

Integrated Safety Response to Family Violence

STEPPING UP TO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE FOR FAMILIES

WHY WE'RE HERE

HE AHA TĀTOU I TŪAI HEI RŌPŪ

We work collaboratively to make a difference for families and whānau experiencing family violence by:

- **Integrating** services (both government and NGO)
- Ensuring immediate **safety**
- Providing a collective **response** to ensure families are safe and receive the services they need to prevent further harm



In 2017 Police responded to 121,733 Family Harm Investigations.



Around 12% of New Zealanders (over half a million people) are directly affected by family violence each year.



On average, 27 people are killed by a family member each year.

Our goals are to **reduce:**

- family violence
- serious harm
- reoffending and revictimisation



WHAT WE DO

HE AHA A TĀTOU MAHI

Whānau-centred

We put families and whānau at the centre and respond to the needs of victims, children and perpetrators.

- Listen to the victim's voice.
- Create a Family Safety Plan based on risks and needs.
- Acknowledge and respect diversity.
- Ask questions, offer options and respect choices.
- Provide joined up or sequenced visits.

Information-based

Improving the collective understanding of family violence relies on timely and accurate information sharing that respects the privacy and dignity of all.

- Share relevant information with each other.
- Use a shared case management system.
- Connect with others so we work as one team collaboratively.

Risk-focused

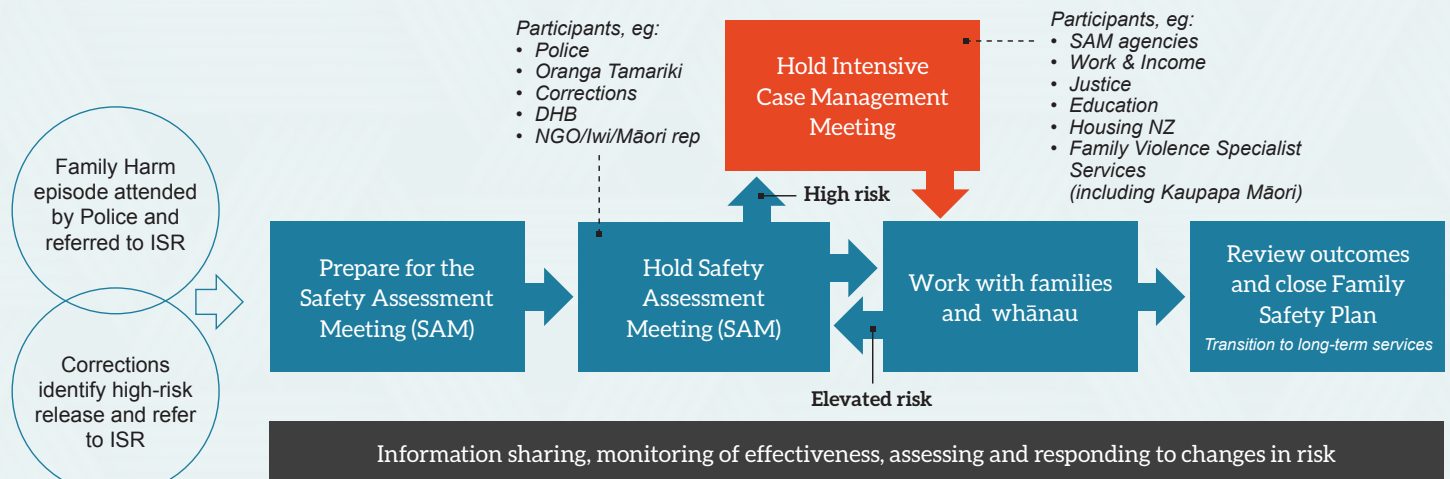
We continually review information and assess risk. The safety and well-being of victims and tamariki is always paramount, and perpetrators are held to account.

Our risk assessment guides our response to make families safe. It is based on:

- the **level of concern** of safety – the likelihood of another episode
- the **potential for injury** to occur – the level and type of harm.

HOW WE DO IT

HE PEHEA E MAHIA AI E TĀTOU



WHAT WE'RE HEARING – TWO CASE STUDIES

Kaupapa Māori Service supports young man to turn his life around

Situation: J is a 16-year-old – the eldest of five children living with his mum and stepfather. A referral was made to a provider for J as he assaulted a young woman he took home after a course. He was attempting to force her with unwanted sexual contact, kicking her and holding her against her will. Prior to this incident he also had 10 other physical assaults on a younger sibling, and assault on a dairy owner after stealing food from his shop.

Collaborative response

Initially he denied any of the assaults. Of concern was his relationship with his stepfather, as both would get into verbal arguments. J stated his stepfather would find fault with him and the arguments between them would often escalate.

The stepfather had lost his license through drink driving, which affected his ability to work.

The family was under financial strain.

Mum has a strong connection with her son. However, she was feeling isolated as her whānau live up north.

A male worker worked with J and the whānau individually and then together.

As a result of this, J has taken full responsibility for all the assaults. He wrote an apology letter to the young woman he assaulted, and to the dairy owner. J completed supervised community hours with a mentor.

J is working one-on-one with a specialist male counsellor, which has helped him address his behaviour and the past trauma of the violence he witnessed with his biological father. Working through the relationship with his mum, siblings and stepfather has reduced the tensions at home. He has not physically harmed anyone in the house, or public for 3 months.

Mum attends support groups and is planning to return to study next year. She has reconnected with women from her iwi.

J is now in full-time employment and is enrolled to complete his learner's license. J is also attending a youth at risk violence programme for Māori youth and boys. The Judge, Youth Justice coordinators and lawyers were impressed with J's change in behaviour.

Independent Victim Specialist (IVS) supports victim to break from her violent relationship and address health issues

Situation: This young couple have an extensive history including: controlling and coercive behaviour, repeat harm including with weapons and threats to kill, mental health issues for the victim, history of drug use for both, both suicidal. The aggressor has a history of drug use, criminal activity and repeat family harm offending.

Collaborative response

The case was high risk – imminent risk of harm identified, refusal to engage with non-government specialists, evasion of Police, and aggressor not allowing the victim access to specialists, family or friends. For two months multiple agencies attempted to engage both but with no success.

IVS developed a good relationship with the victim's parents. Through this and ongoing efforts to engage the victim, the IVS became the main contact and the catalyst for change.

The victim is now engaged, calling daily now as opposed to the IVS calling her. She recently had a Warrant to Arrest, which she discussed with the IVS and subsequently contacted Corrections. She is currently working with Corrections and engaged in programmes. She has sought medical assistance and mental health support. She is engaged with AoD services and will attend the methadone programme. She is clean of drugs (which has not happened since she was 15). Her parents have welcomed her back into the home. She says the relationship is over and has broken contact with the aggressor. **With her whānau and ISR she has a team to support her out of the cycle of violence.**

The aggressor was located, charged, prosecuted, served a prison sentence, released and continued to reoffend. He is now on active charges again with multiple bail conditions including a 24 hours curfew and non-association orders.

HOW WE'RE GOING

Findings from the Independent Evaluation after first year of operation of the ISR pilot were promising

“Adult victims and children are better protected, perpetrators are better supported to stop their violent behaviour, and families and whānau are supported to live in non-violent homes. Analysis of Police reports of family harm episodes found that two-thirds of ‘predominant aggressors’ had no further reported family harm episodes or subsequent episodes were less frequent and/or less serious than those in the six months before contact with ISR. Recommendations for improvement were also made.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



“I don't see how we can go back to the old way, truly. I don't know how to say in any other way simply as a person within the sector, why would we not be pursuing this?”

CONCLUDING COMMENT BY THE NGO IN THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY