

Frequently Asked Questions

Ministerial Work Programme on Family Violence and Sexual Violence: Family Violence Risk Assessment and Management Framework

1. What is the Ministerial Work Programme on Family Violence and Sexual Violence?

This all-of-Government work programme is responsible for improving how we respond to and manage family violence and sexual violence. The purpose of the programme is to prevent family violence and sexual violence from occurring and reduce the harm it causes, keep victims safe and hold perpetrators to account. Its focus is on intervening earlier to prevent family violence and supporting perpetrators to change their behaviour to break the cycle of violence.

The programme is overseen by a Ministerial Group co-chaired by the Minister of Justice and Minister for Social Development.

For more information on the programme go to [Ministerial Work Programme on Family Violence and Sexual Violence](#)

2. Why was the Ministerial Work Programme established?

New Zealand has unacceptably high rates of family violence and sexual violence. The Government is committed to preventing this serious problem and recognises that more must be done. The current family violence and sexual violence system is complex with multiple services and agencies which can make it difficult for people to get the help they need. The programme is tasked with how services could be improved and better coordinated to ensure victims get the help they need and perpetrators are effectively managed.

3. What is the purpose of the Family Violence Risk Assessment and Management Framework?

The purpose of the framework is to develop a coordinated national approach to more effectively identify, assess and manage the risks of family violence to prevent re-occurrence and escalation. A more consistent approach will help to improve how we respond and deliver services for family violence to better support victims.

The framework provides guidance to agencies to respond to family violence victims and perpetrators in a way that is comprehensive and appropriate to their level of risk and tailored to their needs. It aims to build a clearer understanding of the complexities of family violence to enable agencies to recognise it quickly and effectively.

4. How does the Risk Assessment and Management Framework fit within the Ministerial Work Programme?

The Risk Assessment and Management Framework is one of the key initiatives of the work programme, which will support delivery of changes needed to improve how we respond to and manage family violence.

It aims to identify and manage risks more effectively and enable earlier intervention to ensure victims get the help they need. This initiative is being led by the Ministry of Justice who are working with other agencies on the work programme.

5. Why do we need to develop a Risk Assessment and Management Framework?

Although many agencies have developed their own practices and tools there is not a consistent standard for assessing and managing family violence risks. To ensure we can identify risks of ongoing and escalating family violence as early as possible and manage them effectively we need to establish a common approach that agencies and services can align with to achieve good practice. Establishing good practice in risk assessment and management enables us to better support victims by improving how we respond and keeping them safe.

6. When and how will the Risk Assessment and Management Framework be implemented?

The framework will be implemented progressively from early next year. At this stage we will be gathering ideas and insights through consultation with agencies and service providers to identify what is needed to support implementation of the framework. We will release a detailed plan once the approach and timings are confirmed.

7. Will there be any practice guidance or tools to support the Risk Assessment and Management Framework?

Through consultation, we intend to identify where there are gaps and where additional detailed practice guidance and/or tools would be helpful, taking into account any practice guidance or tools that agencies and services are currently using.

8. Why are we consulting on the Risk Assessment and Management Framework?

The framework is a proposed draft that we want to develop further with agencies and services who work directly with family violence. It's important we get feedback and draw on the knowledge and experience of those agencies and services to ensure we create a practical resource that can be used in a wide range of contexts. The framework needs to reflect expertise from the sector.

The consultation process will allow us to gain a clear understanding of current practices being used in the sector and any other factors or implications that we need to consider. We are also interested in people sharing their views on what is needed to support the implementation of the framework.

9. What does the consultation involve?

People can participate in the consultation online at <https://consultations.justice.govt.nz/policy/family-violence-risk-framework> or email their submission to familyviolencerisk@justice.govt.nz. A PDF of the discussion document on the proposed framework is also available to download and read in the online consultation.

The consultation closes at 5pm on 2 September.

We are also running regional workshops throughout August. More information about these will be provided soon.

10. Why has my agency or organisation been asked to participate?

We want to ensure we have a good cross-section of views from agencies and service providers that work directly with family violence or have an interest in this area. Family violence is wide-reaching and many individuals and organisations come across it in their profession and work environments. We have identified your agency or organisation as one that has a key role to play in family violence and we welcome your input.

11. Does my agency or organisation have to participate in this consultation?

No, the consultation is voluntary so the decision to participate is up to the agency or organisation.

12. What other organisations or agencies are you consulting with?

We have contacted a range of organisations and agencies that work directly with family violence consisting of service providers, frontline staff, community groups and individuals who specialise in this area. As family violence is wide-reaching we are also talking to stakeholders and providers in other sectors (represented on the Ministerial Work Programme) eg, health, education, justice and social services that also work with or come across family violence in their environments.

13. What will happen with the feedback provided for this consultation?

Feedback provided through the online consultation survey and the regional workshops will be collated and analysed to gain a clear understanding of the key themes that have emerged. This will be used to further develop the framework before it is finalised for release. It will also inform the implementation plan for the framework. This feedback will be captured in a summary report that will be released following the consultation.