



NEW ZEALAND Family Violence Clearinghouse

Newsletter

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Welcome to the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse

Welcome to the first quarterly New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse Newsletter, where we will introduce ourselves to you.

The New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse is a national centre for collating and disseminating information about family violence in Aotearoa New Zealand. Our purpose is to provide access to quality information for a wide range of users, including those working towards preventing and eliminating family violence.

The Clearinghouse is a Ministry of Social Development funded project hosted by the University of Canterbury's Te Awatea Violence Research Centre and Information Technology Services. It is an outcome of the Government's *Te Rito: New Zealand Family Violence Prevention Strategy*. The Clearinghouse was developed by a consortium of organisations that combine academic interests and tertiary training with the knowledge and experience of organisations working in the field of family violence prevention and intervention. The Consortium partners are:

- Te Awatea Violence Research Centre
- Child Abuse Prevention Services (NZ) Inc.
- National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges Inc.
- Te Kupenga Whakaoti Mahi Patunga/National Network of Stopping Violence Services (NZ) Inc.

The Clearinghouse supports the vision of Te Rito:

Families/Whanau living free from violence.

Our mission is:

To contribute to the prevention of family/whanau violence, and to advance family/whanau safety by building networks for the collation and dissemination of knowledge across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Based at two locations, our staff consists of Dr Kate van Heugten, Project Leader; Nick Fahey, Project Manager/Chief Researcher; Kylie Douglass, Database Development Officer; and Rachel Halvaksz, Communications Officer, at the Te Awatea Violence Research Centre, University of Canterbury in Christchurch; and our Outreach Coordinator and Researcher, Sheryl Hann, located at National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges in Wellington. We also work closely with Kirsten Officer, Te Rito Project Advisor, at the Hard Copy Repository, which is hosted by the Ministry of Social Development in Wellington.

One of our key aims is to assess the breadth and depth of New Zealand family violence research and to identify key research gaps that need to be addressed. The Clearinghouse couldn't exist without your help. If you would like to contribute or discuss your research with the Clearinghouse, please contact us.



New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse staff pictured (top) L to R: Dr. Kate van Heugten, Nick Fahey, Rachel Halvaksz, Kylie Douglass and (bottom) Sheryl Hann.



The Project Manager's View

Nick Fahey, Project Manager

Welcome to the first issue of the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse newsletter. This inaugural issue aims simply to introduce the Clearinghouse and provide an understanding of our aims, functions and the resources we will be making available to the family violence research and practice community. In future editions of the Newsletter, one of our objectives will be to draw a focus upon specific areas within the family violence field: for instance, intimate partner abuse, children and family violence, and cultural considerations relating to family violence in Aotearoa New Zealand.

As I write this, it is just over three months since the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse came into operation, with its full complement of staff hitting the ground running. In that time we have been keeping exceptionally busy by putting a governance structure in place; establishing processes and procedures for the smooth running of the operation; focusing and refocusing our new website in order to provide our users with the best possible access to New Zealand's family violence research and best practice material; and building relationships and networks that will allow us to become the functioning hub for what is a truly dynamic field of practice and research. This has been a thoroughly challenging, yet exciting and satisfying experience for all involved.

There are a number of people to whom the Clearinghouse owes thanks. The consortium partners – Child Abuse Prevention Services (NZ) Inc, National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges Inc, and Te Kupenga Whakaoti Mahi Patunga/National Network of Stopping Violence Services (NZ) Inc – along with the Ministry of Social Development, have all been closely involved from a governance and support perspective. Our Outreach Coordinator and Researcher, Sheryl Hann, based at Women's Refuge national office, has energetically managed the Clearinghouse's interests with parties based in Wellington and beyond. Many thanks are due to our colleagues in the Information Technology Services team at the University of Canterbury, primarily Project Manager Andrew Lorenc and Developer Steve Skillcorn, who have worked tirelessly and patiently with us in order to make our website a resource that will serve the Clearinghouse well into the future. We would also like to thank the University of Canterbury Design and Print team for their assistance in producing this newsletter. We have also benefited from much support and encouragement from our colleagues at the Te Awatea Violence Research Centre and the School of Social Work and Human Services here at the University of Canterbury. Our Wellington-based Ministry of Social Development contact person, Tracy Anderson, has also been an ever present source of enthusiasm; and last but by no means least, we have been wonderfully supported by our Project Leader, Dr Kate van Heugten.

The Clearinghouse was not created to deal directly with the individual incidence of family violence per se. Our purpose is to provide a focal point for the various organisations, networks and individual practitioners and researchers within the family violence field. From there, we aim to provide access to the pool of family violence research and practice material available primarily within Aotearoa New Zealand in order to support and facilitate the efforts of the dedicated people working towards the elimination of family violence in our society. I do hope, as envisaged, that this newsletter engages and encourages our readers to both use and contribute to the Clearinghouse in the future. Our effectiveness in terms of contributing to the elimination of family violence in Aotearoa New Zealand is to a large extent dependent upon gaining your support and involvement also. As you will notice, this issue contains an insert letter, the specific purpose of which is the gathering of research information and material in order to address our task of updating the 1998 publication *An Agenda for Family Violence Research* (Family Violence Unit, Social Policy Agency, Department of Social Welfare & Social Policy Branch, Te Puni Kokiri). Additionally, we are always keen to get information regarding upcoming events, current initiatives and useful web links. So please do make contact and together we can make a difference.

Thank you, Nick

Outreach

Sheryl Hann, Outreach Coordinator

The role of the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse Outreach Coordinator is to build and maintain networks with practitioners, researchers, policy analysts and others interested in field of family violence prevention. In this role, I will be helping to keep the lines of communication open by meeting with interagency groups and researchers to promote the functions of the Clearinghouse and to inform people of how the Clearinghouse may be of assistance to them. Part of my role is also to encourage and assist community groups, private practitioners, government agencies, universities and other researchers to contribute to the Clearinghouse and share their learning and experiences of family violence prevention. Furthermore, I will be assisting with gathering research, best practice, training information, and documenting new initiatives that are making a difference in diverse communities around the country.

I hope to visit or make contact with many communities and research centres around Aotearoa over the next 18 months. I look forward to being in contact with you soon. *Kia ora, Sheryl*

Email: outreach@nzfvc.org.nz, phone: 04 801 2707, or post: c/o NCIWR PO Box 11074 Wellington.

New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse Website (www.nzfvc.org.nz) – an overview Kylie Douglass, Database Development Officer

The New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse is a predominantly web-based organisation. The website is seen as a central collation point where access is provided to a range of research, resources and information relating to domestic and family violence. The aim of this article is to briefly introduce you, the user, to our site.

The Home page provides simple access to the entire website via a navigation bar on the left hand side of the screen. For example, you can link directly to the 'About Us' page to find out more about the Clearinghouse, or you can click on the 'Events' link to find out what conferences, hui or workshops are taking place in New Zealand and around the world. You can also read the Clearinghouse News and visit Archived news articles from the Home page.

A key function of the Home page is the central hyper-linked text which allows users to instantly access the range of resources available on the 'Research and Publications' page. This page is the principal source of research, best practice and community information on the Clearinghouse website. In the remainder of this article each of the sections on the 'Research and Publications' page will be outlined briefly to help you get started.

Research and Publications

The 'Research and Publications' page can be searched in two ways: via 'Resources' or by 'Topic Area'.

Resources:

Resources are grouped under 'Best Practice', 'Research', 'Clearinghouse Publications' and 'Public Education':

Best Practice This database is organised by Prevention, Intervention and Treatment. It will be further developed during 2006 and will contain training resources, programme evaluations, and evidence-supported best practice guidelines.

Research 'The Library' provides access to material on most aspects of family violence via a bibliographic database. There is a range of national and international material available, with

a focus on New Zealand based information. There are links to PDF files where available, and when items are not available online, there is a link to request some materials on short-term loan from the hard-copy repository hosted by Ministry of Social Development in Wellington.

Clearinghouse Publications From here the user can access the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse Newsletters, Fact Sheets and Issues Papers. All documents will be available for download in PDF format.

Public Education The 'Community Action Kit' contains a series of fact sheets about aspects of family violence and its prevention. These were developed as part of a public education national resource package coordinated by the Ministry of Social Development with participation from non-government organisations. It is hoped that further community resources will be available later in 2005.

Topic Areas:

Topic Areas are arranged under three sub-headings: Types of family violence;

Groups affected by family violence; and Related issues. Searching by topic-area keyword will bring up documents from all of the above 'Research' areas, relating to that particular keyword.

One further point to note is that on every page of the Clearinghouse website the user can perform a keyword Publication search. This is located at the top right hand side of the screen. This can be a quick way to search your topic of interest, and in particular, a way to search for a keyword which is not listed under 'Topic Areas'.

We expect the site to continue to develop considerably over the next two years, so make sure you add us to your favourites and visit us regularly. *Tip: To find out recent additions to the Clearinghouse website, click on the 'What's New' link!*

The Clearinghouse staff welcome all questions, comments and feedback on the website. Please contact us via email or alternatively, you can fill in the feedback form on the website. *Thank you, Kylie*

The screenshot shows the homepage of the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse. At the top left is the logo and name. A navigation menu on the left lists: Home, News, About Us, Contacts, Current Initiatives, Research and Publications, Training, Funding Opportunities, Links, Events, What's New, and Site Map. The main content area has a 'Welcome' message in English and Māori, followed by a description of the clearinghouse's role. Below this is a search bar with the text 'Alternatively, this material may be searched:' and a 'Go' button. To the right, there is a 'Clearinghouse News' section with three news items, each with a date and a 'Full text...' link. At the bottom, there is a footer with 'Accessibility | Disclaimer, Copyright, Security & Privacy | Feedback | Subscribe to Newsletter | Member Login' and a 'Top' button.

Upcoming Events

11 – 14 September 2005

IPSCAN European Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Berlin, Germany.
Website: ispcan.org/euroconf2005

14 – 16 September 2005

Refocusing Women's Experiences of Violence in Bankstown, Sydney, Australia.
Website: www.tourhosts.com.au/refocusing2005

18 – 21 September 2005

10th International Conference on Family Violence in San Diego, California, USA. Website: www.fvsai.org

22 – 23 September 2005

A Call to Men: Becoming Part of the Solution to End Violence Against Women, First National Conference in New York City, New York, USA. (John Jay College of Criminal Justice) Website: ww.acalltomen.com

17, 19, 21 October 2005

The Trauma Model: Treatment Techniques for Trauma, Dissociation and Borderline Personality presented by Colin A. Ross, M.D. (on 17 October in Auckland; 19 October in Wellington; 21 October in Christchurch, New Zealand.) Hosted by Doctors for Sexual Abuse Care and NZ Branch of the ISPS. Website: www.dsac.org.nz

20 – 22 October 2005

Courageous Practice in Family Violence – A Call to Action in Auckland, New Zealand.
Sponsored by National Network of Stopping Violence Services.
Website: www.dvc.org.nz/conference%20index.htm

23 – 26 October 2005

World Congress on Family Violence in Banff, Canada.
Website: www.wcfv.org

30 October 2005

New Zealand National Children's Day - Te Ra O Te Tamariki Website: www.childrensday.org.nz

14 – 16 February 2006

10th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Wellington, New Zealand.
Sponsored by Ministry of Social Development, Department of Child, Youth and Family Services and the Office of the Children's Commissioner. Website: www.nzfvc.org.nz/accan

1, 3 and 13 March 2006

Professor Karlen Lyons-Ruth, Ph.D., Leading Researcher, Writer and Clinician on Attachment and Trauma (on 1 March in Auckland; 3 March in Christchurch; 13 March in Wellington, New Zealand.) Hosted by Doctors for Sexual Abuse Care. Website: www.dsac.org.nz

3 – 6 September 2006

ISPCAN in York, UK. Website: www.ispcan.org/congress2006



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Family Violence Hard Copy Repository

The Information Centre at the Ministry of Social Development, in Wellington, hosts a hard-copy repository of family violence information on behalf of the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse. This central collection of information includes books, research reports, conference papers and policy documents on family violence research, evaluations on community initiatives, and best practice information. There is both national and international material, with a focus on New Zealand based information.

An online 'Loan Information Request' form can be completed when an item is available for a short-term loan from the Hard Copy Repository.

Practitioners, policy makers and researchers who work within the field of family violence are invited to contribute material to the repository so that it will be accessible to all.

The collection is managed by Kirsten Officer, Te Rito Project Advisor, who can be contacted on (04) 916 3739.

If you wish to subscribe to the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse Newsletter, please contact us at the address above.