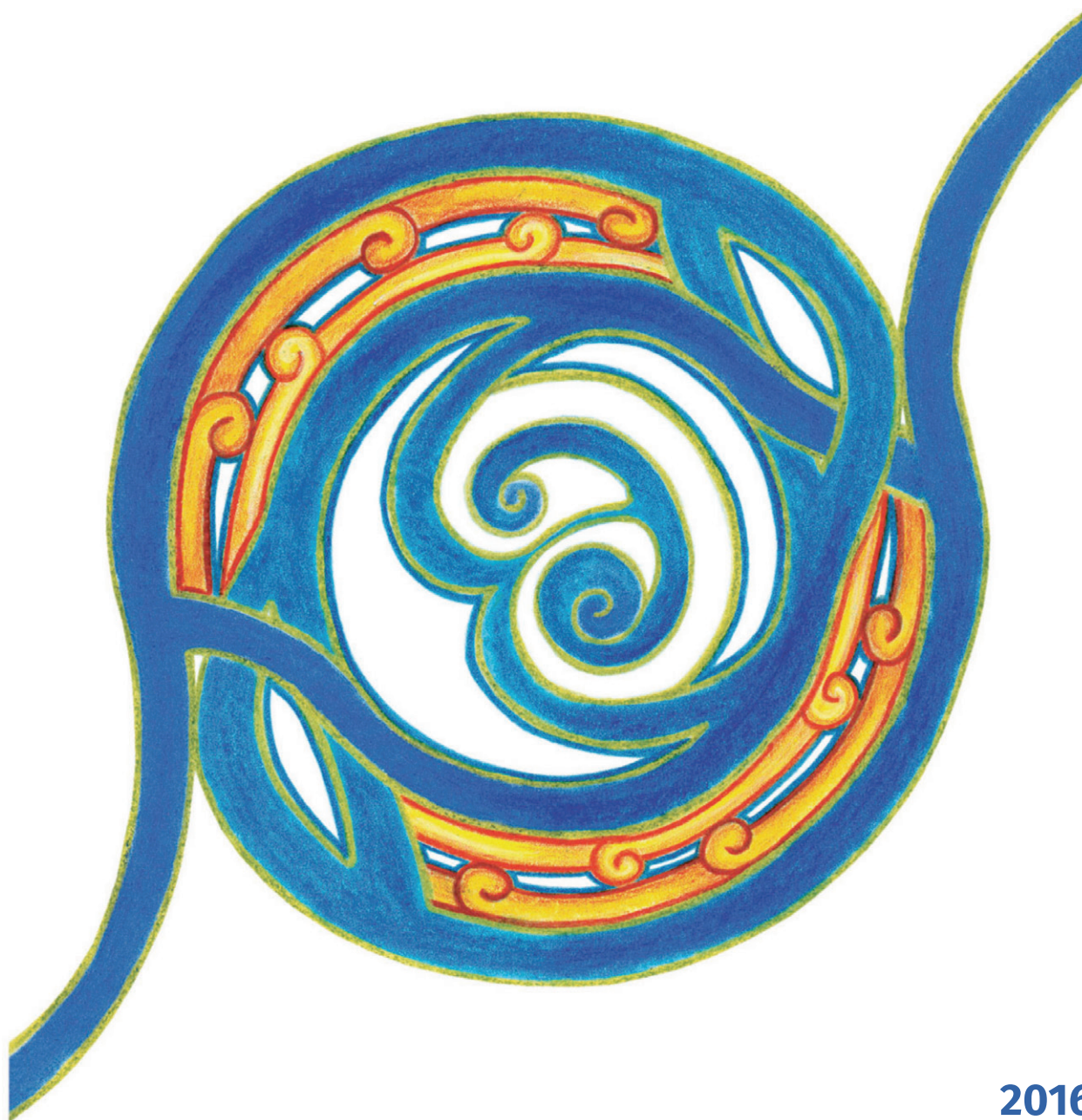




New Zealand
Family Violence Clearinghouse

OVERVIEW — AND — HIGHLIGHTS



2016–17

OUR LOGO

The image depicts an unborn child surrounded by whānau, hapū, iwi, communities and society as a whole. It reflects our values of nurturing families, whānau, and healthy relationships now and into the future.

ABOUT US

The New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse (NZFVC) is the national centre for family and whānau violence research and information.

The Clearinghouse was launched in 2005 in association with Te Rito: New Zealand Family Violence Prevention Strategy. Te Rito was developed in 2002 as a plan of action to reduce and eliminate family violence in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Clearinghouse has been hosted by the University of Auckland since 2011, based at the School of Population Health. In 2017, contracting of the Clearinghouse has been transferred from the Social Policy Evaluation and Research Unit (Superu) to the Ministry of Justice.

Our role is to provide access to high quality information about family violence, ways to most effectively respond to those affected by violence, and to promote understanding of ways to prevent violence.

OUR PEOPLE

We are a highly trained and experienced team committed to providing a platform for accessible, high quality information about family violence.

Our team is:

- Co-Directors: Associate Professors Janet Fanslow and Robyn Dixon
- Manager/Community Lead: Nicola Paton
- Information Specialist: Gay Richards
- Research Fellow: Dr Pauline Gulliver
- Information Assistant: Megan Sety

All team members work part-time.

Our work is supported by the National Institute of Health Innovation IT team.

NZFVC facilitates access to up-to-date information to contribute to eliminating family violence in Aotearoa New Zealand.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

Whether through high profile tragic cases of child abuse, intimate partner homicides, abuses in state care, mass shootings, or global movement of refugees created through wars, over the six years that the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse has been housed at the University of Auckland, the problem of violence has touched us all. Over this time, both awareness and evidence has grown about the long-term trauma that results from, and fuels the violence epidemic that too many lives are embroiled in.

More encouragingly, over the past six years, global knowledge about solutions and responses to violence has also grown. Major international players such as the USA Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have developed and released technical packages outlining the best evidence based strategies for violence prevention. The World Health Organization has summarised evidence about what works for violence prevention. Internationally, the World Bank has launched a global taskforce to tackle gender based violence. Closer to home, the state government of Victoria, Australia has just launched a 10 year plan for the elimination of family violence, funded at AUD\$1.9 billion. Collectively, these initiatives make it clear—we can change things for the better.

However alongside a desire to address the issues, changing things for the better means acting and investing in ways that support both prevention and better responses to existing harm. If we want our rates of violence to change, we need to get serious about our commitment and our investment in change. The local work done to develop integrated safety responses, review legislation, and establish workforce capability and risk assessment frameworks establishes important benchmarks, but also illustrate how far we have yet to go. Coordinated local, regional and national work is required, in partnership with tangata whenua, advocates, communities and researchers, and in ways that centre and respond to the experiences of people impacted by violence.

This report highlights the continuing growth and reach of the services provided by the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse. We are committed to continuing to identify the best available local and international evidence and strategies for violence prevention and response, and working to make these as widely and easily accessible as we can. At the University of Auckland, we also have an ongoing commitment to developing other platforms to support capacity and capability building in the family and whānau violence field.

We acknowledge the dedication of all who continue to work towards a safer and more just world. We look forward to continuing to support you, from whatever platform you work from, be it advocacy, research, policy, or practice elsewhere in the specialist family violence or related sectors such as health, education, media, faith. We're here to help.



**Associate Professor
Janet Fanslow**



**Associate Professor
Robyn Dixon**

WHAT WE DO



Website

Almost 70,000 users accessed our website in the 12 months to June 2017. This is a 90% increase over the last four years and a 12% increase on the previous year.

Our website offers a searchable library database of national and international items. The website has downloadable Clearinghouse publications as well as current and relevant news, media coverage, events and updates in the field. <https://nzfvc.org.nz/>



News service

Our news service highlights current happenings in the family violence field, often integrated with access to related commentary, and key pieces of research.

In the last year, we've written 176 news stories for our website, highlighting new research, resources, policy, legislation and funding opportunities. We have written more than 800 news stories in the last six years.



Events service

We maintain an "Events" page providing timely information on local, national, and international conferences, symposia and training opportunities.

Our email alert service for News and Events posted to our website has proved popular, and more than 600 people now subscribe to the alerts.



Pānui / Newsletter

Over **4000** people a month receive our Pānui / Newsletter which we publish online and distribute by email. Over the last 6 years the number of subscribers has **increased seven fold**. The actual number of Pānui readers is exponentially higher than the number who directly subscribe, as the Pānui is widely circulated within services and through other networks.



Papers, resources and seminars

Our team produce papers, deliver seminars and develop research and resources for the family violence workforce.

We produce Issues Papers and host seminars to relate research on topical family violence issues to the New Zealand policy and practice context.

In 2017, we published a list of 'Recommended reading in family and whānau violence.' It was downloaded more than 800 times in the first month. Feedback has been extremely positive.



Data summaries

Our data summaries provide up-to-date family violence statistics.

In 2017, six summary updates on a variety of family violence topics were downloaded 13,000 times.



Lending library

Our specialist lending library has seen increased demand: over 600 hard copy items (books, reports, DVDs and more) have been loaned out, and almost 2000 new records have been added to the library since the University of Auckland came on board. We have doubled the number of records in the library since 2011.



Respond to queries

We respond to information queries from government and non-government agencies, the general public, the media and the academic community.



Community outreach programme

We have an active community outreach programme, which includes participation in community and NGO forums and strategic engagement with key policy and practice stakeholders.

Our aim is that families, whānau and relationships are healthy, respectful and free from violence. Our purpose is to provide access to high quality research and information on family and whānau violence.

FEEDBACK

NZFVC regularly evaluates our users' experience of our website and other services. In 2016, a selection of our users responded—



"This website is very informative ... I think most of what I have learnt has come from this site."

"NZFVC is the go to website to find out what's happening locally and internationally in the family violence space."

"Your issues papers and other activities are current and fulfil a need (often before we know it's a need ...)"

"It is my FIRST go-to site for information"

- NZFVC user survey (2016)



"NZFVC ... where you get the good oil on what is happening!"

"Extremely valuable organisation that provides an evidential foundation for family violence practice."

- NZFVC users

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In the past year, the Clearinghouse has responded to 194 requests for information and initiated 179 community engagement activities.

Our strong local connections and our knowledge of current work in the family violence sector help us to offer timely and relevant high quality information to the policy, practice and research communities.

We build and maintain relationships with a multitude of players operating in the family, whānau and sexual violence sectors, including community agencies, healthcare and social workers, local council and central government agencies.

Recognising that everyone can have a role in preventing or responding to family and whānau violence, we've also reached out to allied sectors, including the alcohol and other drug (AOD) sector, general social services and legal professionals. This strategic activity helps foster shared understanding of complex and inter-connected issues, and contributes to our ability to build evidence-based solutions.

We provide access to research and information through personal meetings, online platforms, and email and telephone contact.

We have hosted heavily subscribed conferences and seminars featuring leading researchers and academics in the field, coming from many distinguished institutions and universities.

What do our users say about our services?

When asked "What do you value most about the Clearinghouse?" our users said:



"The integrity and relevance of the information. The personal feedback I have received—there ARE real people managing this information that you can talk to if you need to."

"Highly knowledgeable staff who are happy to assist with information requests."

"The news alerts that come through to my email are extremely useful, as are the summaries on policy and research that are regularly available on the website."

"This is the most informative resource for all kinds of issues solutions etc when wanting to learn more about family violence."

- NZFVC user survey (2016)

PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR POLICY-MAKERS

Policy-makers value the Clearinghouse as a source of relevant, up to date information for decision-making. Our knowledge in the field, and ability to source information both locally and globally, enables us to meet the needs of the policy makers who requesting our assistance and expertise.

Multiple ministries and agencies request our expertise, including New Zealand Police, Ministries of Justice, Health, Social Development, Women and Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki, the Department of Corrections, the Family Violence Death Review Committee, ACC and the multi-agency team. The NZFVC team are held in high regard by policy makers and government bodies, evidenced by invitations to join advisory and steering groups for family violence work.

We have also participated in and distributed information on government consultations to enable sector input into policy and legislation development.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA



Almost 70,000 users accessed our website in the 12 months to June 2017, a 90% increase over the last four years.

On an average weekday you will find about 300 people using our website, rising to around 700 on the day we send out our newsletter or release a new publication.

In the past year we have advertised 113 local, national and international events on our website including conferences, seminars, training opportunities and community events. We have advertised over 500 events in the last six years.

We have also sourced and published training and education pages on our website, which provide information on training providers, tertiary education opportunities and online training in family violence.



We are active on social media.



Our Facebook page has 1000 Facebook 'likes'.



We have 400 followers on Twitter.

ISSUES PAPERS

Each year we produce two 'Issues Papers' on topical issues which are downloaded, read, distributed, studied and utilised by thousands of people. These papers contribute to the research-to-practice interface.

In the past year we have published two Issues Papers.

Issues Paper #11, *Responding to perpetrators of family violence* by Dr Devon Polaschek was published in November 2016. It has been downloaded 800 times to June 2017.

100-150 people attended seminars on the paper in Auckland and Wellington. Dr Polaschek also presented on this topic to New Zealand Police, and presented the paper at the New Zealand Law Society's Family Law Conference in October 2017.

Issues Paper #12, *Preventing adolescent relationship abuse and promoting healthy relationships* by Dr Melanie Beres was published in May 2017. It has also been downloaded 800 times.

Dr Beres presented a webinar to members of the Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers (ANZASW) in July 2017.

The paper also attracted significant media attention – it was covered by the following media outlets: TV1, Newshub, Radio New Zealand, New Zealand Herald (page A3), Stuff, Māori TV and NewstalkZB. We believe this reflects New Zealanders' concern about family violence and were pleased to see the media and public engaging with these issues and solutions.

Wānanga have provided Issues Paper 6, *Kaupapa Māori wellbeing framework: The basis for whānau violence prevention and intervention* to students as part of course readings.

In our user survey (2016):

91% of people said the material on the NZFVC website is of high quality

93% said they will use NZFVC in the future

94% said they would recommend NZFVC to a colleague

Issues Papers continue to be downloaded in the years after their publication, demonstrating their ongoing relevance. Download numbers for earlier Issues Papers are shown below:

Issues Paper	Date published	Number of downloads to June 2017
1. Building collaborations to eliminate family violence: facilitators, barriers and good practice	March 2012	5,300
Plus: Tools to support multi-agency collaboration	May 2012	4,200
2. Measurement of family violence at a population level: What might be needed to develop reliable and valid family violence indicators?	June 2012	5,500
3. Understanding connections and relationships: Child maltreatment, intimate partner violence & parenting	April 2013	7,100
4. Policy and practice implications: Child maltreatment, intimate partner violence & parenting	April 2013	7,300
5. Effectively involving men in preventing violence against women	November 2013	4,500
6. Kaupapa Māori wellbeing framework: The basis for whānau violence prevention and intervention	April 2014	15,500
7. Intimate partner violence and the workplace	November 2014	1,800
8. Creating change: Mobilising New Zealand communities to prevent family violence	May 2015	2,500
9. Risk assessment: What is it and how can it be applied to family violence	October 2015	2,100
10. Understanding risk and protective factors for intimate partner violence	June 2016	1,500

DATA SUMMARIES

We have compiled and published summaries of family violence statistics gathered from government and non-government agencies and research studies. The data summaries consolidate data from multiple sources into a clear, easily accessible and meaningful format. They are utilised widely by policy makers and practitioners alike.

This year, we published updated summaries plus a snapshot, a concise account of key data. The six summaries published cover family violence deaths, violence against women, children and youth affected by family violence, child sexual abuse, adult sexual assault, and sexual abuse perpetration by gender. These were downloaded a total of 13,000 times.

Media interest was again high, with coverage provided by Radio NZ, NZ Herald, Newshub and bFM.

MOVING FORWARD

Over the past year the Clearinghouse recorded significant growth. Feedback indicates that we continue to provide high quality services across multiple platforms. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Social Policy Research and Evaluation Unit (Superu) over this time.

Moving forward, we are pleased to have secured the contract to host the Clearinghouse for a further three years, now with the support of the Ministry of Justice. This new contract will allow us to build on the services we have developed over the previous years to ensure that we continue to be responsive to the needs of the sector. Like the Clearinghouse, the Ministry of Justice is committed to providing access to high quality research and information. This new partnership will strengthen solution-focused dialogue across the justice sector and build towards our mutual goal of families, whānau and relationships that are healthy, respectful and free from violence.

We look forward to working with all our stakeholders to ensure that our services continue to be appropriate, high quality and timely.



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