



**Welcome by the Co-Director of the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse to the
'Children, child maltreatment and intimate partner violence: Research, policy and
practice' conference**

Wellington, 5 June 2013

Good morning. On behalf of the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse and the Families Commission, it is my very great pleasure to add my welcome to the welcomes that have come before.

This is the second of what we hope will be an ongoing series of annual family violence conferences, co-hosted by the Families Commission and the Clearinghouse. We are delighted that so many of you have chosen to come today. We have almost 250 participants registered, from wide range of different agencies, bringing many different types of expertise, almost 100 more than attended the previous conference.

The strength of what we do is in our continued:

1. commitment to responding to the people we work with, with wisdom, respect and compassion
2. our willingness to continue to learn, and question if we are helping support the best outcomes for those we are working with
3. commitment to working together. Please take all the opportunities to meet people you don't know yet.

The theme of today's conference, 'Children, child maltreatment, and intimate partner violence: research, policy and practice' was not chosen at random. It was chosen with purpose: because historically, in Western societies and social service systems, partner violence and child abuse tend to have been treated separately. This is out of step with what the evidence base shows, and emerging best practice internationally.

This 1-day conference presents a fabulous opportunity to learn from our international and local speakers, and from each other, in order to explore some ongoing and emerging work that has been done, and think about new opportunities for bringing together the fields of child protection, supports for victims of partner violence, and those working with the perpetrators of violence to enhance safety and hold them accountable. We invite to you listen and learn from the amazing international and local speakers, and from each other.

Associate Professor Janet Fanslow
Co-Director
New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse