



NEW ZEALAND  
Family Violence Clearinghouse

# Newsletter

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## New Research:

### Evaluating the Waitakere Family Violence Court

The Waitakere Family Violence Court (WFVC) convenes weekly within the Waitakere District Court. It involves professional, state and community agents in a dynamic process of coordinated response to family violence offences.

Research evaluating the WFVC has now been underway for a year and a preliminary report is being released shortly. The research, led by Dr Mandy Morgan and Dr Leigh Coombes with Sarah McGray (School of Psychology, Massey University), is being conducted in partnership with the key stakeholders of the WFVC.

An initial study set out to assess the extent to which the Court protocols are effective in achieving the aims of the Court, as far as participating professional, state and community agents are concerned. The protocols aim to protect the victims of family violence consistent with the rights of defendants, promote a holistic approach in the Court response to family violence, and hold offenders accountable for their actions.

All those involved with the WFVC in a professional capacity were invited to participate in the current study, including judges, Waitakere Anti Violence Services (WAVES), the Community Victim Support Network (Viviana Western Women's Refuge, Tika Maranga Women's Refuge, and Victim Support), Police, Community Probation Service, ManAlive, Court staff (including Victim Advisors) and defence lawyers. Two types of qualitative data gathering approaches were used: individual one-to-one interviews, and focus groups. Interviews and focus groups were organised around open-ended questions intended to explore the participants' experiences of working with the protocols of the WFVC and their understanding of the difference between the WFVC and the normal running of the District Court.

A second study, due for completion in April 2007, statistically analyses data held by various agents, including the police and community organisations, to identify time lags, rates of referral to service providers, uptake of services, convictions, sentences, and repeat appearances before the Court. The effectiveness of the Court protocols in enhancing safety for victims and facilitating accountability for offenders are aspects that will be addressed in two further components of the independent evaluation planned for 2007 and beyond. These studies will ask victims and offenders involved in the WFVC about their experiences of the Court and associated service providers, including how responsive the process was to their particular circumstances and context, and how the services helped improve victim's safety and hold offenders accountable.

The goal of the research programme is to produce a holistic understanding of how well the WFVC responds to family violence within the Waitakere district. This understanding will form the basis for identifying any improvements that need to be made in the implementation of WFVC protocols through feedback to the Court, to the service providers, and to the community of legal professionals and academics advocating for collaborative approaches to reducing family violence. Like the Court itself, this evaluation may be understood as a dynamic, evolving process, in which the preliminary report represents the first formal research outcome.

To obtain a copy of the report, contact Sarah McGray, Massey University, School of Psychology, Private Bag 11 222, Palmerston North.



## Project Manager's Letter

Welcome to Volume three, Issue one of the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse (NZFVC) Newsletter and the beginning of a third year in the life of the Clearinghouse. This Newsletter marks the beginning of a change in focus from our approach in previous issues. Rather than concentrating on a specific area of family violence, we have decided to cover what is most current in the field.

For this reason, this issue has three research-based articles relating to in-progress or recently completed projects: our cover article provides an overview of a research project currently evaluating the Waitakere Family Violence Court; two other articles look at recently released research relating to local domestic violence statistics from the Hawke's Bay, and a review of the police pro-arrest policy. The latest family violence prevention initiatives are also featured, with an article focusing on a strategy developed by Ngati Kahangungu, and a selection of items from the recently updated Current Initiatives page on our website. This issue also sees the start of a regular section that briefly profiles some of the publications most recently added to the NZFVC website.

I am also very pleased to announce the trialling of a new reference service initiative being undertaken by our dedicated research librarian, Peggy McConnell, based at the NZFVC Information Collection hosted by the Ministry of Social Development Information Centre in Wellington.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to a handy new website tool, developed for us by our colleagues at the University of Canterbury Information Communication and Technology Services department. The 'Create a Bibliography' tool allows users to very quickly and easily create customised annotated bibliographies from publications in either our library catalogue or Good Practice Database.

I do hope this new focus helps to keep you better informed about recent developments in the field, and is of assistance to all of you working for the reduction and eventual elimination of family violence in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Thank you – Kia ora,

Nick Fahey, Project Manager and Chief Researcher

## New Initiative for the NZFVC Information Collection

The New Zealand Family Violence Information Collection (IC), provided in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development Information Centre, is a central collection of family violence material. The IC currently holds over 700 hard-copy titles, the majority of which are New Zealand-based items.

Items may be accessed via the NZFVC website in 'The Library' ([www.nzfvc.org.nz/PublicationArea.aspx?area=The+Library](http://www.nzfvc.org.nz/PublicationArea.aspx?area=The+Library)), or if you are in Wellington, you are welcome to visit the Ministry of Social Development and browse the collection by appointment. The Ministry's Information Centre is located on Level 3 of the Bowen State Building on Bowen Street.

The IC is managed by Peggy McConnell, who joined the team in October 2006. Peggy brings many years of experience in reference and research from public libraries and the government sector, and she would encourage you to make use of her expertise.

With this in mind, Peggy is trialling a new reference service to compliment the IC. The trial will allow us to ascertain the popularity and feasibility of continuing the service.

You are invited to email Peggy telling her what you are working on, and what sort of information you require. An annotated bibliography will be compiled from the IC and Internet, as well as journals and databases available via the Ministry of Social Development Information Centre. From this, you can select those items you wish to see in full.

If you have any queries about the reference service or the collection, please contact Peggy at [peggy.mcconnell004@msd.govt.nz](mailto:peggy.mcconnell004@msd.govt.nz), or by phoning 04 916 3720.

### **NEW! Create your own bibliography!**

You are now able to create your own annotated bibliography from either 'The Library' or the Good Practice Database.

Click on 'Create a bibliography' from the menu on the Home page, or go to: [www.nzfvc.org.nz/ReportGenerator.aspx](http://www.nzfvc.org.nz/ReportGenerator.aspx).

You can choose the bibliographic information you wish to include, whether you want the final document to be presented as an excel spreadsheet or as a printable version, and you can either select from the NZFVC Topic Areas or enter your own key word search terms.

## Ngati Kahungunu Violence-Free Strategy



Members of the Tumu Whakahaere o te wero Violence Free and the Local Initiative for Violence Elimination sign the Memorandum of Understanding on 17 November 2006.

A strategy for a violence-free iwi is taking shape in the Ngati Kahungunu tribal areas.

The whaingā, or goals, of the strategy are to: dispel the illusion that whānau violence is normal; develop an integrated and coordinated approach to whānau violence; promote standards of practice authentic to Ngati Kahungunu; empower whānau, hapu and iwi to transform from a state of violence to a state of wellbeing; and ensure ongoing resources and support for violence prevention.

The strategy began in 2005, when Maori service providers sought to develop a kaupapa Maori regional strategy based on tikanga and kawa, after recognising that local and national family violence prevention strategies were not so relevant or appropriate to local whānau, hapu and iwi.

Te Tumu Whakahaere o te wero Kahungunu Violence Free was formed as a group of providers to drive the development of the strategy. A public hui at Ruahapia Marae in 2005 supported the vision, and the Ngati Kahungunu Iwi Board have endorsed the development of the violence-free strategy. A memorandum between LIVE (Local Initiative for Violence Elimination network) and Te Tumu Whakahaere o te wero Kahungunu Violence Free means that both Maori and non-Maori service providers are standing behind the strategy.

The action plan from the strategy has been developed and its implementation, including developing a research base, community education, training, and programmes for those affected by violence, is being overseen by a strategy coordinator.

For more information, contact [ruth@kahungunu.iwi.nz](mailto:ruth@kahungunu.iwi.nz).

## Local Domestic Violence Statistics

Domestic violence statistics for the Hawke's Bay are the subject of a report released last year. The report, written by Russell Wills, Community Paediatrician at the Hawke's Bay District Health Board, gathers together administration data from local Police, Family Court, Stopping Violence Services, Relationship Services, and Child, Youth and Family in Napier, Hastings and central Hawke's Bay to provide a useful current picture of reported family violence in the area.

Wills found that, while crime rates overall have fallen in the Hawkes Bay, reported violent crime has increased (a 22% increase from 1994 to 2005). Police data indicates that 85% of family violence offenders are male, and 54% of all reported victims are Maori (Maori comprise 21% of the Hawke's Bay population). Wills also looked at the Police data across months, and concludes that there are seasonal trends in family violence, with a 20% increase in reporting over the summer months from December to February.

Court data from Hastings shows that there was a 30% decrease in the number of applications for protection orders for the 2000/01 to 2004/05 period, while Napier saw a 21% decrease (the national average for this period was a 24% reduction in applications). The number of temporary (immediate) protection orders granted reduced even more (38% decrease in Hastings, compared to a national average of 25% decrease). The total number of final protection orders made in Hawke's Bay dropped from 183 in 2000/01 to 113 in 2004/05.

The drop of applications for protection orders has affected the local stopping violence programme provider, DOVE Hawke's Bay, which has seen a significant decrease in the number of offenders referred to their programmes from the Family Court (217 in 1998/99 to 92 in the 2004/05 year). Fewer court referrals means less funding for the programme. Total referrals went from 247 to 163 in the same period, with an increase in unfunded self-referrals.

This report provides a useful baseline from which to evaluate any future local family violence prevention initiatives in Hawke's Bay. While a detailed analysis of the trends is not provided in the report, it is now presumably up to the local family violence networks to use the data to understand what is going on for Hawke's Bay families and agencies, and to identify where the challenges lie.

Wills, R. (2006). *Family violence in Hawke's Bay 2006: A report on the prevalence of domestic violence and child abuse in Hawke's Bay*. Retrieved January 26, 2007, from [www.nzfvc.org.nz/13533.pub](http://www.nzfvc.org.nz/13533.pub)



## Current Family Violence Initiatives

The **Current Initiatives** page of the NZFVC website lists family violence-related initiatives currently being implemented within Aotearoa New Zealand. On the following two pages, a small selection of these has been included. For further details, contacts, and a full list of initiatives, please see: [www.nzfvc.org.nz/Initiatives.aspx](http://www.nzfvc.org.nz/Initiatives.aspx).

### **Amokura (Iwi authorities & NGOs)**

The Amokura Family Violence Prevention Strategy is an integrated community-based initiative that addresses family violence and promotes whanau wellbeing in Te Taitokerau (Northland). The initiative is led by seven iwi authorities, and provides strategic leadership and coordination of violence prevention activities, including a community awareness campaign, a research programme, professional development for service providers, and a range of community activities.

### **Court Advocates (Ministry of Women's Affairs & Ministry of Justice)**

A project is underway to investigate the potential role of victim advocates in courts, particularly in relation to the four specialist family violence courts being established.

### **Changing Attitudes and Behaviours (Ministry of Social Development, Families Commission, ACC & NGOs)**

There are several workstreams involved in this community prevention campaign.

#### **Community Owned and Driven Initiatives** include:

- A revised *Community Action to Prevent Family Violence Toolkit* (available from [www.nzfvc.org.nz/communityaction/](http://www.nzfvc.org.nz/communityaction/))
- Media kits and training for community groups to encourage the dissemination of key family violence prevention messages through local media
- White Ribbon Day campaign materials
- The "Community Innovations Fund" for local family violence prevention projects, strategies, and resources.

#### **National Actions** include:

- A national leadership group to support the messages of non-violence
- Research on ways to change the behaviour and attitudes of male perpetrators of partner abuse
- Development of key messages and resources for changing the attitudes and behaviours of men who use violence
- A mass media campaign
- Seminars and resources for journalists on reporting family violence (undertaken in collaboration with the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse)
- Assisting national NGOs to develop their family violence prevention work (four national NGOs – Relationship Services, National Network of Stopping Violence Services, Jigsaw, and Women's Refuge – are developing ways to enhance their own contribution and will work together to change attitudes and behaviours).

### **Children and Young People Witnesses of Family Violence (Ministry of Social Development)**

This initiative provides funding of \$12 million over four years for 45 full-time equivalent Advocates for Children and Young People nationwide. Initially, advocates will be based in Waitakere (3 advocates), North Shore/Rodney (3 advocates), the East Coast (3 advocates), and Hauraki (1 advocate). The project also includes the establishment of a national infrastructure, a resource manual and a training package.

### **Family Violence Prevention Self-Evaluation Project (Ministry of Social Development)**

This project proposes the development and trialling of an Internet-based self-evaluation toolkit for NGOs working in the area of family violence prevention. By encouraging the use of proven evaluation methods and tools, and building on current evaluation practices, this initiative will assist NGOs to better monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and impact of their work. The project is in its first stages, with the trial website being developed and several NGOs about to trial the use of particular evaluation processes and tools.

### **Improving Family Violence Surveillance Data (Families Commission)**

This project involves investigating current information about the level and impact of family violence in New Zealand, and developing ways to improve the monitoring of family violence trends and impact of family violence prevention initiatives.

### **Legal Aid Changes (Ministry of Justice)**

Several amendments to the Legal Aid system are being progressed:

- Raising the income threshold for eligibility for Legal Aid for orders applied for under the Domestic Violence Act (1995). The new eligibility criteria will come into force on 1 March 2007, with around 40% more people being eligible for Legal Aid.
- Improving the provision of information about Legal Aid.
- Reviewing the rates paid to Legal Aid lawyers.
- Trialling a fixed-fee system for family Legal Aid, including domestic violence.

### **Local Case Coordination (New Zealand Police, Child, Youth and Family, & National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges)**

NZ Police, Child, Youth and Family, and Women's Refuge are working together to develop new, and enhance existing, collaborative processes in communities to ensure children affected by family violence and their families, receive support and services. This initiative, devised to manage the increasing number of family violence notifications made to Child, Youth and Family by Police, includes the development of an interagency case management model for high risk family violence cases involving children. The aim is to have better decision making around whether a statutory intervention (notification) is needed or not, and what combination of responses might be required.

### **Maori Growth Strategy (National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges)**

This five-year national project involves building partnerships between Women's Refuges, and whanau, hapu, iwi and Maori organisations to deliver specialist family violence services specific to the needs of Maori, including developing services that encourage perpetrators to take responsibility for their actions and accept their obligations to whanau safety and wellbeing. A specialist unit within the Women's Refuge national office will drive the strategy.

### **National Network – Ending Sexual Violence Together (various NGOs)**

A new national network is currently being set up for agencies, researchers and practitioners working with sexual abuse survivors and offenders. A Steering Committee is working towards establishing a national organisation to represent those in the sector, and providing a national voice on sexual violence issues.

### **Parenting Hearings (Ministry of Justice)**

A new court process for obtaining a swifter resolution to difficult childcare cases is to be piloted in six courts around the country: Auckland, Tauranga, Rotorua, Palmerston North, Wellington and Dunedin.

### **Project Mauriora (Te Puni Kokiri)**

Project Mauriora translates the Maori conceptual framework outlined in *Transforming Whanau Violence (2004)* into transformative practices. The project builds the capability of Maori practitioners to provide interventions to Maori who are victims or perpetrators and their whanau, and is managed by Te Korowai Aroha o Aotearoa. Practitioners are being trained at five sites (Te Taitokerau, Kahungunu, Mataatua, and the confederations of Te Ati Awa and Raukawa).

### **Prosecutions for Non-Attendance at Stopping Violence Programmes (Ministry of Justice, New Zealand Police & Ministry of Social Development)**

This initiative involves improving the process for prosecuting perpetrators who do not attend stopping violence programmes despite being mandated by the Court. Police will now be responsible for following up non-attendance, and current attendance and performance of perpetrators going to stopping violence programmes will also be examined.

### **Review of the Domestic Violence Act 1995 (Ministry of Justice)**

A discussion paper considering a number of proposed amendments to the Domestic Violence Act, its Regulations and Rules, will be made available for consultation in 2007.

### **Reviews of Family Violence-Related Deaths (Ministry of Health)**

A research-based review of existing information on family violence deaths is currently underway and the findings will be

used to identify necessary changes to systems and processes, and to inform the development of an on-going system for reviewing family violence deaths in New Zealand.

### **Sexual Violence Attrition Rate (Ministry of Women's Affairs)**

As part of the ongoing work on the *Safer Community Action Plan to Reduce Community Violence and Sexual Violence*, this project involves developing a methodology to assess the attrition rate between reports of sexual violence made to the police and convictions for sexual violence crimes.

### **Specialist Family Violence Courts (Ministry of Justice)**

Four specialist family violence criminal courts will be established during 2007 in Porirua, Upper Hutt, Masterton and Auckland central.

### **Strong Pacific Families (Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, & NGOs)**

This project, operating in Christchurch, Porirua, Manukau, and Waitakere, aims to build strong Pacific families, increase awareness of family violence, and encourage community leaders to participate in family violence prevention.

### **Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families (Ministry of Social Development)**

In 2006, a Family Violence Ministerial Team and an Interagency Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families (which includes government and NGO Chief Executives, Commissioners and Chief Judges) were established to provide leadership at the highest levels of government, and to build on the work progressing under the *Te Rito New Zealand Family Violence Prevention Strategy (2002)*. The *First Report* and programme of action was released in July 2006.

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### **A Useful Website Office for Women (Australia) [www.ofw.facsia.gov.au](http://www.ofw.facsia.gov.au)**

The Australian Government's Office for Women website offers access to a range of family violence-related research and resources. As well as providing information about the current "Violence Against Women – Australia Says No" campaign and other work under the Women's Safety Agenda, the site also makes available reports, literature reviews, training manuals and resources that were produced for the Partnerships Against Domestic Violence strategy, which concluded in 2005. Of particular interest are the many resources for working with young people regarding abuse and relationship issues. For the PADV resources, see: [http://ofw.facsia.gov.au/womens\\_safety\\_agenda/previous\\_initiatives/padv/resources.html](http://ofw.facsia.gov.au/womens_safety_agenda/previous_initiatives/padv/resources.html).



## **A Review of: Family Violence and the Pro-Arrest Policy: A Literature Review**

In 1996, the New Zealand Police adopted a family violence policy that said "given sufficient evidence, offenders who are responsible for family violence offences shall, except in exceptional circumstances, be arrested" (NZ Police, 1996, p. 4).

A recently released literature review by Carswell (2006), commissioned by the Ministry of Justice, outlines the historical development of the pro-arrest policy in New Zealand and the current New Zealand Police *Family Violence Policy* (1996). It also examines two of the main debates surrounding the police pro-arrest policy.

The first concern is that a pro-arrest policy possibly increases violence by some perpetrators, therefore having a different impact on different groups. Two US-based studies (the Minneapolis study and the Spousal Abuse Replication Project) are examined in the review. Analysis of the studies indicates that arrests for family violence misdemeanours (less serious crimes) "had a significant although modest reduction effect on reoffending...and that arrest did not cause an increase in violence" (p. 70). However, a small number of perpetrators continued to use violence regardless of the type of intervention.

When the results were analysed with respect to perpetrator's characteristics, including age, ethnicity, employment status and marital status, it was found that some groups of offenders reoffended more than others. Some researchers believe that perpetrators who have less to lose, or a lower 'stake in conformity' are not so deterred by arrest (Sherman, Smith, Schmidt, & Rogan, 1992, as cited in Carswell, 2006). For example, it was found that unemployed offenders were more likely to reoffend than those who were employed. Recidivism rates for African American offenders also increased compared to European offenders. However, it is cautioned that this could be due to differences in employment rates for the different ethnic groups.

There are many critiques of the two US studies. In particular, criticisms centre on the fact that the studies investigate the deterrent effect of a single intervention and that they do not take into consideration the wider context of criminal justice responses to family violence.

The second concern surrounding the pro-arrest policy is that it may take away the victim's choices, further disempowering them. There is much debate over whether victims are capable of, or should be able to, make the decision about whether or not the perpetrator should be arrested. Carswell cites a number of local and international studies that have found a range of victims' opinions about arrest. While around half to three-quarters of the female victims interviewed across the various studies supported arrest, there were many victims who wanted arrest but not prosecution, or who wanted

police intervention to control the perpetrator but not to arrest them, often due to the fear of retaliation. It is argued, however, that the pro-arrest policy removes accountability from the victim so that the offender cannot then blame the victim for the decision to arrest.

Carswell highlights that, while there are concerns that the pro-arrest policy removes victims' choices, victims' views are often still considered, as police can, and continue to, exercise discretion when they attend a family violence situation. How police determine what is appropriate discretion, and what this means for a consistent approach, however, is not discussed in detail, although the report points to the role domestic violence advocates can play to assist police by working with victims.

The author maintains that, internationally, the pro-arrest policy is still the most common model for policing family violence, and some promising police projects have taken a more targeted approach to dealing with repeat victimisation. For example, West Yorkshire Police in the UK implemented a 'cocoon watch' where family, friends and neighbours are enlisted to support the victim and call the police if necessary. In NSW, Police are currently seeking to expand their powers so that they can issue a temporary protection order (an initiative also now being investigated here). Police intervention is only effective, however, when it is just one part of a coordinated community response.

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Carswell, S. (2006). *Family violence and the pro-arrest policy: A literature review*. Wellington: Ministry of Justice. Retrieved January 31, 2007, from [www.justice.govt.nz/pubs/reports/2006/family-violence-pro-arrest-policy-literature-review/index.html](http://www.justice.govt.nz/pubs/reports/2006/family-violence-pro-arrest-policy-literature-review/index.html)

New Zealand Police. (1996). *Family violence policy 1996/2*. Retrieved January 31, 2007, from FPAID Web site: [http://www.fpaid.org.nz/SITE\\_Default/SITE\\_fpaid/SITE\\_parliamentarians\\_group/x-files/14133.pdf](http://www.fpaid.org.nz/SITE_Default/SITE_fpaid/SITE_parliamentarians_group/x-files/14133.pdf)

### **A Useful Website National Clearinghouse on Family Violence (Canada)**

[www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/)

Canada's national family violence clearinghouse website provides access to a vast collection of resources, many of which are useful for the New Zealand context. Issues papers, research reports and fact sheets on topics such as abuse of parents by teenage children, violence experienced by people with disabilities, abuse of elders within residential care, violence in gay and lesbian relationships, and abuse in dating relationships can be downloaded from the site.

## Publications Recently Added to the Clearinghouse Library

Below is a selection of items recently added to our online library. For more information about an item and its availability, go to [www.nzfvc.org.nz/PublicationArea.aspx?area=The+Library](http://www.nzfvc.org.nz/PublicationArea.aspx?area=The+Library), or phone 03 364 2296. Also, don't forget to check out the **What's New** page of the NZFVC website, where new publications are listed on a weekly basis.

Easteal, P., & McOrmond-Plummer, L. (2006). *Real rape, real pain: Help for women sexually assaulted by male partners*. Melbourne, Australia: Hybrid.

This resource book for survivors, supporters and professionals working with any form of gendered violence draws on the experiences of 30 female survivors of partner rape from various countries. The book discusses the relationship between rape and domestic violence, and dealing with trauma.

Hindle, S., & Morgan, M. (2006). On being a refuge worker: Psycho-social impacts of advocacy. *Women's Studies Journal*, 20(1), 32-47.

This article explores the psycho-social dimensions of women's experiences of working as refuge advocates. Nine Pakeha women's refuge advocates were interviewed about their experiences. Four themes emerged from the narratives: relationships with other service providers; working for Women's Refuge; being an advocate; and myths and misunderstandings about Women's Refuge. Refuge advocates spoke of detrimental effects on their family life, emotional stress, their relationships, and aspects of the job that are emotionally damaging. However, these effects are mitigated by the positive experiences that support women continuing refuge work.

McMaster, K., & Bakker, L. (Eds.). (2006). *Will they do it again? Assessing and managing risk*. Lyttelton, New Zealand: Hall McMaster & Associates.

This book discusses risk assessment and risk management across a number of human service fields, with several chapters having specific relevance to family violence. In the chapter, "Getting the Balance Right: Assessing Risk and Supporting Families", Doolan and Connolly examine how orientations towards child welfare influence the way in which service responses to children at risk have developed internationally. McMaster's chapter, "Predicting and Managing Risk in Men Who Are Domestically Violent", traverses the issue of risk assessment in domestic violence situations, looking at internal risk factors associated with the violent person and contextual factors in terms of the relationship dynamics and history of previous violence and abuse. In "Assessing Sex Offender Risk", Riley, Skelton and Vess examine the literature on sex offender risk and discuss the application of the most promising statistical and clinical tools. In "Preparing Human Service Workers for Risk Assessment and Management: Training for

Child Protection Risk Assessment in the Statutory Social Work Setting", Appleton and Craig describe and evaluate the 'Risk Estimation System' used by social workers.

Martin, B., & Hand, J. (2006). Community responsibility for freedom from abuse. *Women's Studies Journal*, 20(1), 48-58.

This article builds a case for shifting discourses around domestic violence, from individual responsibility to community responsibility, for addressing and preventing violence. Framing the discussion within the context of the Charter for Human Responsibility, and drawing examples from their 2002 research, *Free From Abuse*, the authors argue that there needs to be rebalancing of responsibility among individuals, families, communities, professionals, institutions and services. They maintain that community attitudes towards violence are key influences on whether women are held in 'vortex of violence' or are able to gather the resources to become free from abuse.

Martin, J., Langley, J., & Millichamp, J. (2006). Domestic violence as witnessed by New Zealand children. *The New Zealand Medical Journal*, 119(1228). Retrieved February 9, 2006, from <http://www.nzma.org.nz/journal/abstract.php?id=1817>

This article presents a study on the witnessing of domestic violence by New Zealand-born children, undertaken as part of the longitudinal Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study. The cohort was interviewed at age 26, and asked questions about witnessing physical violence by either parent and threats of harm. The research findings show that one-quarter of the sample reported violence or threats of violence directed from one parent to the other. The factor that contributed most strongly to participants being upset was the frequency of the violence, and not who carried it out or whether it was physical or threatened.

Towns, A., & Scott, H. (2006). Accountability, natural justice and safety: The protection order pilot study (POPS) of the Domestic Violence Act 1995. *New Zealand Family Law Journal* 5(7), 157-168.

This article investigates the way the Domestic Violence Act (1995) is being implemented, in particular, the difficulty victims experience obtaining temporary protection orders and legal protection from psychological abuse. From interviews with key informants in the Auckland area and justice statistics, the researchers discuss two key themes of accountability and human rights issues. Firstly, perpetrators of violence are not always being held to account for their violence, particularly due to the failure to follow up perpetrators' non-attendance at mandated stopping violence programmes, and police not prosecuting other breaches of protection orders. Secondly, women's human rights to safety and protection are being violated by barriers to legal protection from domestic violence, including a focus on men's right to natural justice.

## Upcoming Events

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3 - 5 April 2007

**Social Policy, Research and Evaluation Conference 2007** in Wellington, New Zealand.

Hosted by: Ministry of Social Development.

Website: [www.msd.govt.nz/social-policy-conference](http://www.msd.govt.nz/social-policy-conference)

4, 10, 12 April 2007

**Principles of Trauma Therapy: Newest Developments in the Treatment of Acute and Chronic Trauma** in New Zealand.

4 April, Christchurch; 10 April, Wellington; 12 April, Auckland.

Three one-day seminars hosted by: Doctors for Sexual Abuse Care.

Website: [www.dsac.org.nz](http://www.dsac.org.nz)

For information, email: [dsac@ihug.co.nz](mailto:dsac@ihug.co.nz) or phone 09 376 1422

10 - 12 April 2007

**7th Annual San Diego International Family Justice Center Conference** in San Diego, California, USA.

Website: [www.sandiegofamilyjusticecenter.org/event/2007-04-10-san-diego-international-family-justice-center-conference](http://www.sandiegofamilyjusticecenter.org/event/2007-04-10-san-diego-international-family-justice-center-conference)

16 - 18 April 2007

**International Conference on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking** in Houston, Texas, USA.

Hosted by: End Violence Against Women International.

Website: [www.evawintl.org/conferences.htm](http://www.evawintl.org/conferences.htm)

16 - 21 April 2007

**16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect:**

*Protecting Children, Promoting Healthy Families, and Preserving Communities* in Portland, Oregon, USA.

Hosted by: Children's Bureau's Office on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Website: [www.ilru.org/html/training/other/child\\_abuse.html](http://www.ilru.org/html/training/other/child_abuse.html)

9 - 11 May 2007

**The Third International Conference: Children Exposed to Domestic Violence: 'A time for Children...a time for Change'** in London, Ontario, Canada.

Hosted by: Centre for Children & Families in the Justice System; Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children; and CAMH Centre for Prevention Science.

Website: [www.lfcc.on.ca/conference.html](http://www.lfcc.on.ca/conference.html)

5 - 9 June 2007

**10th European Conference on Traumatic Stress** in Opatija, Croatia.

Website: [www.ecots2007.com](http://www.ecots2007.com)

20 - 22 June 2007

**8th International Narrative Therapy and Community Work Conference** in Kristiansand, Norway.

Hosted by: Institute of Narrative Practice (Norway); Dulwich Centre (Australia); and Agder University College.

Website: [www.dulwichcentre.com.au/norway.htm](http://www.dulwichcentre.com.au/norway.htm)

26 - 28 June 2007

**The 1st International Society for Child Indicators**

**Conference: Child Indicators: Diverse Approaches to a Shared Goal** in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Hosted by: International Society of Child Indicators and Chapin Hall Center for Children, University of Chicago.

Website: [www.childindicators.org/isc\\_i\\_conferencetwo.html](http://www.childindicators.org/isc_i_conferencetwo.html)

8 - 10 July 2007

**International Family Violence and Child Victimization**

**Research Conference: Nurturing parenting and the prevention of child maltreatment and multigenerational family violence** in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA.

Hosted by: Family Research Laboratory & Crimes Against Children Research Center

Website: [www.unh.edu/frl/conferences/2007/](http://www.unh.edu/frl/conferences/2007/)

12 - 14 September 2007

**17th Annual Conference National Organisation for the**

**Treatment of Abusers: Challenging Sexual Abuse – Challenging Assumptions: Towards Best Practice, Research and Theory** in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Website: [www.nota.co.uk/conference/index.html](http://www.nota.co.uk/conference/index.html)

18 - 20 October 2007

**15th International Nursing Conference of the Nursing Network on Violence Against Women International:**

*Complexities and Diversities: Creating Change in a Global Context* in London, Ontario, Canada.

Hosted by: School of Nursing at University of Western Ontario.

Website: [www.nnvawi.org/conferences.htm](http://www.nnvawi.org/conferences.htm)

31 October - 3 November 2007

**The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers**

**(ATSA) 26th Annual Conference: Partners, Policies and Practices: Making Society Safer** in San Diego, California, USA.

Website: [www.atsa.com/conf.html](http://www.atsa.com/conf.html)



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**Family Violence Clearinghouse**

New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse

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

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