



NEW ZEALAND Family Violence Clearinghouse

Newsletter

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International Day for the Elimination of
Violence Against Women

25 November



Welcome to the second issue of the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse Newsletter. I am pleased to report that our inaugural issue, released in August, was very well received, and on behalf of our team, I would like to thank all those who have provided us with such a positive response.

As you read this, it has been three weeks since the 'Courageous Practice in Family Violence – A Call to Action' conference, held in Tamaki Makaurau – Auckland (20 to 22 October), and the Clearinghouse would like to extend our congratulations to the conference organisers, Te Kupenga Whakaoti Mahi Patunga – National Network of Stopping Violence Services (NZ) Inc., and their hosts, Preventing Violence in the Home – Te Kakano Tumanako, for a very engaging, stimulating and, hopefully, productive conference. My co-presenter and our Outreach Coordinator, Sheryl Hann, and I thank all those who attended and took part in our presentation/workshop, which aimed to provide a greater understanding of how the Clearinghouse can assist practitioners and researchers working in the area of family violence. The particular focus of our workshop was to gain your input into development of a research map for the family violence field, intended to make research gaps analysis possible. We are pleased to say that we came away from the conference with some very valuable additions to this process and would like to thank all who became involved. Kia ora koutou katoa.

As promised, this and future issues of the Newsletter will focus upon specific areas within the family violence field. This issue's focus, *Violence Against Women*, coincides with White Ribbon Day, 25 November 2005, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Thanks to the efforts of a group of Canadian men in 1991, White Ribbon Day is now an annual event, promoting community responsibility for ending violence in personal relationships. According to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), its New Zealand organisers, White Ribbon Day is the largest attempt by men around the world, working in partnership with women, to end men's violence against women and children. Wearing a white ribbon on 25 November is, UNIFEM notes, a statement about 'not committing, condoning or remaining silent about violence against women and children.' For our part, the Clearinghouse is keen to promote and wholeheartedly support this important initiative. Please see our 'Upcoming Events' section (page 8) for more information about how to get involved with this worthwhile event.

This issue carries a number of items highlighting important work within the area of violence against women, in particular that of Drs Janet Fanslow and Elizabeth Robinson looking at prevalence and health aspects of intimate partner violence, and Tania Pocock's doctoral thesis drawing attention to experiences of abuse for mothers and their children. In highlighting the focus of this newsletter issue, I hope these pieces and the other articles stimulate, inform, and encourage further reading, as well as strengthen networks within the field, as is our intention.

Thank you – Kia ora,

Nick Fahey, Project Manager

A call to researchers, evaluators, community groups and students working in the area of family violence – please send us your research! NZFVC is still seeking published and unpublished research (including theses, evaluations, literature reviews, and any other work) related to family violence, to assist us with building a NZ research database and undertaking a research mapping exercise. Please send copies of completed research, reference details, or information about current and planned research, to the address below or for more details, see <http://www.nzfvc.org.nz/NewsItem.aspx?id=21>

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Making Connections: The Experiences of Women and Children in Situations of Domestic Violence

This thesis is about the experiences of women and children in situations of domestic violence. Tania Pocock has explored many issues of concern to those seeking to understand and address the overlap of partner and child abuse.

The qualitative research, undertaken by Pocock for her PhD at the University of Auckland, involved interviews with 13 women and 13 children, and drew on feminist and poststructuralist perspectives to look at the individual and shared experiences of the women and children in the context of family life, relationships and mothering.

From the children's talk, Pocock found that nearly all of the children saw, overheard or became aware of the violence, threats, intimidation and/or controlling behaviour that took place, but their experience of their fathers' abuse extended far beyond witnessing. The children were exposed to several of the same physical, as well as non-physical, dimensions of abuse as their mothers. While some children in the study were beaten or sexually abused, many more were threatened, monitored and controlled, forced to watch their mother's abuse, yelled at, intimidated, and had their belongings destroyed. In some families, fathers also favoured one child over another; in this research it was boys over girls. The abuse both witnessed and, in many cases, experienced by children, had a significant impact on their well-being. Children talked about being distressed, fearful, confused, anxious, never feeling happy or secure, living in constant alert and tension, feeling powerless in their relationships with their fathers, and resentful. Pocock also found some of these children were experiencing emotional and physical abuse from siblings.

Women participants in the study revealed that their experiences of abuse, manipulation and control around their children comprised a fundamental but much neglected dimension of their abuse. Children were deployed in a variety of ways by their abusive fathers. The violent men used the children in a way that forced women to comply with or submit to their partner's demands so as to protect the children (such as threatening to kill or hurt the children). They undermined women's relationships with their children by encouraging the children and others to see the women as 'bad mothers', and by stopping women from spending time with their children. The men manipulated their children's perceptions and loyalties in an attempt to punish the women, even encouraging children to abuse and threaten their mothers. According to Pocock, this manipulation by abusive men has a great deal to do with the way children and women blamed themselves for the violence.

In her analysis, Pocock contends that women stay with abusive partners because the women believe in the commonly accepted ideas that it is important to keep families together and that it is in children's best interest to stay with their

father, no matter what his behaviour. Yet becoming aware of the impact of violence on their children was a motivating factor for nearly every woman in the study to leave their abusive partner.

The findings of this research challenge current conceptualisations regarding the 'separateness' of men's abuse of their partners and their relationships with their children. Pocock contends that the 'abusive behaviour of these men carries over into and plays an arguably fundamental part in the way they both relate to and treat their children' (p129). Pocock identifies the numerous ways in which women and children's experiences, safety and recovery are intimately connected.

Pocock highlights the importance of recognising that women are abused not just as partners but as mothers, and that children are often drawn into and experience that same abuse. She maintains that an understanding of the connection between partner and child abuse should be central to the way we approach, work with, and legally respond to women and children in situations of domestic violence. Pocock asserts that the 'current demarcation of forms of family violence as separate service provision issues are incompatible with the protection and safety needs of women and children' (p3). Furthermore, Pocock asserts that children's experiences of abuse within the context of partner abuse, and their feelings of powerlessness need to be taken into account when decisions are made about contact with their fathers after separation. Children's safety and their wishes must continue to take precedence over the rights of fathers to see their children.

Pocock, T. (2003). *Making Connections: The Experiences of Women and Children in Situations of Domestic Violence*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand.

Women's Studies Journal - Women and Violence Special Issue

A Special Issue of the long-running New Zealand *Women's Studies Journal*, focusing on women and violence was published this October. The issue includes articles about doctors' experiences with abused women; women's experiences with lawyers and the Domestic Violence Act; the law governing women's evidence in rape trials; the relationship between sex-work and violence; the spread of HIV and violence; and the relationship between traditional sociological theory and women's accounts of their experiences of abuse. There are also commentaries from Hon Ruth Dyson, Minister for Women's Affairs, and from Professor Jane Ritchie of Waikato University, who discusses women's violence towards children. The journal is available from the University of Otago Press or www.womenz.org.nz/wsj/

Domestic Violence and Harassment Law – Training Kit Now Available

The Legal Services Agency has launched a new legal training resource developed by the National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges and Wellington Community Law Centre. The folder and PowerPoint presentation sets out several ways of running training sessions on the Domestic Violence Act 1995 and the Harassment Act 1997.

The training kit is aimed at community workers to assist them with training their own staff and other community members. It can also be used to run information sessions for people who have been affected by domestic violence or harassment.

The kit can easily be used by someone who is new to training, as it provides a section on how to organise a training session with step-by-step information, activities, suggested resources, and even the answers to 'tricky questions' that could be posed by the audience. The kit will be helpful to those working with families/whanau where the workers and/or clients require a general knowledge of the legislation and how it works in practice, especially in relation to obtaining and using protection or restraining orders.

The kit is available from the National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges, phone: 04 802 5078 or email: training@refuge.org.nz



Creating a Culture of Non-Violence: A report from the New Zealand Parliamentarians' Group on Population and Development Open Hearing into the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children 2005

The report *Creating a Culture of Non-Violence* was launched on 12 October at Parliament. It provides a 'snapshot' of family violence in New Zealand and is produced from submissions to the New Zealand Parliamentarians' Group on Population and Development (NZPPD) Open Hearing into the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children held in March this year.

The report provides useful and recent information from the key government agencies and non-governmental organisations working to address violence against women and children in New Zealand, in particular, family violence. After briefly outlining international human rights and policy frameworks, and the New Zealand legal and policy framework, *Creating a Culture of Non-Violence* focuses on the key questions answered by submitters. These include:

- What is the situation now in New Zealand?
- What is working well in New Zealand?
- What needs to change in New Zealand?

Recommendations from the NZPPD are outlined at the end of the report along with an Action Plan to guide Members of Parliament. Overall, submitters said that while considerable progress has been made in understanding and responding to violence against women and children in New Zealand, much more needs to be done if the violence is to stop. There was a strong recommendation that policy development should build on existing programmes and strategies, rather than developing new strategies. Submitters also recommended that the gender perspective of family violence must not be lost, and that men and boys should be engaged more in developing programmes to stop violence against women and children.

The report will be sent to the Ministry of Women's Affairs with the recommendation that it is used for the CEDAW (United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) report due in 2006.

New Zealand Parliamentarians' Group on Population and Development. (2005). *Creating a Culture of Non-Violence: a report from the New Zealand Parliamentarians' Group on Population and Development*. Wellington, New Zealand: Author. Retrieved November 2005, from: <http://www.fpaid.org.nz>

A Useful Website: Family Court of New Zealand www.justice.govt.nz/family

The Family Court website has recently been revamped and is now a rich source of information on the process of the court and the issues the court deals with such as, separation and dissolution (divorce); day-to-day care and contact with children (custody and access); guardianship; child protection; adoption; mental health; powers of attorney; relationship property; as well as protection from domestic violence. The site is organised in a generally accessible way, with helpful question and answer style sections for children and young people trying to understand separation and the Family Court. From this site, you can download many of the Family Court publications and Family Court forms, including the application for a Protection Order (although a phone call to the court or an advocate may be necessary to clarify exactly what forms you need).



Current Government Family Violence Prevention Initiatives

Want to know what government-funded family violence prevention projects are currently underway? This list might provide a useful starting point. For more information visit the website of the government agency involved or call their national office. You can also check out *Te Rito News*, a newsletter from the Ministry of Social Development, that updates current family violence initiatives. (See www.msd.govt.nz or email: violencefree@familyservices.govt.nz to receive a copy.)

Family Violence Intervention Programme (Ministry of Social Development)

The aim of this project is to enable Work and Income to provide a greater level of support to clients in family violence situations. The project will provide family violence awareness training to Work and Income staff, enabling them to offer support to clients in family violence situations, and refer them to appropriate service providers. There will be 25 new regionally based Family Violence Response Coordinators who will link with family violence service providers.

New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse (Ministry of Social Development)

Te Awatea Violence Research Centre, University of Canterbury in collaboration with National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges, the National Network of Stopping Violence Services, and Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS) have been contracted to develop the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse to collate and disseminate national family violence research and evaluation, and to update *An Agenda for Family Violence Research* (1998).

Pacific Family Violence Prevention Strategy (Ministry of Social Development)

This project aims to increase family violence education and awareness within Pacific communities, and change attitudes that contribute to violent behaviour in Pacific families. The project is operating in four communities: Christchurch, Porirua, Manukau, and Waitakere with Pacific community groups, church and women's groups, and youth leaders to develop Pacific early prevention resources and strategies.

Community Education and Awareness (ACC and Ministry of Social Development)

This project involves developing a toolkit and resources for communities to use in addressing family violence at a local level. The information and resources will be made available through the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse website.

Services For Children Who Have Witnessed Violence Within Their Homes (Ministry of Social Development)

This project provides for up to 45 child advocates placed in community organisations around the country, with national leadership and support, and regional training. The advocates

will work to ensure that children witnessing family violence get the support and services they need.

Family Violence Funding Circuit Breaker (Ministry of Social Development)

Improved coordination of government funding processes across the Ministry of Justice (Courts), Child, Youth and Family, Internal Affairs, ACC and Corrections is the aim of this project. There will be new integrated and aligned approvals and quality assurance/audit processes to reduce compliance costs for community providers of family violence prevention services. Currently 15 regional teams are completing family violence prevention funding analyses.

Services for Non-Mandated Clients (Child, Youth and Family)

In 2003 Child, Youth and Family was allocated funding of \$500,000, increasing to \$1 million in subsequent years, to improve accessibility to programmes and services for adult victims and child witnesses without protection orders and for perpetrators not mandated by the court. The funding has been allocated to 68 service providers across the country.

Te Rito Collaborative Fund (Child, Youth and Family)

Funding was approved in Budget 2003 for \$5.840 million (GST inclusive) over four years, to establish a contestable fund for community-based collaborative initiatives to prevent family violence and to undertake a four-year evaluation. This fund has been rolled out in different areas across the country.

Differential Response (Child, Youth and Family)

Differential Response involves piloting and implementing a new way of responding to notifications of child abuse and neglect. Once Child, Youth and Family has undertaken a preliminary care and protection assessment, then the project's aim is to bring in a range of responses to children and families, which may include child and family assessments by an approved agency other than CYF, or referral to other community organisations for services.

Everyday Communities (Child, Youth and Family)

Everyday Communities involves local public awareness and social marketing campaigns to encourage well-being and safety for all New Zealand children. Programmes are currently being run in South Auckland Pacific communities, the Wairarapa region and Whakatane. An evaluation has shown the programme to be successful in mobilising individuals and communities to take ownership for the prevention of abuse.

Everyday Theatre (Child, Youth and Family)

The aim of this project is to empower young New Zealanders to achieve well-being and safety. The project primarily involves children at Intermediate or Year 7 and 8 levels. As part of the Everyday Communities programme, Everyday Theatre

addresses issues of child abuse, neglect, family violence and positive parenting.

Strength Based Tools (Child, Youth and Family)

This project involves the development of self-help tools that can be used by individuals and organisations to engage families/whanau in the process of increasing well-being for children and families/whanau. The Strength Based Tools are designed and conceptualised for Maori, Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, Tuvaluan, Tokelauan, Cook Island, Niuean and general audiences, and align with 'Te Whare Tapa Wha', a four dimensional model of well-being.

Project Mauriora (Te Puni Kokiri)

Project Mauriora is the implementation of the *Whanau Violence: A Maori Conceptual Framework* report. The project builds the capability of Maori practitioners to provide interventions to Maori victims, perpetrators and their whanau, and is managed by Te Korowai Aroha o Aotearoa. The aim is to have 375 registered and accredited practitioners working with this model of violence intervention throughout Aotearoa by the end of 2006. At present 100 practitioners are delivering Mauriora in five sites: Taitokerau, Kahungunu, Mataatua, the confederation of Te Atiawa, and Raukawa.

Family Violence Death Reviews (Ministry of Justice)

A project is currently underway to identify whether family violence specific death review teams should be established in New Zealand, and if so, in what form.

Technical Amendments to Improve the Operation of The Domestic Violence Act 1995 (Ministry of Justice)

A number of amendments have been identified to improve the operation of the Domestic Violence Act, its Regulations and Rules.

Family Safety Teams Pilot (Ministry of Justice, Police and CYF)

Family Safety Teams are being developed in Wairarapa/Hutt Valley, Auckland City/Hamilton City, Christchurch, and Counties Manukau that aim to provide a multi-disciplinary and consistent response to family violence and child protection. The teams will consist of police investigators, advocates for adult and child victims and a supervisor.

Statistical Analysis of Family Violence Trends (Ministry of Justice)

This project aims to determine whether or not there have been changes in the actual levels of family and domestic violence, and the direction of these changes. Formative, process, and outcome evaluations will be undertaken of the Family Safety Team pilots.

Revised Pol 400 forms (Police)

By revising the forms police complete when they attend family

violence incidents, this project focuses on collecting more accurate information relating to criminal investigations and the safety of victims, especially in family violence incidents where children are present. The new forms include a tool for risk and lethality assessment, and are being piloted in two areas.

National Standards for Screening and Risk Assessment (Police)

Standards New Zealand has been contracted to develop national standards for screening and risk assessment of family violence. The draft has recently been distributed for consultation and the final standards will be available in 2006.

Women's Experiences of Protection Orders (Ministry of Women's Affairs)

This research project looks at women's experiences of obtaining and using Protection Orders (see more information about this on page 7 in this newsletter).

Family Violence Prevention Project (Ministry of Health)

This project has been operating for several years and has two major work streams: a clinical programme to implement family violence screening and intervention guidelines in the health sector; and a public health programme for the prevention of family violence. Past funding includes a violence-free hapu and a violence-free marae programme, a Domestic Violence-Free Workplace programme, and programme for the promotion of youth non-violence.

Child Witnesses of Family Violence (ACC)

This project will fund advocates to work with children who witness family violence in the same areas as the Family Safety Teams are being implemented.

'Keeping Ourselves Safe: All About Me' Pilot (ACC)

This early-childhood personal safety and abuse prevention programme with a family violence component was developed by the Police, and is being piloted in Porirua and Dunedin.

Safer Communities Action Plan to Reduce Community Violence & Sexual Violence (Ministry of Justice and Corrections)

This strategy focuses on violence in public places, sexual violence and attitudes towards violence. A review of the capacity, resourcing and effectiveness of services available to victims of sexual violence has been commissioned, along with a review of the identification, assessment and treatment services for sex offenders. Also, the National Guidelines for Crime Prevention through Environmental Design are about to be released, and a pilot Violent Trauma Project at the Wellington Emergency Department has recently commenced.



Key Issues and Future Directions for Family Violence Work

The Families Commission recently released a report that provides an overview of family violence in New Zealand and outlines a model for understanding and guiding family violence prevention work.

In the report, Dr Janet Fanslow provides some well-known information about the prevalence and nature of partner abuse, child abuse and elder abuse, and what interventions or programmes are currently available.

Fanslow contends that the focus of most family violence work in New Zealand is on responding to the perpetrators and the adult and child victims, rather than on stopping violence happening in the first place. Similarly, Fanslow argues that much work has been located in isolated sectors of society (in the social services or justice areas). She uses a combination of an 'ecological' model and 'coordinated community response' model as a way to understand how the different social sectors (faith communities, schools, media, businesses, social services, community organisations, central and local government) are all connected. She claims all sectors should be involved in providing the structural support for safe families and undertaking initiatives that promote healthy relationships.

Fanslow argues that in order to get started with coordinated violence prevention work, no further reviews of existing research or violence prevention strategies are needed. Instead she believes that we can make a difference by starting with several practical actions such as, developing a tool for measuring the prevalence of family violence; promoting information about the risk and protective factors (ie; what factors are associated with becoming a perpetrator or victim or what factors are associated with healthy safe relationships and families); providing more specialist programmes for victims and perpetrators, such as mental health issues as well as family violence; providing more programmes in schools and for parents; ensuring gender and cultural perspectives are included in approaches to violence prevention; and supporting the field of family violence research.

Fanslow, J. (2005). *Beyond Zero Tolerance: key issues and future directions for family violence work in New Zealand*. Wellington, New Zealand: Families Commission. Retrieved November 2005, from <http://www.nzfamilies.org.nz/family-violence.php>

Useful Websites: www.expect-respect.org.nz



While we might say to young people that abuse within relationships is unacceptable, it is a lot harder to talk about the alternative: What do we mean by a "healthy, respectful and caring relationship" and how can you tell if you are in one? The *Expect Respect* site seeks to answer these questions.

The home page of the *Expect Respect* site starts with the statement: "This is a site that every young woman should visit before thinking about going out with a boyfriend or partner". Written explicitly for young women, this site is designed to help them understand exactly what abuse is, and what things they can expect if they are truly being respected and treated as an equal by their male partner or boyfriend.

The site, hosted by the Safer Family Foundation (incorporating North Shore Women's Refuge), is easy to navigate and packed with helpful information. Some of the features include a 'Disrespect Quiz' aimed at assisting young women to identify specific controlling or abusive behaviours, and a 'Sex Quiz' that highlights what is respectful and what is not in sexual or intimate relationships. *Expect Respect* also deals with the fine line between romance and obsession or control, and the differing views young women and young men might have about dating, romance and sex. It gives explanations of abuse and the excuses that are often given, some legal information, safety planning, and support agency contact information for those young women who are afraid of their partners or wanting to get away from an abusive boyfriend.



Kindness Day was launched in Wairarapa as a way to promote the opposite to violence – kindness and caring. The Kindness Day concept and website was developed by Cari Matthews, following the high profile child abuse and murder cases, and is linked to the Violence Free Wairarapa Campaign (www.vfw.org.nz). The site provides teaching resources and ideas for activities (games, letter-writing, baking) children can do on Kindness Day, which is the first day of every month. Schools in the Wairarapa are already involved in Kindness Day activities, and the idea has also been taken up by children in UK and South Africa.

New Zealand Violence Against Women Study

The New Zealand Violence Against Women Study is a population-based study of 2,855 women aged 18-64. The study is funded by the Health Research Council of New Zealand, and replicates the World Health Organisation Multi-Country Study on Violence Against Women. Drs Janet Fanslow and Elizabeth Robinson at the School of Population Health, University of Auckland are co-investigators on the project.

Initial work from the study has concentrated on analyses to determine the prevalence of violence against women, with a specific focus on violence perpetrated by intimate partners and associated health consequences. This work has been published in the *New Zealand Medical Journal* (2004).

In this article, the researchers reported that among women who had male partners (in the past or present), 33% in Auckland and 39% in Waikato had experienced at least one act of physical or sexual violence from a partner in their lifetime. Of these women, 19% in Auckland, and 23% in Waikato had experienced severe physical violence from a partner during their lifetime (ie; they were hit, beaten up, kicked, dragged, choked, burned, threatened with a gun, knife or other weapon, or had a weapon used against them). Over 40% of those who had experienced moderate or severe physical violence had also been raped, forced to do degrading sexual acts, or had sex because they were afraid of what their partner might do if they said 'no'.

Fanslow and Robinson also found that women who experienced physical violence from a partner during their lifetime had poorer current physical and mental health, as well as higher health service needs and higher use of medication. Victims of partner abuse who had experienced moderate physical violence were 2.5 times more likely to report current emotional distress than those who had not experienced partner abuse. Those who experienced severe physical violence were twice as likely to have been hospitalised in the last year, nearly four times more likely to have reported emotional distress, and almost eight times as likely to have attempted suicide.

Forthcoming work from the study will provide information on a wide range of additional topics, including: reproductive health consequences associated with intimate partner violence; injuries from intimate partner violence; the prevalence of physical abuse during pregnancy; and the prevalence of child sexual abuse. As well as the prevalence of psychological abuse and controlling behaviour, women's help-seeking behaviour (who abused women talked to about the violence and who they found to be helpful or unhelpful) will also be explored. In the longer-term, risk and protective factors associated with the perpetration of intimate partner violence will also be explored.

Fanslow, J.L., & Robinson, E.M. (2004). Violence against women in New Zealand: prevalence and health consequences. *New Zealand Medical Journal*, 117(1206), 1173.

Two New Studies of Protection Orders Underway

Two separate research projects have been commissioned to examine how protection orders are working. Both projects are in response to issues raised recently by domestic violence advocates and others working in the family violence field, who are concerned about the costs, access to, and effectiveness of protection orders and victims and perpetrator programmes. Protection orders are one of the key legal protections for victims of violence, and are issued under the Domestic Violence Act (1995) by the Family Court.

The first study has been commissioned by the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and looks at women's experiences of protection orders. The project aims to describe women's experiences when obtaining protection orders, the impact of protection orders and the response to breaches of orders. The researchers hope to identify those aspects of protection orders that are working well and areas for improvement, including barriers that prevent women from applying for and obtaining protection orders in the first place.

A team of researchers based at the University of Waikato, led by Neville Robertson and Ruth Busch, are currently undertaking the research. They are taking a case study approach by interviewing women from around the country and informants involved in each case (lawyers, advocates, Police, social workers, refuge workers etc) and reviewing available documents. The case studies are to be supplemented with material from focus groups held with key people in the domestic violence field, as well as an analysis of case law and statistical data. The research is designed to ensure the inclusion of the experiences of Maori, Pasifika, 'Ethnic' (including Asian, refugee and migrant women) as well as Pakeha women.

The second smaller study underway has been commissioned by the Auckland Inner City Women's Group. This project also investigates how protection orders are working through one-to-one interviews with key stakeholders working in the area of the provision of protection orders and related activities (e.g. judges, lawyers, Family Court coordinators, and programme providers).

The researchers, Alison Towns and Hazel Scott, have commenced the interviews in two locations, and will present the initial findings at the Women's Studies Association Conference at the end of November this year. The findings of this regional study will be fed into the national research project being undertaken by the group at the University of Waikato.

Both reports are due to be completed around June 2006.

Upcoming Events

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/acan

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

6 - 8 April 2006

Fourteenth International Nursing Conference of the Nursing Network on Violence Against Women International in Portland, Oregon, USA.

Sponsored by NNVAWI and the Center for Health Disparities Research, Oregon Health and Science University School of Nursing. Website: www.nnvawi.org

7 - 9 June 2006

Third International Conference on Therapeutic Jurisprudence in Perth, Western Australia.

Presented by Australian Institute of Judicial Administration, et al. Website: <http://www.aija.org.au/programmes.htm>

9 - 12 July 2006

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Theme: Organizing for Collective Power
Website: www.ncadv.org

3 - 6 September 2006

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

22 - 24 October 2006

Résovi's International Conference "Violence Against Women: Diversifying Social Responses" in Montreal, Canada. Organised by Résovi which is a research component of the Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Family Violence and Violence Against Women (CRI-VIFF).

Website: www.criviff.qc.ca/colloque/accueil_ang.asp

International Day for the Elimination of
Violence Against Women

25 November



November 25th is White Ribbon Day, the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. It is the largest effort by men across the world, working in partnership with women, to end men's violence against women.

The White Ribbon campaign was originally started in 1991 by a group of Canadian men who wanted to urge other men to address violence against women, and to promote community responsibility for ending violence in personal relationships. Now, each year, the United Nations leads a worldwide strategy to encourage people to think about being non-violent. The white ribbons symbolize peace and are a statement about not committing, condoning or remaining silent about violence against women and children.

In New Zealand, the campaign is lead by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) New Zealand. Last year supporters distributed and wore white ribbons in work-places, meetings, schools and on the street, and promoted the messages of non-violence by organising community meetings, breakfasts, street stalls, and concerts.

This year UNIFEM are encouraging more men to get involved. They are calling on all men who do have caring relationships with their partner and/or children to proactively support equality between men and women, and establish community leadership to stop violence against women and children.

For more information on the White Ribbon campaign, email whiteribbon@clear.net.nz



NEW ZEALAND

Family Violence Clearinghouse

Te Awatea Violence Research Centre
University of Canterbury
Private Bag 4800
CHRISTCHURCH

Phone: 64 3 364 2296

Fax: 64 3 364 2744

E-mail: administrator@nzfvc.org.nz

Website: www.nzfvc.org.nz

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

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