



# WHANGANUI FAMILY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION NETWORK

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**VIN MEETING-  
ELDER ABUSE WEEK  
Thursday 9th of June**



## ELDER ABUSE HITS CLOSE TO HOME

Call 0800 EA IS NOT OK or Age Concern 0800 65 2 105

### GUEST SPEAKERS

1. Age Concern (Karen and Michelle)
2. Mana Man/ Tupoho (Mahanga)
3. Woven Whānau/ Grandparents raising their grandchildren (Rachel)
4. Pride Whanganui (Lorraine)
5. Hakeke Street Community Centre (Jane)

A round table discussion with speakers from various parts of the community, who work with/alongside our older people (60+) across the spectrum of intervention/prevention of family violence and support for healthy, safe, and connected whānau/family and community relationships.

### QUESTIONS

- What are some of the challenges facing the group of older people that you work with? Are you seeing different things for different demographics?
- How does family violence present in the groups you are working with/ is it something that is openly talked about/ do you feel like you could approach it or offer support/ resources? What are some of the complex factors that get in the way of support (for those specifically in fv intervention)?
- What are some of the unconscious biases that you see people holding about those aged over 65+? How does this impact on them?
- How has Covid impacted on those that you work with, are you seeing more anxiety/depression/loneliness/connection/support? Has the languaging around them being "vulnerable" had an impact on how they see themselves?
- What are the gaps in service that you see?
- What are protective factors in the lives of the older people that you work with?
- How do you think we can better share information/ integrate support to make sure that the perspectives, needs and desires of our older people are being met?

**Age Concern: Challenges-** Intergenerational living has been exasperated by Covid, this means lots of things- like cramped living in small spaces, financial insecurity with lots more mouths to feed, tensions between family members that maybe were previously, EPOA's that are being misused and abused (not in the best interest of those it is intended to protect).

**Hakeke Street: Challenges-** Loneliness, isolation, living far away from their adult children/ grandchildren, exasperated by Covid. Fear of technology (and lack of accessibility) which adds to this.

**Pride Whanganui: Challenges-** Historical discrimination - mainly from friends and family. Historical shame - caused by society and the law that jailed homosexual men and institutionalised a lot of homosexual women.

Isolation from family - for most, many years ago they made a decision to be their authentic selves and it was quite common for family, including their kids to shun them/want nothing to do with them. For some we're talking 20+ years so now they don't know how to contact family (if they wanted to) to reconcile etc.

**Mana Man: Challenges-**  
Men over 60 that I work with are living with the consequences of choices made in the past do to with violence. This might mean little contact with their whanau or kids.

**Woven Whanau: Challenges-** Our grandparents are nearly always in a situation where their moko have come into their care unplanned. Often times this is compounded by a fracture in the relationship between the grandparent/s and the parent/s. Often also due to addiction. There are a lot of compounding factors. For our grandparents they are often living on a pension, not wanting to do their kids into WINZ (or being threatened by their kids not to), so they are trying their best to financially look after their moko and also to keep them emotionally/physically safe (and continue their relationships with their parents where possible).

## ROUND TABLE- Elder Abuse (Some of the learnings)

**Woven Whanau- Unconscious bias:** The idea that the grandparents have chosen to raise their grandchildren/ that they are somehow at fault for their own children giving up parenting.

**Pride Whanganui- Unconscious bias:** If they choose to "come out" people label them as having a mid-life crisis, or worse yet, for men, the societal notion of a gay man being labelled a paedophile is still a very real threat. This stems from historical laws that made it illegal to be gay in NZ until 1986.

**Hakeke Street: Protective Factors-** Community engagement, learning new technological skills, being able to connect with friends and family, having hobbies outside of the home

**Age Concern- Impacts of Covid-** People have been isolated in ways that they might not have been previously. People have been labeled as vulnerable when that might not be how they feel about themselves, this has sometimes turned into changes in relationship/ power dynamics with adult children, who have made choices for their parents based on mandates etc. that may not be inline with what our clients want.

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**Pride Whanganui: Impacts of Covid.** Our Rainbow community are tough as nails, they've had to be unfortunately due to their journey, I haven't met a single older rainbow person who's journey has been without issues. So from that - they've built a resilience. It doesn't mean they're not still isolated, but they have adapted quite well. However, they would never label themselves as vulnerable and would def not like to be identified with this word

**Age Concern: Gaps in Service-** overun healthcare system- people in their homes eligible for care, signed up for care and the care not turning up. People financially unable to look after home repair etc. Roll-on effects of this can be dire (i.e. leak leading to rotten floorboards and not being able to shower.

**Pride Whanganui- How does FV present?** It is not something that is openly talked about, so not a lot is known. But we do know that some people feel pressured to stay within their relationships (say heterosexual relationships), rather than "coming out" for the threat from their partner of "taking their kids away from them" or from their own children with the threat of "you'll never have anything to do with your grandkids". We have a lot of people that either live double lives because of this or are unable to be their authentic selves for fear of losing their family.



# Results of a small community survey on Family Violence Awareness

**DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE SKILLS TO SUPPORT SOMEONE WHO DISCLOSES VIOLENCE?**



65% = NO



35% = YES



I don't want to interfere

I wouldn't want to help

You either have the skills or you don't

I'm afraid

I've never thought about it

I've never learned

What if I get it wrong?

Not my business



## PURPOSE

A small window into family violence awareness in our community.

This survey was posted on our VIN Facebook page and Whanganui news Facebook pages and had 123 responses.

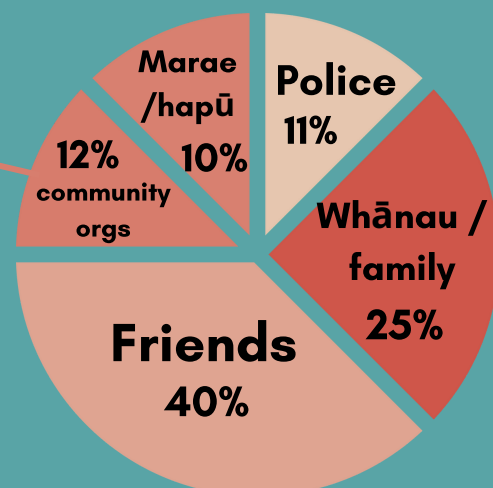
This is obviously not representative of our population as a whole, however the insights gained will be useful in having further conversations and developing pilot projects around family violence prevention/intervention skill-building.

**What would you like to see in our community to support raising awareness and skill-building?**

Peer led groups (survivors talking from their own experience about what helps)	Community events with interesting role-plays/ speakers	free training
compulsory workplace training re: 10 days domestic leave (with skill-building as part of that)	A website	more awareness of diversity of family violence/ training that includes rainbow people.
tik-tok's	police support positive things in community like men's breakfasts to build men's mana + maanakitanga	Community events with music/food etc and family violence skill-building stuff alongside
	more advertising in public spaces on what healthy relationships look like	

**Where would you go to get help for family violence?**

Jigsaw  
Victim Support  
Te Oranganui  
Community Centre  
CAB  
Women's Refuge  
Church  
Pride Whanganui  
Family Works





# Results of a small survey of VIN Members

**HOW MANY MONTHLY MEETINGS HAVE YOU ATTENDED THIS YEAR (2022) ?**

0 = 30%  
1 = 25%  
2 = 15%  
3 = 25%  
5 = 10%



Very satisfied 58 %  
Satisfied 24 %  
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied 18 %  
Dissatisfied 0 %  
Very Dissatisfied 0 %



## PURPOSE

Our VIN Network is made up of 45 agencies, this survey was sent out to 141 different contacts within these agencies and we had 43 responses.

The purpose of this survey was to see how effective VIN has been in building family violence workforce capability through connections and training, alongside looking at areas of potential growth (what has worked/ what hasn't/ what do members want to see more of in the coming six months?)

**Have you used the new website familyviolencewhanganui.org?**

**What do you love? any improvements?**

NO = 33%  
YES = 67%

**Did you attend the Good Shepherd Training?**

Financial abuse was something I hadn't factored as a major force of coercive control

Love their tools around how to have korero about money/ what a healthy financial relationship means

NO = 61%  
YES = 39%

Got me thinking about what we have in our community to support our clients with this

**Did you attend the Nicola Atwool Trauma training?**

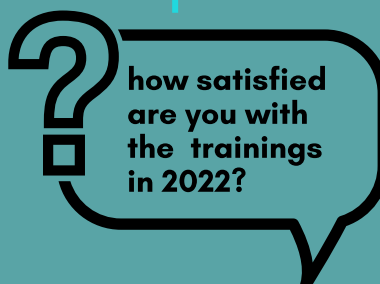
NO = 80%  
YES = 20%

Work time constraints

Too many changes with training dates re: Covid postponements

Too expensive

Already completed other trainings with her



Very satisfied 42 %  
Satisfied 14 %  
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied 42 %  
Dissatisfied 0 %  
Very Dissatisfied 0 %

## Improvements

update some of the language to make it more inclusive

make sure links go through to relevant f.v service info not just homepages of services

Need more promotion, reminders to use it

update all of the services details (with blurbs and logos not just coloured boxes/ links to websites)





# Results of a small survey of VIN Members

**Do you feel like VIN supports interagency collaboration in the family violence space?**



Would you like to see VIN involved in supporting the Te Aorerekura Specialist Family Violence Organisational Standards and the Entry to Expert Capability Framework? via supporting orgs to reflect, evaluate, review, and improve organisation structures, systems, processes and practices/ holding accreditation trainings etc.?



**Creating a collaborative interagency VIN culture—understanding differences in organisational cultures and how to bridge the gaps so we can work better together for VIN kaupapa**

**WHAT ARE WE DOING WELL, WHAT COULD WE DO BETTER?**

Helps us learn what each organisation is doing in the community/ giving us a chance to network to locate better supports for our clients

VIN connects wider community groups to specialist fv agencies— more entry points for connecting clients with services + referrals

Makes fv service gaps more visible, supports interagency korero to fill these

Improves equity, by highlighting communities that have often been missed in fv intervention/ prevention spaces i.e. rainbow

The VIN Coordinator should be at the SAM (Safety Assessment Meetings), they are connected to multiple agencies that can't attend and could scaffold in the most appropriate agency involvement with whanau

**How helpful do you find the monthly newsletters? What would you like to see more of?**



**What would you like to see more of?**

This question was "tick all that you are interested in"

Round table topical discussions at VIN meetings with multiple speakers from diverse organisations

More whole-of-community events

More agency collaborative projects (events in the family violence/ healthy relationships space)

More focus on supporting men to not use violence/ deal with trauma/ have healthy relationships.

Brain injury conference

Training: The correlation of grief and trauma and the cycle of violence for perpetrators and victims (Liberty training)

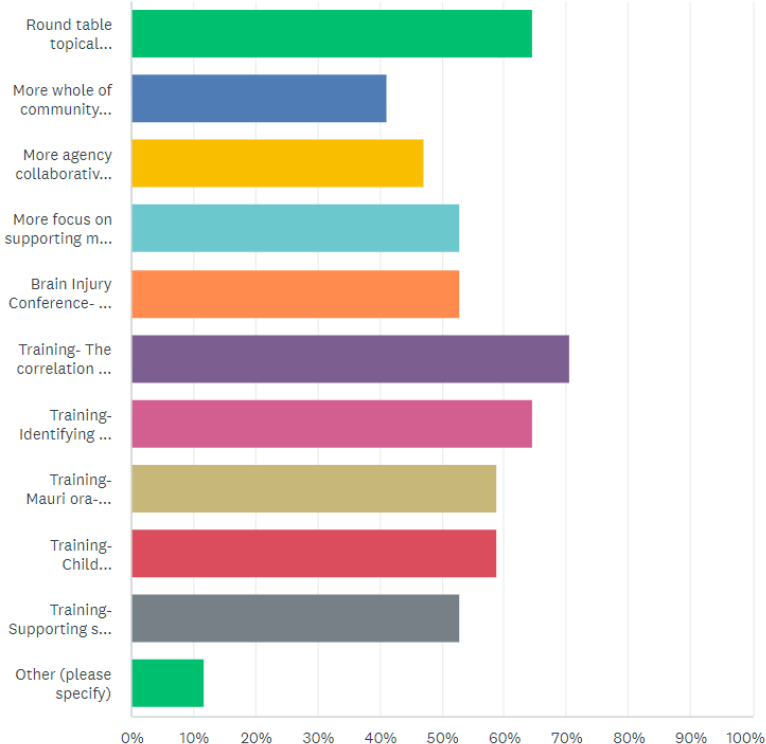
Training: Identifying and responding to abuse in the disability community (Auckland disability working group)

Training: Child protection in the context of family violence (Eclipse Family Violence Services)

Other: Training: Strangulation/TBI with Rob Veale  
How to have difficult conversations with other service providers

Training: Supporting Safe Practice, preventing professional dangerousness

Training: Mauri Ora- conceptual framework for the prevention of whanau violence (Te Korowai Aroha o Aotearoa)





## Seventh Family Violence Death Review

# "A Duty to Care"

## Pūrongo tuawhitu: Me manaaki te tangata

### THREE QUESTIONS:

1. Do Agencies understand the impact of violence on the whole family or whanau?
2. Is there comprehensive understanding of the impact of caring for family members with long-term health or disability concerns?
3. Do societal assumptions about inequitable decision-making and caregiving responsibilities, place those with reduced decision-making capabilities at the risk of abuse?

### SPECIFIC FOCUS ON:

intrafamilial violence deaths and family violence death for disabled people.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

The work of three kaupapa Māori organisations that have a "duty of care" embedded into their practices- this means a "whole-of-whānau" approach. These organisations are leading the way, their approaches show us how to form, and the benefit of genuine, respectful relationships.

**NEED FOR:**  
- locally defined and empowered DUTY TO CARE.

legislative provisions are already available for this

MANAAKITANGA embodies a type of caring that is reciprocal and unqualified, based on respect and kindness, embedded in values of whānau, emphasising obligation and reciprocal relationships.

Report draws attention to the concept of DUTY TO CARE and EXLPORES factors that have pushed Aotearoa away from caring for people experiencing family violence.

Te Ao Māori lens on

## "DUTY TO CARE"

A duty to care is related to, but distinct from "A DUTY OF CARE" (Western legal obligation to ensure safety and wellbeing of others).

WHAKAPAPA duty to care for those joined by blood and common ancestry

WHANAUNGATANGA extends beyond people to environment and spiritual realm

**NEED FOR:**  
- ongoing duty to care for those impacted by a death.

How can we make sure that our orgs are not adding to victim entrapment?

### WE ALL HAVE A LEGAL DUTY OF CARE

This has implications:

1. The need for family and whanāu to be valued as experts in their own lives.
2. There are impacts when we fail in our duty of care for disabled people.
3. The need for an ongoing duty of care for those who have been impacted by a family violence death.
4. Potential for alternative pathways when community services and government agencies are working better together.

**CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE**  
(especially by government agencies).

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Report urges agencies to fulfil their legal duty of care for those impacted by family violence, be good partners with community organisations, focus on wellbeing, and take a more respectful approach to people, families, whanāu and community organisations.

The report concludes with a series of reflective questions for government agencies seeking to work as good partners with hapori/community