing. People hung from fences and tractors as the convoy passed by. In some places, the convoy was bigger than the population of the township they visited and many locals were overwhelmed by the number of riders who had travelled long distances in support of eliminating violence. The riders also dropped off food donations at refuges en route.

For Parekōtuku Moore, from the National Network of Stopping Violence Services, the Coast to Coast Run took the serious message of non-violence to the Northland communities, in a very fun and visible way. She says domestic violence thrives in silence so it's critical that the issue is not kept behind closed doors.

"Talk it up. Recent cases like those of Nia Glassey and Jyniah Te Awa may have had different results if whānau or friends had have spoken out or talked with those involved earlier. It may be hard or uncomfortable to start with but in the end it could save the life of your sister, or your niece, your daughter or your mother."

Organizers were blown away by the interest in the 2008 run and Phil Paikea says planning started almost immediately for 2009. "We can see this is a way to mobilize men – the good guys do outnumber the bad guys and we saw that on White Ribbon day."

In the know about White Ribbon Day

Research shows awareness of White Ribbon Day – November 25 – has grown stronger over the past year.

A Research NZ survey carried out in December 2008 showed 54% of respondents recalled the 2008 White Ribbon Day. This was a significant increase on the results of a similar survey carried out in December 2007.

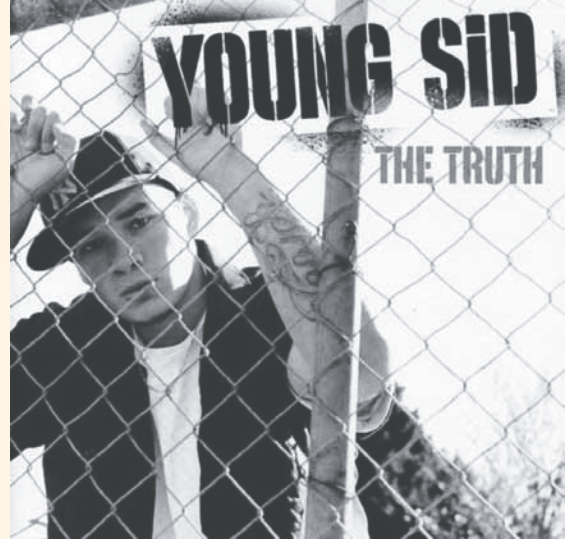
Of those who recalled the 2008 White Ribbon Day, 42% knew

that it was about not being violent towards women. The survey showed that younger respondents had a higher awareness of the purpose of White Ribbon Day. Just over half (55%) of those aged 15-29 who were aware of the Day, knew that it was about not being violent towards women compared to 28% of those aged 50-59.

For the first time, the 2008 survey asked if respondents had worn a

white ribbon. Almost one in five (17%) of those who were aware of White Ribbon Day said they had worn a white ribbon. Those aged under 60 were more likely to have worn a white ribbon. 26% of 15-29 years of age, compared to 18% of 30-39 year olds and 20% of 40-59 year olds. In contrast only seven% of those aged 60 years or older, said they had worn a white ribbon.

Carlos came into my work. He was excited about a new CD he had heard – “The Truth” from an up and coming New Zealand rap artist named Young Sid. He played me a couple of tracks and I couldn’t help but see Carlos’ enthusiasm. He’d had the album for only a week and had memorised damn near the whole album.



Young Sid – The Truth (Warning: Explicit Lyrics)

Inspired by The Truth

I’d never really listened to Young Sid but I figured he was one of those American gangster cliché type rappers. Outside of my youth work, I am a nightclub DJ and I’d seen many New Zealand gangster rap artists come and go.

Fast forward a few months, as fate would have it, I was invited on a trip to Dunedin, as a support act for, who else, Young Sid. On the five hour journey, we talked. I wanted to ask about a whole range of things – mainly his credentials of hardship and understanding of what’s happening in the poorer communities. I grew up in “The Hood” areas of Christchurch. Both my parents were committed to fixing “the ills of society”, which in turn led me to my current job with NNSVS member agency, Te Puna Oranga.

To cut a long story short, the answer was a massive YES. Young Sid convinced me that he truly understands what is happening out there for people in the struggle of poverty. The best thing is that he can articulate the struggle in a language that young people can understand, hip-hop.

In my youth work, I see young people going through the issues he spoke of. Young Sid admitted that he’d actually thought of becoming a youth worker. He said when he was younger, a youth worker went out of his way to put him on the right path and he

wanted to be able to do that for his community. It really made me stop and think about my relationships with the young people I work with and the impact I can have on their lives.

Later at home, I listened carefully to each track on “The Truth” – line by line – at least 10 times. I began to understand why Carlos had been able to relate to the music. Carlos is your average brown kid statistic, in and out of trouble, always sporting gang colours, dropped out of school early and his background was not exactly the picture perfect upbringing. I realised that Carlos was identifying Sid as somebody out there telling his story to the world. On the internet I watched and read old interviews of Sid. The same themes and rawness was always there. I just never really bothered to pay attention.

I have found that a lot of media interviewing and documenting failed to totally understand Sid and the message he was putting out there either. In my own frustration I have put this story together to give the view of somebody that is neither part of the media or government or music industry but a 27 year old Christchurch-born Polynesian youth worker whose eyes have been opened wider to a real problem right across New Zealand. Young Sid is truly inspirational, taking it on himself to present his own solutions, in turn giving hope to other young people.

By youth worker
Daniel Mātaki

As a youth worker I strongly recommend you either listen to this CD or get hold of a copy for any young people you work with that may fit this demographic as, in my view, it is an invaluable resource.

“
Young Sid is truly inspirational, taking it on himself to present his own solutions, in turn giving hope to other young people.”

Young Sid along with Deach and Tyre make up the hit group Smashproof. Hailing from South Auckland, the trio made New Zealand music history recently with ‘Brother’ a song about the killing of a 15 year old tagger in Ōtara. Brother, which features Gin Wigmore, spent 10 consecutive weeks at number one on the New Zealand Singles chart, the longest run ever by a local act.

Young Sid’s debut album The Truth was nominated for Best Urban Release at the 2008 New Zealand Music Awards and gained him a Waiata Māori award for Best Urban album.

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National Network of Stopping Violence

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