



The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention

Responding, healing, strengthening

August Pānui

27 August 2025

Contents

- [Introduction from Hon Karen Chhour](#)
 - [Introduction from Chief Executive Emma Powell](#)
 - [Te Pūkotahitanga – Their Work](#)
 - [MSD Review of Community-Based Services – Two Days Left](#)
 - [Whaikaha Public Consultation – NZ Disability Strategy](#)
 - [2025 Family Violence and Sexual Violence Workforce Pulse Survey](#)
 - [Expanded Access to Safety Programmes in the Criminal Court](#)
 - [Whaimana – Support My Decisions](#)
 - [Netsafe ‘Headspace Invaders’ launch](#)
 - [The Shine Education and Training Team](#)
 - [Decult – Cult Definitions](#)
 - [Feelings Club – short film series about mental health, friendship, and truth](#)
 - [New pathway to ACC’s Sensitive Clams Service to launch in September](#)
-

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



Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to the August Pānui providing you with highlights and updates on the implementation of Te Aorerekura – the National Strategy for the Elimination of Family



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Responding, healing, strengthening

Violence and Sexual Violence across the work of government, providers, and communities.

Steady progress has been made to deliver the second Action Plan, particularly in the areas of Investing and Commissioning Well, Keeping People Safe, and Stopping Violence. Updates on this work are below, and we will continue to keep you in the loop.

Last Pānui I spoke about the change of name for **Te Puna Aonui**. The Business Unit went through a short process to decide on a new name and test it with key stakeholders. Chief Executive Emma Powell announces the name below.

I recently **visited the Canterbury Integrated Safety Response (ISR) to family violence with the Prime Minister**. This was an excellent opportunity to demonstrate how well agencies and community groups can work together to deliver positive outcomes with people affected by family violence. Strengthening multi-agency responses to family violence is a key focus of the Action Plan and the Prime Minister was impressed by what he saw.

I also visited the team working on the Rotorua multi-agency response to learn more about their work.



Minister Chhour with the Rotorua multi-agency response team for the prevention of family violence



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Earlier this month I had a walkthrough of progress on Project Whetū, which is aiming to create a national model to lead and govern multi-agency responses to family violence, enabled by a case management and information sharing platform. This intends to support workers to manage family cases safely and collaboratively, and to improve outcomes. I am excited about its potential to ensure people are better supported to get to safety.

As I said on the day, “if the foundation isn’t right, the whole house falls down”. Whetū should support workers in their decision making and ensure the needs of victim-survivors are central.



Minister Chhour at the Project Whetū walkthrough, led by Project Director Gabrielle O'Connor.

I am pleased to announce that the **2025 Family Violence and Sexual Violence Workforce survey is now live** – see details below for more information, and the link. The data collected through the survey helps government understand who is in the workforce, training levels and the outcomes sought through the National Strategy. The data is reported in the Outcomes and Measurement Framework and will help inform approaches to training and investment in workforces.



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As always, please reach out to my office if you or your organisation would like to request a meeting with me – in-person, or online. Wishing all the best to kaimahi/ workers across the system who work to improve the safety and wellbeing of people affected by violence.

Ngā mihi nui,

Hon Karen Chhour

Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence

Introduction from Chief Executive Emma Powell



Hello everyone, and welcome to our August Pānui. I have been overseeing the release of these newsletters for years, and it is good to be able to address you all personally. I lead the team which is accountable to the Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence and the Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence (the IEB).

Regardless of our name, our work has remained the same – Te Aorerekura has continued to guide us and our actions since its launch in December 2021.

The name that we have chosen after consultation with community partners and discussion internally, is **'the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention'**. We will



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Responding, healing, strengthening

go by 'the Centre' for short.

As you know, we work to align government strategy, policy, and investment to address family violence and sexual violence, by helping coordinate government action through Te Aorerekura. We champion and strengthen the collective approach of government, tangata whenua, communities, and whānau.

Our logo tells the story of our work - whānau and communities are at the centre (the koru), surrounded by the light that comes as we improve the system. That light is generated through collaboration, innovation and learning to deliver responses that heal and strengthen families, whānau, and communities. He korowai manaaki wraps around the system. The three lines at either end of the korowai represent responding, healing, and strengthening, and collaboration, innovation, and learning.

In summary, our tohu includes:

- the concept that the Board and the Centre provide a cloak of protection around the system,
- whānau, families and communities at the centre,
- the tokotoru model – responding, healing, strengthening, and
- collaboration, innovation, and learning.

I hope you continue to enjoy these bimonthly Pānui updates. Please reach out with your stories and ideas for content as we all work together to create a nation where we can thrive free from violence.

Ngā mihi nui,

Emma Powell

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



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Te Pūkotahitanga – Their Work

[Te Pūkotahitanga have released their final report](#). The report captures the key insights, achievements, and reflections from their three-year term supporting the implementation of Te Aorerekura: The National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence. It outlines progress made, challenges encountered, and critical recommendations to guide future action by government, iwi, hapū, whānau and communities.

During their tenure, Te Pūkotahitanga also commissioned work from [He Whare Wāhine - Te Rau Ora](#) as part of a Workforce Development Project for kaimahi Māori in the family violence and sexual violence workforce.

Their report, [Whakapakari Kaimahi Māori: mō te oranga me te hiranga \(2025\)](#), informs a workforce plan and strategy that ensures the sector is equipped to support whānau and communities effectively and sustainably.

Key themes include:

- Workforce resilience and development
- System improvements
- The role of hapū and iwi
- Indigenous models of care and practice
- The strategic necessity of kaupapa and mātauranga Māori.

Other highlights from Te Pūkotahitanga's term also include the publication of [Violence within whānau and mahi tūkinō – A litany of sound revisited \(2023\)](#). The comprehensive literature review by Te Pūkotahitanga member Professor Denise Wilson (Tainui, Ngāti Porou ki Harataunga, Whakatōhea, Ngāti Oneone, Ngāti Tūwharetoa), collates decades of contemporary mātauranga from Māori researchers.

You can find the full list here: [resources developed by Te Pūkotahitanga](#).



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MSD Review of Community-Based Services – Two Days Left

The Ministry of Social Development is leading a review of community-based services for people using violence.

This work will identify what's effective at stopping people's use of violence, when's best to intervene and what other resources and supports are needed to help people change their behaviour. The work involves MSD, Ministry of Justice, Oranga Tamariki, Corrections, and the NZ Police, and forms part of the delivery of Te Aorerekura Action Plan (2025-2030).

The programmes that are included in the review are:

- Non-violence programmes (NVP) – Corrections and Justice
- Te Huringa o Te Ao – MSD
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour services (HSB) – Corrections, MSD, and Oranga Tamariki
- Concerning Sexual Ideation services (CSI) – MSD
- Police Safety Order (PSO) Wraparound Housing – MSD
- Family Violence Services for Self-Referred Children and Young People Using Violence – Oranga Tamariki
- Digital/Helpline products to support users of violence through Change is Possible – MSD

MSD is seeking feedback on the current state of interventions for people using violence and what a future state should look like.

If you want to share your view, you can complete [the survey here](#) (closing 29 August).

What you need to know

- Completing the survey is voluntary and can be completed anonymously. You can also choose which questions you would like to respond to within the survey.



The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention

Responding, healing, strengthening

- There are open text fields in the survey for you to tell us about your experiences and provide feedback in your own words. Just don't enter any personal details here, such as your name, if you want to keep it anonymous.
- We will ensure that it is not possible to identify any individuals or organisations in our analysis and reporting.
- Your information is safe with us. All the collected information is safely stored within MSD and can only be accessed by authorised members of the team.
- Once the data collection is completed and the insights have been produced and presented, individual responses will be deleted from our data storage.
- If you have any concerns or questions about this survey, please contact family_violence_CPP@msd.govt.nz.

The Review is expected to be completed by the end of this year and MSD will communicate the results in early 2026.

The review builds on what we learned through the [2024 Gaps Report](#).

Whaikaha Public Consultation – NZ Disability Strategy

“Be watchful, be alert. Rise up, come forward, be counted, be alert. A call going out to the world, to the disabled world. We welcome your chiefly thoughts to this important discussion. We welcome all.”

Public consultation is now live on the draft NZ Disability Strategy. Consultation runs until 28 September.

The strategy gives direction to government agencies on issues disabled people, tāngata whaikaha Māori and whānau say are important. It shows where change is needed so disabled people can lead, thrive, and take part fully in their communities.



The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention

Responding, healing, strengthening

By having a vision for the future and clear actions for the Government to take, the strategy is also important to how New Zealand gives effect to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Link to consultation and further information: [Refresh of the New Zealand Disability Strategy | Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled People](#)

Minister Press Release: [Consultation on refreshed Disability Strategy | Beehive.govt.nz](#)

2025 Family Violence and Sexual Violence Workforce Pulse Survey

The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention (previously known as Te Puna Aonui) is requesting responses to the 2025 FVSV Workforce Pulse Survey, to better understand Aotearoa New Zealand's family violence and sexual violence workforces.

This short survey gathers information that helps us report on progress towards the moemoeā (vision) of Te Aorerekura – The National Strategy for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence.

This year's survey is shorter than in 2024. We have focused on questions that will help us measure progress towards outcomes relating to the Action Plan.

The Survey will be open until 8 October 2025.

Link to Survey: <https://consultations.justice.govt.nz/centre-for-family-violence-and-sexual-violence-prevention/0b562891/>

The findings will be reported and published online early 2026 as part of the Outcomes and Measurement Framework and will be shared in the Pānui.

Who should participate?



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People whose paid or unpaid work supports those impacted by family violence and / or sexual violence - through stopping violence before it has happened, or responding after violence has happened.

This includes managing or supporting staff, working directly with people, whānau, families, and communities, working in a prevention role, or in a support role (e.g. policy, research, or administration).

Survey content:

The survey asks some screening questions before focusing on questions related to respondents' knowledge and skills, and relationships in the sector.

This survey will only take 5 to 10 minutes to complete.

Why should I participate?

This is an opportunity for you to share your views on the system and use your voice to shape decision-making in the future. Through understanding how those working in the system are supported to work responsively, safely, and effectively, we can measure our progress in strengthening these workforces. This accountability ensures that our efforts align with our moemoeā (vision), directing resources where they are most needed.

Te Aorerekura: This is the 25-year strategy designed to eliminate family violence and sexual violence in Aotearoa New Zealand. More information here: [Te-Aorerekura-National-Strategy-final.pdf](#)

Voluntary and confidential: Participation in this survey is entirely voluntary. Your responses will remain confidential, and no attribution will be made to individual participants.

The survey responses will be securely stored by the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention.

Thank you for helping us better understand your work, and how we can best implement Te Aorerekura.



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Expanded Access to Safety Programmes in the Criminal Court

The Ministry of Justice has expanded access to Safety Programmes in three phases since 1 January 2024.

Phase 1 made safety programmes available to people who had applied for a protection order but whose application had not yet been granted.

Phase 2 extended access to applicants who withdrew or discontinued their application, as well as to those who applied for an on-notice protection order.

Phase 3 launched on 1 July 2025, expanded the initiative into the Criminal Court, initially at selected courts in the Auckland region, extending eligibility to victims involved in criminal family violence proceedings.

Under the expanded model, eligible victims are now offered access to safety programmes as part of their engagement with the Criminal Court process. These programmes provide tailored information and support to help victims understand the dynamics of family violence, improve their safety planning, and connect them with wider community resources. The aim is to reduce barriers to access and ensure that victims have consistent opportunities for support, regardless of the pathway their case follows through the justice system.

Since 1 January 2024, approximately 900 victims have accepted a referral for a safety programme under the expansion. This staged approach reflects our ongoing commitment to embedding victim safety and support throughout the justice process, not only in the Family Court.

Initial feedback from court staff and service providers has been positive, with stakeholders noting that this is an important step in bridging the gap between the criminal and family



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jurisdictions in responding to family violence. Providers have welcomed the opportunity to support victims earlier and more consistently.

Whaimana – Support My Decisions

[Whaimana – Support My Decisions](#) is a new resource developed by Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People to strengthen supported-decision making.

This website is designed for disabled people and tāngata whaikaha Māori, their whanau, and those who support them – including service providers, advocates, and legal representatives. It provides practical guidance and tools to help people understand what supported decision-making is, why it matters, and how it can be applied in everyday life.

Co-designed with an advisory group that includes disabled people, the site reflects a commitment to upholding the rights and mana of people to make their own decision, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

See the website here: www.supportmydecisions.co.nz

Read more information here: [New resource a go-to for supported decision-making | Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled People](#)

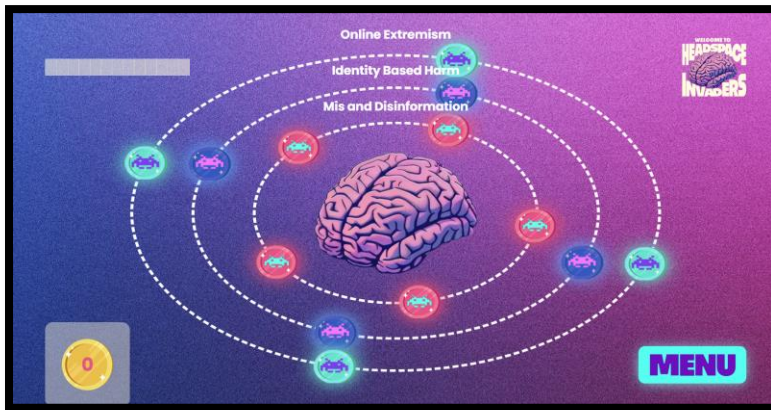
Netsafe ‘Headspace Invaders’ launch

[Headspace Invaders](#) is an interactive platform developed by Netsafe that helps young people aged 12 to 16 build confidence and critical thinking skills when navigating online content. It supports early action in response to manipulation, pressure, and harm online.



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In Headspace Invaders, young people explore real examples, complete interactive activities, and reflect on what they might do in similar situations. The experience is supported by teacher and parent guides designed to continue the conversation offline.



The platform includes three short, engaging modules on:

- Misinformation and disinformation
- Identity-based harm
- Online extremism

Check it out here: [Headspace Invaders](#) | [Critical Literacy for Young People](#) | [Netsafe](#)



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The Shine Education and Training Team



The Team provides specialist family violence education and training programmes throughout Aotearoa New Zealand, with the aim of ensuring everyone is able to effectively help people experiencing family violence. The Team is part of Shine (Safer Homes in New Zealand Everyday), which is based in Tamaki Makaurau, was established in 1990 and became part of Presbyterian Support Northern in 2016.

Shine Programmes include:

Shine RESPOND: A tiered training programme for professionals and community workers in social services, justice, health, education who work with people experiencing or using family violence. The programme goes from Introductory Training and Foundational Skills through to Advanced Training and Specialist Days such as Working with Children and Working with Men, with online and in-person training available nationally.

DVFREE: A programme to improve family violence workplace and customer responses, by delivering training to manager, 'First Responders' (workplace peer support volunteers) and customer facing staff, and by consulting on family violence policies, procedures and staff and customer information. The DVFREE Tick Partnership is an accreditation for partner employers that implement and sustain DVFREE Workplace Guidelines' recommendations.

Te Whatu Ora Violence Intervention Programme (VIP): Shine is the VIP Training Lead, responsible for making sure all staff recognise family violence as a health issue. This includes providing the training package and supporting VIP Coordinators to deliver it in each district. VIP supports health practitioners to identify and respond to patients and whānau experiencing family violence. Shine has also had a partnership with Te Toka Tumai



The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention

Responding, healing, strengthening

Auckland (Auckland District Health Board) since 1996, which includes being part of the Auckland VIP Team.

Ministry of Justice FVSV Response Training: Shine delivers family and sexual violence training across Aotearoa to ensure the Court-related workforce has a shared understanding of the dynamics and impacts of family violence and sexual violence and can respond safely. Each session is co-facilitated by a family violence specialist trainer from Shine and a sexual violence specialist trainer from one of four partner organisations; AVIVA, RE Aotearoa, Tautoko Mai and Rape Prevention Education

SAFTINET: Coordination of SAFTINET (Safer Auckland Families Through Intervention Network) in central Auckland, bringing together and supporting the network of government and community organisations that respond to family violence.

Shine Training & Education Programmes align with the E2E Family Violence Capability Framework and are informed by conceptual frameworks including [family violence as a form of social entrapment](#), [Response Based Practice](#) (victim-survivors resist violence and the social context matters), and wellbeing frameworks such as Kaupapa Māori models of wellbeing (e.g. [Te Whare Tapa Whā](#), Te Wheke).



The Shine Training and Education Team



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[The Shine Training & Education Team](#) have a depth and breadth of training and family violence practice experience which includes working with adults and children who experience family violence as well as people who use family violence.

Decult – Cult Definitions



Decult has launched a mini-series about cult definitions – shedding light on many questions about jargon and terminology for those who may be unfamiliar.

Leaving a cult is not just about walking away from a community. It's also about untangling the different beliefs, behaviours and language that shaped your world. Inside a cult, jargon can be used to control, isolate, and confuse. When you leave, you might find yourself in a whole new world with different terms and frameworks. Once you're on the recovery journey, you'll soon come across terminology that therapists, academics, activists, and survivors use



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Responding, healing, strengthening

to describe and dismantle those systems of control.

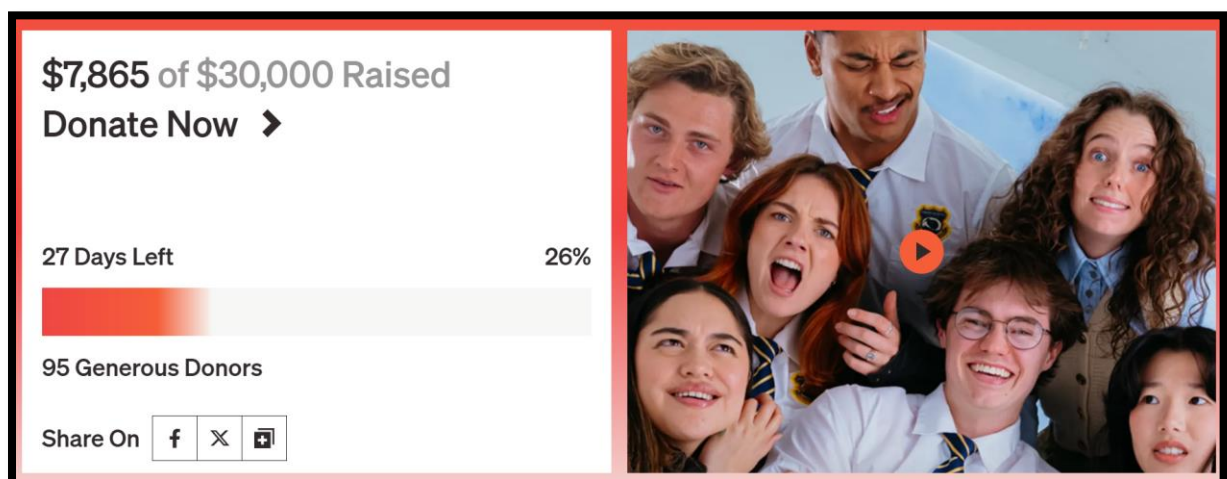
This new series will break down a single word or phrase. It is helpful for survivors navigating the aftermath, allies and advocates who want to better understand, and anyone curious about cults and the harm they cause.

Questions explored so far include:

- What is 'cult hopping'?
- What is spiritual abuse?
- What is 'shunning'?

Join their page on Facebook to see the series and discussion: [Decult](#)

Feelings Club – short film series about mental health, friendship, and truth



Stories about youth mental health aren't always easy to share.

Feelings Club is a rebellious drama-comedy short-form web series set in the most intense school in Aotearoa ... where a secret student support group becomes the only place to be real.



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Responding, healing, strengthening

They are currently raising funds to make Season One and drop it straight to TikTok, Instagram and YouTube, also using this as a chance to show funders and studios the potential this show has to offer.

“This isn’t just a series. It’s a movement about feeling more, not less - and reminding young people that being yourself is brave as hell.”

Campaign link: <https://www.thearts.co.nz/boosted/projects/feelings-club>

Instagram: [FEELINGS CLUB \(The Show\) \(@feelingsclubshow\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

New pathway to ACC’s Sensitive Claims Service to launch in September

ACC is working with Whakarongorau Aotearoa | New Zealand Telehealth Services and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) to develop a new pathway to its Sensitive Claims Service through Safe to talk. The Sensitive Claims Service provides support for anyone in Aotearoa New Zealand who has experienced sexual abuse or assault in New Zealand.

Safe to talk is the nationwide helpline that provides free, confidential support and information to anyone affected by sexual harm. Through Safe to talk, people can get advice and support from trained specialists and be connected to support services in their community. Safe to talk is available 24/7 through text, webchat, phone, email and via www.safetotalk.nz.

The new pathway through Safe to talk will facilitate access to the Sensitive Claims Service and support survivors to find available ACC-funded therapy providers. Survivors will be able to find information and be connected to services that are right for them. For some, that may be ACC’s Sensitive Claims Service, while for others that may be other services and supports



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Responding, healing, strengthening

available in the community.

Previously, the only way to find an ACC therapy provider was through ACC's Find Support website, which required survivors to manually search for available providers in their desired region. Once the new pathway is launched, survivors will be able to contact Safe to talk via text, webchat, phone, or email for help finding an ACC therapy provider. Safe to talk will work directly with organisations (suppliers) that have ACC therapy providers to confirm their availability and connect survivors with them for therapy.

Safe to talk will also offer a check-in service to ensure survivors can get regular updates on progress to find an appropriate ACC therapy provider and navigate them to other supports they may need while they're waiting.

However, the Find Support website will still be available with a directory of supplier organisations that have ACC therapy providers for survivors who wish to continue to manage the process themselves.

The new pathway is scheduled to launch on 1 September 2025 after making sure everything is in place and ready for survivors and the organisations that have ACC-funded therapy providers. Some functionalities will be available right away, while others will be added over time.

About the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention

The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention brings government agencies together through the IEB – the Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence - to align whole-of-government strategy, policy, and investment to eliminate family violence and sexual violence.

IEB agencies include:

- [Ara Poutama Department of Corrections](#)



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- [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 of the IEB.

Visit our website tepunaaonui.govt.nz or contact us: contact@tepunaaonui.govt.nz.

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To share stories in the next e-update, contact: Holly.Blackler@Justice.govt.nz.