

## Family Violence Networks – Background and key messages

The funding for the Family Violence Networks comes from the Family Centred Services Funding for Networks, formally the Te Rito Fund. The Fund was evaluated twice (2006 & 2009) by MSD and is approx. 2 million dollars.

*The key outcomes of funding these collaboratives (as acknowledged in the evaluation) are:*

**Leadership:** increased professionalism, more community leaders involved in preventing violence, more momentum and optimism around family violence prevention.

**Effective services:** better referrals between organisations, increased whole of family/whanau focus, identification of service gaps, government and community orgs working providing coordinated services.

**Safety and accountability:** Increased reporting of fv, greatly improved response to incidents of fv reported to police, improved intelligence about family violence.

**Changing attitudes & behaviours:** Increased community mobilization around family violence, higher profile of family violence & it's prevention, significantly increased media coverage of fv.

This funding has been renamed the Family Centered Services Funding (FCSF) from the Ministry of Social Development. You can read more about it [here](#). The FCSF essentially fund the networks to continue the work they were doing under Te Rito.

### KEY MESSAGES:

- Networks have been vital in improving responses to family violence, especially making sure all people who report family violence to Police are offered support and help.
- Networks improve services to families and whanau by providing training, promoting services, sharing information, sharing resources, and working together more efficiently.
- International and NZ research\* has identified the need for child abuse and domestic violence organisations and communities to work together to so that vulnerable people do not fall through the gaps. \*e.g. death reviews, reports by Children's and Families Commissioners)
- Networks lead local community initiatives to raise awareness and encourage all kinds of people to ask for help, and get involved to stop family violence.
- Coordinators are the glue that holds networks together. Networks were not able to achieve much in their community without the dedicated time of a coordinator.

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The Family Centered Services Funding for Networks is due to expire in June 2012. It's critical that the government recognise it needs to sustainably resource communities to collaborate, share information and work in partnership to prevent & respond to family violence. Funding frontline services ONLY means that this work disappears as no one has the time & it's no one's designated job.

**KEY READING:**

[Information about the Family Centered Services Funding to Networks, Ministry of Social Development, April 2011](#)

[Review of the Te Rito Phase II Collaborative Community Family Violence Prevention Fund, Family and Community Services, April 2009](#)

[Fears Family Violence will Rise if Funding Recedes, Fanslow, Dixon & Trask, Dominion Post, 01.04.2011](#)

[The Focus Must be on Helping the Families, Tariana Turia, Dominion Post, 06.04.2013](#)