



New Zealand
Family Violence Clearinghouse

Reading guide for legislative responses to family violence

A selected bibliography

Prepared by the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse, University of Auckland.

First published August 2015

This bibliography was last updated **6 August 2015**

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Introduction

This selected bibliography is intended as a reading guide to assist those wishing to make submissions to the Government's review of legislative responses to family violence. This was initiated with the discussion document, [Strengthening New Zealand's legislative response to family violence](#) (Ministry of Justice, 2015a). Material has been selected from a range of sources. Official sources should be consulted with regards to legislation currently in force in any jurisdiction.

For ease of reference, full citations for reports and other material in this document are listed at the end of the document, along with a list of legislation referred to in this and other documents. Links were correct at time of publishing.

This bibliography was last updated as indicated.

History

This section is a guide to reviews of and proposals to change the Domestic Violence Act undertaken since 1995.

History of New Zealand's family violence law. (Ministry of Justice, 2015b).

The Ministry of Justice prepared this brief history for this consultation.

Below are links to previous reviews:

The **Domestic Violence Reform Bill** was introduced by Hon Annette King on 30 Sep 2008. The Bill was discharged on 12 March 2012.

The background to the reforms proposed in the Domestic Violence Reform Bill can be found in:

A Review of the Domestic Violence Act 1995 and related legislation: A discussion document. (Ministry of Justice, 2007).

Following the discharge of the Domestic Violence Reform Bill, the **Domestic Violence Act 1995** was subsequently amended by the **Domestic Violence Amendment Act 2009**.

The Act was further amended by the **Domestic Violence Amendment Act 2011** and the **Domestic Violence Amendment Act 2013**.

Law Commission – related reviews

Law Commission to review non-fatal strangulation and homicide by victims. (NZFVC, 2015, 16 July).

Alternative pre-trial and trial processes: Possible reforms. (Law Commission, 2012).

In 2012, the Commission completed a preliminary review of the use of alternative pre-trial and trial processes for criminal offending, with a specific focus on sex offences. The Commission published Issues Paper 30 and received a large number of submissions from the public. The project was then put on hold by the Minister Responsible for the Law Commission at the time. In late 2014, the project was reactivated on request of the current Minister of Justice. The terms of reference for the project have not changed.

People's experiences of the legal system under existing legislation

New Zealand

The people's report: The people's inquiry into addressing child abuse and domestic violence. (Wilson & Webber, 2014). The Glenn Inquiry People's report.

United Kingdom

Domestic violence law reform: The victim's voice survey: Victim's experience of domestic violence and the criminal justice system. (Women's Aid and Paladin, 2014).

International context

Ortiz-Barreda, G., & Vives-Cases, C. (2013).

Legislation on violence against women: Overview of key components. *Pan American Journal of Public Health*, 33(1), 61-72.

Abstract: This article describes a global survey of legislation on violence against women (VAW). The study was conducted to determine if legislation on violence against women universally incorporates key features which enhance VAW prevention and provides integrated victim support and protection as recommended by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the United Nations (UN).

The legislation from 80 countries was scrutinised and results showed that most VAW legislation does not incorporate those elements recommended by the UN and PAHO. A graphic is provided which shows the principal sectors of society which play a part in interventions against VAW in each of the countries with VAW legislation. All of the legislation examined is listed and links to each document provided.

Handbook for legislation for violence against women. (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2010).

Human rights and equity perspectives

Ortiz-Barreda, G., Vives-Cases, C., & Gil-González, D. (2011).

Worldwide violence against women legislation: An equity approach. *Health Policy*, 100(2-3), 125-133.

MacDonald, E., & Snell, L. (2013). **Transforming rhetoric into reality: Addressing the challenges of making the elimination of violence against women a lived reality in Australia.** *The Journal Jurisprudence*, 179-202.

Australia

These reports cover recent reviews and reforms of domestic violence legislation in Australia.

Family violence—a national legal response: Final report. (Australian Law Reform Commission, 2010).

There is also a ***Summary*** of this report.

This report contains 187 recommendations for the reform of Australian family violence legislation.

See also the **National and Commonwealth Response** to this report.

Domestic violence laws in Australia. (National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, 2009).

This Report provides:

- *an overview of all State and Territory and New Zealand domestic violence- specific laws providing for the making of protection orders;*
- *a comparative analysis of what behaviours constitute domestic violence for the purposes of those laws, and what relationship must exist between the persons concerned in order for the legislation to apply;*
- *a comparative analysis of the laws of each of the examined jurisdictions for the registration and enforcement of domestic violence protection orders made in other jurisdictions ('portability' of orders);*
- *a comparative analysis of the laws of the examined jurisdictions in relation to orders which operate to exclude a perpetrator of domestic violence from that person's home (where the perpetrator and the victim would normally cohabit);*
- *a comparative analysis of the laws of the examined jurisdictions providing for counselling (both mandatory and voluntary) for perpetrators of domestic violence;*
- *an overview of the laws of the examined jurisdictions that make stalking an offence;*
- *an overview of the provisions in the Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) that have particular significance in relation to domestic violence; and*
- *an analysis of areas where there is overlap and potential for conflict between orders or injunctions made under the Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) and orders made under the State and Territory domestic violence protection orders legislation.*

Note: A useful background document although a number of jurisdictions have amended their legislation since that time.

Note: Domestic/family violence laws for all Australian jurisdictions are listed in the 'Legislation' section of this document.

The Western Australian state government has recently considered changes to its family violence legislation:

Enhancing family and domestic violence laws: Final report. (Law Reform Commission of Western Australia, 2014).

Enhancing laws concerning family and domestic violence: Discussion paper, Project No. 104 (Law Reform Commission of Western Australia, 2013).

United Kingdom

Strengthening the law on domestic abuse – a consultation. (Home Office, 2014c).

Strengthening the law on domestic abuse consultation – summary response. Home Office, 2014d). Includes Government's intention to amend Serious Crime Act 2007.

See also further Home Office documents in the Reference list.

Scotland

Equally safe: Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls. (Scottish Government, 2014).

Initial area of focus (2015-18)

"Justice - Contributing to priorities 3 and 4

The justice system has a key part to play in keeping women and girls safe from violence and abuse and supporting their recovery. It's also central to how we respond to perpetrators of violence against women and girls. So we will review a 'whole systems' approach within the justice system. This includes consideration of the law relating to sexual offences and domestic abuse, for example whether the current law reflects the true experience of victims of long-term abuse - coercive control included; whether additional specific criminal offences are required; the support available for victims; the time taken to complete cases and the impact of justice interventions in changing perpetrator behaviour and wider public attitudes. Police Scotland is introducing Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating Groups (MATAC) across Scotland to target serious and serial offenders of domestic abuse and is committed to developing a Performance Framework to measure outcomes, recidivism and rates of re-offending."

Specific issues

This section covers specific topics in family violence legislation. A number of issues are raised by the Family Violence Death Review Committee:

Fourth Annual Report: January 2013 to December 2013. (Family Violence Death Review Committee, 2014).

Definitions

New definition of domestic violence and and abuse. (Home Office, 2013).

Definitions are discussed in many of the reports and papers in the ‘International context’ section (above).

Disclosure scheme

Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law) launched in Britain. (NZFVC, 2015, 17 March).

Specific “domestic/family violence” offence

Judge proposes family violence offence. (NZFVC, 2012, 1 November).

Specialist domestic/family violence courts

Family violence courts: A review of the literature. (Mills, Thorn, Meehan & Chetty, 2013).

Cissner, A.B., Labriola, M., & Rempel, M. (2015).

Domestic violence courts: A multisite test of whether and how they change offender outcomes. *Violence Against Women*, 21(9), 1102-1122.

Coercive and controlling behaviours

United Kingdom

The **Serious Crime Act 2015, s76** which was passed on 3 March 2015 creates the offence of “Controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship.” This section comes into force in force six months after the Act received assent.

Commentary on this section is available from **Women’s Aid**.

Background documents and media releases relating to this law change:

Strengthening the law on domestic abuse – a consultation. (Home Office, 2014b).

and

Strengthening the law on domestic abuse consultation - summary response. (Home Office, 2014d).

Includes Government’s intention to amend Serious Crime Act 2007.

Government to create new domestic abuse offence. (Home Office, 2014a).

Domestic violence law reform: The victim's voice survey: victim's experience of domestic violence and the criminal justice system. (Women's Aid & Paladin, 2014).

Protection orders

New Zealand

Living at the cutting edge: Women's experiences of protection orders: Volume 1: The women's stories. (Robertson, et al., 2007a).

Living at the cutting edge: Women's experiences of protection orders: Volume 2: What's to be done? A critical analysis of statutory and practice approaches to domestic violence. (Robertson, et al., 2007b)

An outcome evaluation of Police Safety Orders. (Mossman, Kingi, & Wehipeihana, 2014).

Australia

Jeffries, S., Bond, C.E.W, & Field, R. (2013).

Australian domestic violence protection order legislation: A comparative quantitative content analysis of victim safety provisions. *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, 25 (2), 627-643.

Abstract: In this quantitative analysis of Australian domestic violence protection order legislation, the authors assess the victim safety orientation of each jurisdiction's legislation (in force as at June 2012) by coding particular legislative features across a range of dimensions relating to victim safety. Through this process, the authors rank each jurisdiction's legislation in terms of its focus on victim safety and supportive processes for gaining protection from domestic violence.

The authors find that no jurisdiction receives 100 percent on the victim safety index used in their study. The Northern Territory legislation ranked highest, with a victim safety score of 74.2 percent, while the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) ranked lowest, at 38.7 percent. South Australian and Victorian legislation ranked relatively highly (67.7 and 64.5 percent respectively), while New South Wales and Tasmanian legislation both scored 50 percent, and Queensland and Western Australian legislation both scored 48.4 percent.

The authors believe the results of their study raise serious questions about inequality of treatment for victims of domestic violence across jurisdictions. They suggest revisiting the discussion about the introduction of model national domestic violence protection order legislation.

See also Australian Law Reform Commission (2010).

United States

Civil protection orders: A guide for improving practice. (Sheeran & Meyer, 2010).

Violence against disabled people

Includes material on safeguarding vulnerable adults.

New Zealand

Two recent reports have highlighted shortcomings of the current legislation for disabled people.

Putting people first: A review of Disability Support Services performance and quality management processes for purchased provider services. (Van Eden, 2013).

Recommendation 19: That the Ministry of Health work with the Ministry of Justice to ensure the legislation covering disabled people provides the necessary protection to keep disabled people safe from serious harm.

The hidden abuse of disabled people residing in the community: An exploratory study. (Roguski, 2013).

Impact of the failure to protect legislation

Tolmie, J. (2011). **Criminalising failure to protect.** *New Zealand Law Journal*, 375-377.

Tolmie discusses the implications of the failure to protect legislation which came into force in 2012.

Copeland, N.E. (2011).

Third-party violence against children: the Crimes Amendment Act (No 3) 2011. *Auckland University Law Review*, 17,321-326.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom, and separately Scotland and Northern Ireland, have considered this issue and passed legislation relating to safeguarding vulnerable adults.

Discussion

Hodgson R., Rheade J. (2013).

Safeguarding vulnerable adults: The psychiatrist's roles and responsibilities. *Advances in Psychiatric Treatment*. 19(6), 437-445.

Safeguarding adults: The role of health service practitioners. (Department of Health, 2011).

Safeguarding and protecting vulnerable adults in Wales: A review of the arrangements in place across the Welsh National Health Service. (Healthcare Inspectorate Wales, 2010).

Legislation

United Kingdom

Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012

“An Act to amend section 5 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 to include serious harm to a child or vulnerable adult; to make consequential amendments to the Act; and for connected purposes.”

For other legislation relevant to safeguarding adults, see list under ‘Legislation’ (below).

Scotland

Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007

“Act of the Scottish Parliament to make provision for the purposes of protecting adults from harm; to require the establishment of committees with functions relating to the safeguarding of adults who are at risk of harm; to amend the law relating to incapable adults; to remove an individual's liability for expenses incurred by councils in performing certain functions in relation to the individual's spouse or child; to allow the Scottish Ministers to delegate their functions relating to councils' duty to pay sums for the purposes of securing community care services; to make provision entitling a council to recover expenses incurred in providing social services to persons who are not ordinarily resident in the council's area; to allow the Public Guardian to intervene in court proceedings; to amend the law relating to mentally disordered persons; and for connected purposes.”

Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007: Code of Practice. (Scottish Government, 2008).

Northern Ireland

Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (Northern Ireland) Order 2003

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007

Mental Capacity (Health, Welfare and Finance) Bill – consultation. (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety & Department of Justice, 2014).

*This Bill reached its **Second Stage in the Northern Ireland Assembly** on 16 June 2015.*

Inclusion of “carers” in domestic violence definitions

Two Australian jurisdictions include “carers” in domestic violence definitions:

Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act (NSW) 2007, section 5(f)

Domestic and Family Violence Act (Northern Territory) 2007, section 9(g)

Forced and underage marriage

New Zealand

Multiagency collaborative response to potential and actual forced marriage. (New Zealand Police, 2012).

For background information on New Zealand and overseas responses, see:

Collaboration to address forced marriage in New Zealand: more action urged. (NZFVC, 2013, 8 January).

United Kingdom

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

For background information, see:

Legislation criminalising forced marriage in the UK. (NZFVC, 2014, 24 June).

Canada

Tackling early and forced marriage and ‘honour’ based violence in Canada. (Chin, 2015).

Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act 2015 (Royal Assent, 18 June 2015).

Care and contact with children

New Zealand

Evaluation of the 2014 family law reforms: Phase one: Report to the New Zealand Law Foundation. (Gollop, Taylor, & Henaghan, 2015).

Understanding connections and relationships: Child maltreatment, intimate partner violence and parenting. (Murphy, Paton, Gulliver & Fanslow, 2013a).

Policy and practice implications: Child maltreatment, intimate partner violence and parenting. (Murphy, Paton, Gulliver & Fanslow, 2013b).

For background information, see:

Report proposes way to evaluate family court reforms. (NZFVC, 2015, 15 July).

Silent injustice: Women's experiences of the Family Court. (NZFVC, 2012, 30 October).

This news item includes references to the papers written by Nicola Gavey, Vivienne Elizabeth and Julia Tolmie based on their research into women's experiences of the Family Court.

See also:

Family Court review: a selected bibliography. (NZFVC, 2011).

Australia

Family violence best practice principles. (Family Court of Australia, 2013).

Abstract: This document is an update of the 3rd edition of Family violence best practice principles and it incorporates recent changes to the Family Law Legislation Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Act 2011 (Cth), implemented in mid-2012. These guidelines are intended to offer practical assistance to legal practitioners, service providers and other relevant parties involved in parenting disputes when family violence or abuse is alleged, with the overall aim of better protecting children and families who are at risk of experiencing violence and abuse.

Family violence and family law in Australia: The experiences and views of children and adults from families who separated post -1995 and post -2006. (Bagshaw & Brown, 2010).

No way to live: women's experiences of negotiating the family law system in the context of domestic violence. (Laing, 2010).

Children affected by domestic and family violence: A review of domestic and family violence prevention, early intervention and response services. (Campo, Kaspiew, Moore & Tayton, 2014).

Kitzmann, K.M., Gaylord, N.K., Holt, A.R. & Kenny, E.D. (2003). **Child witnesses to domestic violence: A meta-analytic review.** *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 71(2), 339-352.

Animal abuse

Discussion

Pets as pawns: The Co-existence of animal cruelty and family violence. (Roguski, 2012).

Killeen, Anita. (2014).

Animals and domestic violence. *New Zealand Law Journal*, March 2014, 71-75.

"The protection of companion animals is not expressly covered by the DVA. If the applicant is the legal owner of the companion animal that is sought to be protected by a protection order then it is likely the companion animal would be considered as the applicant's personal property and would be protected. It should be noted, however, that the concept of companion animals as mere chattel property is no longer acceptable to a growing body of animal activists. The law already deals with animals differently from other forms of personal property. Indeed, in Priestley J's decision in Ministry for Primary Industries v Erasmus [2013] NZHC 281, the High Court has recognised animals as special, sentient beings, because unlike other forms of property, animals feel pain, suffer and die."

Legislation – Australia

Provisions in Australian state Acts, which specifically include animals within the meaning of family violence:

Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (Vic), s 5(2)(e)

and

Domestic Violence and Protection Orders Act 2008 (ACT), s13(1)(f)-(g)

Other relevant legislation

New Zealand

Welfare system

The complexities of 'relationship' in the welfare system and the consequences for children. (St John, 2014).

Workplaces

Intimate partner violence and the workplace. (NZFVC, 2014, 24 November).

Australia

Family violence and Commonwealth laws – improving legal frameworks. Final report. (Australian Law Reform Commission, 2011).

There is also a [Summary](#) report.

In July 2010, following on from its [first inquiry into family violence](#), the ALRC was asked to inquire into the treatment of family violence in Commonwealth laws (other than the Family Law Act 1975), and to identify what improvements could be made to relevant legal frameworks to protect the safety of those experiencing family violence. Specifically, the ALRC was asked to look at child support and family assistance law, immigration law, employment law, social security law and superannuation law and privacy provisions.

See also [implementation](#).

Integrated system

New Zealand

Framework proposed by the Impact Collective:

The way forward: An integrated system for intimate partner abuse and child abuse and neglect in New Zealand. (Herbert & Mackenzie, 2014).

Recommendations from The Glenn Inquiry:

The people's blueprint: Transforming the way we deal with child abuse and domestic violence in New Zealand. (Glenn Inquiry, 2014).

Kaupapa Māori framework

Kaupapa Māori wellbeing framework: The basis for whānau violence prevention and intervention. (Dobbs & Eruera, 2014).

Legislation

Legislation referred to in this and other documents, listed by jurisdiction, then alphabetically.

Versions linked to may not necessarily be in force or changes may have occurred. Please consult relevant legislation websites for more information.

New Zealand

[Bail Act 2000](#)

[Care of Children Act 2004](#)

[Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989](#)

[Crimes Act 1961](#)

[Crimes Amendment Act \(No. 3\) 2011](#)

[Domestic Violence Act 1995](#)

[Domestic Violence Amendment Act 2009](#)

[Domestic Violence Amendment Act 2011](#)

[Domestic Violence Amendment Act 2013](#)

[Domestic Violence Reform Bill 2008](#)

[Family Courts Amendment Act 2013](#)

[Privacy Act 1993](#)

[Sentencing Act 2002](#)

Australia

[Family Law Act 1975](#) (Cth)

[Domestic Violence and Protection Orders Act 2008](#) (ACT)

[Family Violence Protection Act 2008](#) (Vic)

[Crimes \(Domestic and Personal Violence\) Act 2007](#) (NSW)

[Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012](#) (Qld)

[Family Violence Act 2004](#) (Tas)

[Domestic Violence Act 1994](#) (SA)

[Domestic and Family Violence Act 2007](#) (NT)

[Acts Amendment \(Family and Domestic Violence\) Act 2004](#) (WA)

Note: this Act amended the WA Restraining Orders Act 1997, Criminal Code and other acts. (See Law Reform Commission of Western Australia (2013) for more detail and proposed changes to this legislation).

Canada

Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012

Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act 2015

United Kingdom

Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007

Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012

Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004

Equality Act 2010

Mental Capacity Act 2005

Mental Health Act 1983

National Health Service Act 2006

The Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (Northern Ireland) Order 2003

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Serious Crime Act 2015, section 76

Vulnerable Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2004

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