

TE TOIORA MATA TAUHERENGA

Summary of the Report of the TASKFORCE FOR ACTION ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE

*Incorporating the views of Te Ohaakii a Hine –
National Network Ending Sexual Violence Together*

taskforce for action on

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

2009 © Crown Copyright
ISBN 978-0-478-29082-9
CORP 409

Produced by the Ministry of Justice
PO Box 180, Wellington

www.justice.govt.nz/sexual-violence-taskforce

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

Te Toiora Mata Tauherenga: Report of the Taskforce for Action on Sexual Violence (the Report) completes the work of the Taskforce for Action on Sexual Violence (the Taskforce). The report sets out the key actions required to better prevent and respond to sexual violence and makes 71 recommendations to government.

The majority of recommendations are from Te Ohaakii a Hine – National Network Ending Sexual Violence Together (TOAH-NNEST).¹ The recommendations can be grouped into four themes:

- investment in effective funding of front-line services for victims and offenders;
- ensuring a coordinated response as work continues across the social, health, education and justice systems and in partnership with the community sector;
- implementing immediate changes such as legislative and procedural improvements to the current justice system and for future investment in longer-term prevention and alternatives to the current system; and
- building evidence and sharing information – across government and with the community sector.

A hallmark of the Taskforce has been the collaborative relationship between government and community. Government members of the Taskforce have, in good faith, reflected the views of TOAH-NNEST in all advice provided to Ministers over the last two years.

The final report and the majority of recommendations therefore primarily reflect the views of TOAH-NNEST and their recommendations for what is needed to achieve the ultimate goal of freedom from sexual violence.

¹ Te Ohaakii-a-Hine National Network Ending Sexual Violence Together (TOAH-NNEST) represents the vast majority of organisations and individuals working in the New Zealand sexual violence area and delivering front-line services for victims and treatment for offenders.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Sexual violence is prevalent in our communities. One survey found that 1 in 4 women and nearly 1 in 10 men had experienced unwanted and distressing sexual contact in their lifetime, most often by someone known to them.² Sexual offending costs the New Zealand economy approximately \$1.2 billion each year, largely due to the significant long-term health impact on victims. Despite its prevalence and effect, only 9 percent of sexual violence incidents are estimated to be reported to the Police. This means that solutions lie beyond the criminal justice system as well as within it.

We all have a part to play in developing a culture of respect that condemns and that ultimately will achieve freedom from sexual violence. Ending sexual violence and the harm it causes to individuals, family, whānau and our community is paramount.

2 Mayhew, P. and Reilly, J. (2007). The New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey 2006. Wellington, New Zealand: Ministry of Justice

THE TASKFORCE FOR ACTION ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The Taskforce was established in July 2007 for two years to lead and coordinate efforts to address sexual violence and advise Government on future actions to prevent and respond to this crime. The six key priority areas for Taskforce focus, as set out in its Terms of Reference, were:

1. prevention strategies and services incorporating attitudinal change and education;
2. early intervention and crisis response to acute and chronic sexual abuse and assault;
3. recovery and support services for those who have experienced sexual violence;
4. treatment and management of offenders that reduces re-offending and increases community safety;
5. the effectiveness of the criminal justice system responses to sexual offending (including reporting, investigation, legislation, evidential procedures, prosecution and conviction); and
6. the responsiveness of the justice system to victims and improving outcomes for victims.

THE WORK OF THE TASKFORCE

The Taskforce was asked to build on the work already undertaken by government and the community in the sexual violence area, to:

- identify policy, legislative and service gaps and opportunities for alignment;
- identify and prioritise actions to strengthen government and non-government initiatives to respond to and prevent sexual violence;
- ensure that key actions are coordinated across the government and non-government sectors; and
- provide advice to Ministers on the direction of future investments to improve prevention and responses to sexual violence.

Specific Taskforce projects have focused on understanding sexual violence from a Māori cultural perspective. This work includes a case study of the Tiaki Tinana rape prevention education project; a stocktake of kaupapa Māori and tikanga services; and Te Puāwaitanga o Te Kākano.

THE PARTNERSHIP: TOAH-NNEST AND GOVERNMENT

TOAH-NNEST has been the government's partner in the work of the Taskforce, providing a coordinated voice across the areas of prevention, services for victims, offender treatment and the criminal justice system. TOAH-NNEST has been involved at every level of Taskforce work.

TOAH-NNEST is structured on the basis of a Tiriti o Waitangi/ Treaty of Waitangi relationship and has both a Tangata whenua/Māori caucus³ and a Tauwiwi⁴ caucus working in partnership. TOAH-NNEST's internal commitment to a Treaty of Waitangi-based relationship has also added breadth and depth to their role in the Taskforce. This contribution has provided an invaluable frontline perspective and model of partnership that should continue in future government work on sexual violence. The voice of TOAH-NNEST and its position as a Taskforce partner is reflected in the separate TOAH-NNEST recommendations in *Te Toiora Mata Tauherenga*.

A major strength of the Taskforce has been the partnership approach between government and TOAH-NNEST. The Taskforce has set a foundation for government agencies to work together, and with the community, in thinking about sexual violence, planning prevention and delivering services. This collaborative approach has been a key reason for the success of the Taskforce.

3 The Tangata whenua/Māori caucus of TOAH-NNEST is known as Nga Kaitiaki Mauri.

4 Tauwiwi is a te reo Māori term for all people in Aotearoa New Zealand other than tangata whenua. The Tauwiwi caucus of TOAH-NNEST includes representation for Pacific peoples.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASKFORCE FOR ACTION ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE⁵

Ms Belinda Clark	(Chair) Secretary for Justice, Ministry of Justice
Ms Shenagh Gleisner	(Deputy Chair) Chief Executive, Ministry of Women's Affairs
Mr Howard Broad	Commissioner, NZ Police
Mr Barry Matthews	Chief Executive, Department of Corrections
Ms Karen Sewell	Secretary for Education, Ministry of Education
Dr Colin Tukuitonga	Chief Executive, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs
Mr Leith Comer	Chief Executive, Te Puni Kōkiri
Ms Katrina Ings	General Manager, Policy & Research, ACC
Dr Janice Wilson	Deputy Director General, Population Health Directorate, Ministry of Health
Ms Sue Mackwell	Deputy Chief Executive, Ministry of Social Development
Ms Sandz Peipi	Ngā Kaitiaki Mauri, TOAH-NNEST
Ms Te Owai Josie Gemmell	Ngā Kaitiaki Mauri, TOAH-NNEST
Dr Kim McGregor	Tau Iwi Caucus, TOAH-NNEST
Mr Hamish Dixon	Tau Iwi Caucus, TOAH-NNEST

⁵ The Taskforce was supported by a dedicated Secretariat in the Ministry of Justice comprised of: Lauren Perry (Manager), Sheridan Smith, Rachel Caddick and Jonathan O'Brien

ACTION AREAS

The chapters of the Report are as follows:

- preventing sexual violence in Aotearoa New Zealand;
- creating specialist front-line services for victims and offenders;
- reforming criminal justice; and
- future directions and approaches to end sexual violence. This chapter is about “how” rather than “what”.

All four areas are necessary components for durable and effective solutions to address sexual violence. Woven throughout the report is the need for distinct and effective solutions developed by Māori for Māori.

Each chapter of the report sets out the work completed by the Taskforce and any work underway. Recommendations for future action by TOAH-NNEST and by the Taskforce are made. The following is a summary of each action area. Full details can be found in *Te Toiora Mata Tauherenga*.

1. ACTION AREA: Preventing Sexual Violence in Aotearoa New Zealand

Sustained commitment and leadership across government and the community over the long term is required to successfully prevent sexual violence. Efforts must be made at all levels – individual, relational, community and societal – to address the factors that contribute to sexual violence.

WORK COMPLETED

Work has focussed on *primary* prevention. That is, preventing sexual violence before it ever occurs through developing respectful societal norms that are based on respect, safety, equality, healthy relationships and healthy sexuality.

Gathering evidence to inform prevention efforts that are likely to be successful in the New Zealand context has been important for this area of Taskforce work. A number of projects were completed:

- a literature review outlining the factors that contribute to sexual violence and findings on how best to raise the right conversations to effectively change problematic attitudes and promote positive behaviour;⁶
- a case study of the Tiaki Tinana project;⁷
- a scoping report on sexual violence and Pacific communities;⁸
- an exploratory stocktake of existing prevention initiatives in Aotearoa New Zealand;⁹
- the identification of elements of prevention programmes that work;¹⁰ and
- a literature review on the links between alcohol and sexual violence.¹¹

6 Robertson, N. & H. Oulton, (2008) *Sexual Violence: Raising the conversations – a literature review*. A report prepared for Te Puni Kokiri and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, Hamilton, University of Waikato.

7 Rape Prevention Education (2008). *Creating the Conversation – Te Whakamarama I Te Kaupapa: Tiaki Tinana Report*, unpublished, Auckland, New Zealand.

8 Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs (2008). *Sexual Violence and Pacific Communities: Scoping Report*. Unpublished, Wellington, New Zealand.

9 Russell, N. (2008a). *Prevention and education programmes aimed at preventing sexual violence in New Zealand: What providers tell us*. Unpublished, Wellington, New Zealand.

10 Russell, N (2008b). *What works in sexual violence prevention and education: a literature review*. Russell Research, unpublished, Wellington, New Zealand.

11 Russell, N (2008c). A review of the associations between drugs (including alcohol) and sexual violence. Russell Research, unpublished, Wellington, New Zealand.

WHAT THE WORK HAS TOLD US

We now understand more about the most effective and safe ways of raising awareness of sexual violence in our communities, including within Māori and Pacific communities. The literature review outlined factors that contribute to sexual violence at societal, community, relational and individual levels and provided an overview of lessons learnt from sexual violence prevention efforts to change attitudes and behaviours. Conversations need to be raised in ways that are suitable for particular cultural, ethnic and faith communities and this should take place at all levels of society.

The majority of prevention programmes in New Zealand are delivered by community organisations, and many organisations have stopped carrying out prevention work in recent years due to a lack of funding. There are few specialist sexual violence prevention education programmes being delivered; most programmes are concerned with general violence prevention. There appears to be variation in geographic coverage.

A strong association between alcohol and sexual violence has been confirmed. International research shows that an estimated three-quarters of offenders and just over half of date rape/acquaintance rape victims had been taking drugs or drinking before sexual violence occurred.¹²

WHERE TO NEXT

Two important pieces of research are soon to be completed and a national Sexual Violence Prevention Plan is being developed.

TE PUĀWAITANGA O TE KĀKANO – MĀORI BACKGROUND PAPER

Te Puni Kōkiri is working with Ngā Kaitiaki Mauri of TOAH-NNEST to produce a research paper about sexual violence for Māori. The findings will facilitate Māori-responsive approaches to sexual violence intervention and prevention strategies and explore, from a historical perspective, the demographic, societal, economic and political influences that have impacted on indigenous knowledge. Preventative factors, core protective principles, possible points for intervention, and key positive messages for Māori communities will be identified. This work is broader than prevention of sexual violence and will be completed by the end of 2009.

12 Koss, M.P. and Dinero, T.E. (1988a) A discriminant analysis of risk factors among a national sample of college women. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 57: 133–147.

PACIFIC PATHWAYS

The Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs has commissioned research on effective pathways for sexual violence prevention amongst Pacific people in New Zealand. The research aims to identify important protective factors in Pacific cultures that help to prevent sexual violence. These may include deep-rooted cultural and religious understandings based on values, practices, protocols and behaviours that have a practical place in modern New Zealand life. This research will be completed in coming months.

THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN

The Sexual Violence Prevention Plan will draw from the findings of Taskforce work and be guided by the models of *whānau ora* (healthy families) and *Te Ohaakii a Hine* (the Ngā Kaitiaki Mauri sexual violence prevention model which is based within a Māori worldview). The Ministry of Health is currently developing the Plan, in consultation with TOAH-NNEST and relevant government agencies for consideration by government by the end of 2009.

RECOMMENDATIONS – PREVENTION

In the Taskforce Report, 13 recommendations are made in relation to the prevention of sexual violence; 12 of these by TOAH-NNEST.

THE TASKFORCE RECOMMENDS:

- the completion of the Sexual Violence Prevention Plan in consultation with TOAH-NNEST.

IN ADDITION, TOAH-NNEST RECOMMENDS (IN SUMMARY):

- the establishment of a whole-of-government group with TOAH-NNEST to lead ongoing work to prevent sexual violence;
- effective funding for specialist sexual violence prevention services and programmes, including immediate funding as well as long-term funding that ensures sustainable, expanded programmes (including tertiary prevention programmes for perpetrators);
- a focus on six key priority areas including changing attitudes, protecting children and young people, investing in Māori-led solutions and strengthening institutional and policy approaches;
- support for the development of *Te Ohaakii a Hine* as a prevention tool and that the Prevention Plan is informed by *Te Ohaakii a Hine*.
- the creation of a forum to generate and share information and evidence.

2. ACTION AREA: Creating specialist front-line services

TOAH-NNEST considers that investment in *effective* funding of front-line services for victims and offenders is crucial. Without effective investment the sector will continue to face the same challenges of being unable to: plan long term; develop new services that meet current and emerging community needs; and retain specialist staff.

TOAH-NNEST recommends that this area be addressed as a matter of priority. Services include crisis support and long-term recovery support services for victim/survivors. Also prioritised are services for perpetrators of sexual violence who have not been convicted of a sexual offence (non-mandated perpetrators) or have completed a custodial sentence.

WORK COMPLETED

Over the past two years the Taskforce has completed:

- a TOAH-NNEST Nga Kaitiaki Mauri stocktake of existing services;
- a TOAH-NNEST Taiuiwi stocktake of existing services;
- a project that identified improvements to existing ACC services; and
- the development of a pilot programme for non-mandated perpetrators

WHAT THE WORK HAS TOLD US

THE STOCKTAKES

The stocktakes identified the holistic and whānau-based strengths of kaupapa and tangata whenua organisations and the need for specialist service delivery for tauuiwi. However, gaps in service provision and funding arrangements were also identified and need to be addressed. Some of the common issues across both stocktakes include:

- the need for funding to improve service capacity and capability – approximately 70 percent of the population (less for men) has access to 24/7 specialist crisis support services) but there are no 24/7 kaupapa tikanga tangata whenua crisis response services;
- the need for workforce training and development. For example cultural competencies for kaupapa and tikanga Māori practitioners as well as for all workers working with Māori; and
- better coordination of services.

The Ngā Kaitiaki Mauri stocktake showed two key findings:

- that tangata whenua models of health provide a template for practice, but services are most likely to be adapted so that they are delivered in locally whānau/hapū/iwi specific ways; and
- that the holistic approach of tangata whenua models of health place whānau at the centre of the healing process although the focus may be on the individual. Four common issues facing providers were funding, population diversity, workforce development and the coordination of services.

Key findings of the Tauivi stocktake include:

- a lack of access to services in some areas;
- few services for male victims;
- waiting lists for counselling services;
- barriers to access of services;
- the need for effective tripartite relationships between sexual violence services, police and health services;
- staff and funding shortages; and
- gaps in meeting the specific needs of Pacific communities.

IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING ACC SERVICES

The ACC working group found that improvements could be made to ACC services by:

- improving services for Māori;
- changing the test for ACC eligibility;
- improving ACC client processes to facilitate access to timely and appropriate recovery and support;
- improving services for Pacific people, male survivors and those with pre-existing conditions;
- changing the way ACC works with providers, including accreditation processes; and
- investigating alternative funding models.

NON-MANDATED PERPETRATORS PILOT PROGRAMME

A treatment programme for non-mandated perpetrators of sexual violence has been designed and is ready to pilot. No programmes of this nature are currently available, and yet they are crucial to community safety, given that approximately 91 percent of sexual offences are not reported to the police. The pilot programme is 32 weeks long and includes group and individual sessions as well as involving family and support people wherever possible.

WHERE TO NEXT

Effective practice guidelines for mainstream crisis support services are being developed. The first step in this process is near completion.

Work is underway to identify the ways in which cost is a barrier to accessing services. A research project will provide a definition of cost which is consistent with Aronga Māori and the current barriers associated with access to culturally appropriate services. A TOAH-NNEST Taiwi caucus questionnaire has been completed and is now being analysed.

For long term recovery services, future work needs to focus on improving services so that they are accessible and appropriately delivered. TOAH-NNEST recommends that this must include investigating alternative funding models. This work has not yet begun.

The first phase of work relating to ACC service improvement has been completed and a number of improvements have been identified. The next phase of this work will involve implementing these improvements.

RECOMMENDATIONS – CRISIS, LONG-TERM RECOVERY SERVICES AND SERVICES FOR PERPETRATORS

In the Taskforce Report TOAH-NNEST makes a total of 34 recommendations in regard to specialist *crisis support and long-term recovery services and services for non-mandated perpetrators*:

FOR CRISIS SUPPORT SERVICES, TOAH-NNEST RECOMMENDS (IN SUMMARY):

- a review of funding arrangements that support collaborative approaches;
- immediate funding so that workforce training and development needs and service coordination can be achieved;
- the allocation of resourcing and funding for kaupapa Māori support services;
- the development of an implementation plan and services for Pacific peoples; and

FOR LONG-TERM RECOVERY AND SUPPORT SERVICES, TOAH-NNEST RECOMMENDS (IN SUMMARY):

- a review of funding arrangements that support collaborative approaches and that includes alternative funding models;
- that ACC consults TOAH-NNEST on changes to ACC policies and procedures and on the development of culturally appropriate service delivery to tangata whenua;
- that best practice changes identified as part of the working group are implemented;
- that legislative change to the ACC scheme be considered in order to support the best practice delivery of rehabilitation and treatment services;

FOR SERVICES FOR NON-MANDATED PERPETRATORS, TOAH-NNEST RECOMMENDS:

- resolving who will be responsible for the pilot and delivery of the community treatment programme for non-mandated perpetrators;
- government funding for a Māori offender pilot programme by Māori for Māori; and
- a joint TOAH-NNEST government evaluation of the adequacy of existing funding for community-based offender treatment.

3. ACTION AREA: Reforming Criminal Justice

The criminal justice system (Police, Courts and Corrections) is a key part of how the state responds to sexual violence and is central to ensuring the safety of victims and the wider community, holding offenders to account and preventing re-offending.

Sexual violence is the least likely of all crime to be reported to Police, with an estimated 90 percent of sexual violence victims not reporting.¹³ In addition, research has found that of the comparatively small proportion of sexual offences that do reach the attention of Police, these cases proceed through the justice system at a lower rate, and obtain a conviction at a lower rate, than do cases involving other types of crime¹⁴

A strong criminal justice response is important to demonstrate that sexual violence is not tolerated in our society.

WORK COMPLETED

Work focussed on three areas:

- legislative change;
- identifying improvements to processes in the current criminal justice system; and
- alternative approaches to the current system.

The Ministry of Women's Affairs has also completed a significant research project on effective interventions for adult victims of sexual violence.

WHAT THE WORK HAS TOLD US

The Ministry of Women's Affairs research project *Restoring Soul: Key findings from Strong and Safe Communities – Effective Interventions for Adult Victims/Survivors of Sexual Violence* identified the proportion and types of cases that do not proceed through the criminal justice system during the police investigation stage and the court process. As attested by the low reporting rate for sexual violence, the most significant point of attrition is prior to reporting.

13 Mayhew, P. & Reilly, J. (2007). *The New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey 2006*. Ministry of Justice, Wellington, New Zealand

14 Ministry of Women's Affairs. (2009). *Restoring Soul: Key findings from Strong and Safe Communities – Effective Interventions for Adult Victims/Survivors of Sexual Violence*. Unpublished, The Ministry of Women's Affairs, Wellington, New Zealand.

The research found that once complainants report, the next significant point of attrition is during the investigation stage. There tends to be less attrition during the court process, as only cases with reasonable prospects of conviction proceed to court. Depending on the baseline, the research found the conviction rate for sexual violation was:

- 13 percent of all recorded cases;
- 20 percent if 'no offence' cases were excluded from the base;
- 42 percent of cases in which charges were laid; and
- once a case proceeds to trial, there is a 50 percent chance of conviction.

This research provides a greater understanding about where efforts should be focussed to improve the system. The work has clearly drawn out particular dynamics of sexual violence cases and the current criminal justice system. For example:

- sexual violence involves a deeply personal violation of the victim's sexual integrity and autonomy;
- sexual violence can have severe and long-lasting impacts for victims;
- significant myths and misconceptions about sexual violence exist; and
- proving sexual violence often turns on the matter of consent.

Work has shown us that we must improve the current system as much as is practicable, and consider fundamental change. However, over the long-term we need to be looking at alternative resolution methods beyond the criminal justice system if we are to improve public safety and hold offenders to account.

The Taskforce identified improvements to current policies, legislation, procedures and practices within the criminal justice system. This work has included mapping of the entire sexual violence process from pre-event prevention through to resolution (including ongoing recovery and treatment).

WHERE TO NEXT

LEGISLATIVE REFORM

The Taskforce recommends three legislative amendments are progressed as a matter of priority. The intent of the reforms is to reduce the stress and trauma sexual assault complainants face, provide for fairer trials and increase trust in the criminal justice system. The amendments are:

- the inclusion of a positive definition of consent in the Crimes Act 1961;
- a requirement that when determining whether the accused had reasonable grounds to believe the complainant consented to sexual activity the court must have regard to all the circumstances relevant to the case; and
- an extension of the 'rape shield' in the Evidence Act 2006 so that evidence about previous sexual experience between the complainant and the accused is inadmissible without prior agreement of the Judge.

FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE

The Taskforce recommends that a project to consider options for fundamental change to the current criminal justice system for sexual offence cases be referred to the Law Commission. For example whether the present adversarial trial process should be fundamentally modified or replaced with some alternative model.

POLICY AND PRACTICE IMPROVEMENTS

TOAH-NNEST believes the criminal justice system procedure could be significantly improved by incorporating in it an ethos of responsiveness to the needs of victims of sexual violence. TOAH-NNEST intends to undertake a consultation process with its members to define the principles underlying a victim-responsive justice system in relation to sexual violence. This information should be incorporated into ongoing and future work to improve the responsiveness of the criminal justice system to victims of sexual violence. This information could also be incorporated in a project to map the impact of engagement with the criminal justice system on victims of sexual violence.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE RECOMMENDATIONS

In the Report ten recommendations are made in relation to criminal justice reform; seven of these by TOAH-NNEST.

THE TASKFORCE RECOMMENDS:

- progressing the three legislative amendments relating to consent, reasonable belief and the rape shield;
- referring a project to consider options for fundamental change to the current criminal justice system to the Law Commission; and
- work on alternative pathways alongside and outside of the current criminal justice system be explored.

IN ADDITION TOAH-NNEST RECOMMENDS (IN SUMMARY) THAT:

- formal consultation processes are established between NZ Police, the Ministry of Justice and TOAH-NNEST for policy and procedural changes that may impact on victims of sexual violence; and
- a national, formal tri-partite forum be established between Police, crisis support services and the medical response represented by Doctors for Sexual Abuse Care.
- progressing further legislative changes, including trials being referred to the High Court, changes to the Evidence Act 2006 about corroboration, previous consistent statements, delays in making a complaint, rules of disclosure, and a range of amendments that promote victim's rights including the instigation of counsel for the complainant and the presence of a support person.
- a project to map the impact of engagement with the criminal justice system on victims of sexual violence, and to identify procedural and systemic changes contributing to improved responsiveness for victims.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND APPROACHES TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE

This chapter concludes *Te Toiora Mata Tauherenga* by outlining future directions, drawing on the work of the Taskforce over the last two years. Having considered *what* must be done to continue the work of the Taskforce across the three priority areas of action, this chapter recommends *how* this work can be done.

These concluding remarks reflect the themes present in the report's recommendations, where effective funding and a coordinated response that includes both immediate and longer term actions provide the components of the way forward.

Partnership/leadership and funding are the two essential elements of the future framework.

RANGATIRATANGA (PARTNERSHIP/LEADERSHIP)

A key feature of the Taskforce has been its active development of a partnership across government and community representatives. The continuation of the partnership approach is integral to the way forward. In particular, distinct responses are required to meet the needs of tangata whenua. A coordinated, well-led and embedded response is required to address the complex social issue of sexual violence.

KAITIAKITANGA (FUNDING)

The Taskforce has supported the development of a national network (TOAH-NNEST) during its lifetime, and it is this network that now calls for ongoing resources. Funding the community sector in a holistic and integrated manner is vital to effective specialist responses for both victim/survivors and perpetrators. In this, TOAH-NNEST calls for an innovative and new approach to funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS – FUTURE ACTIONS TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE

In the Report 12 recommendations are made in relation to future actions; ten of these by TOAH-NNEST.

THE TASKFORCE RECOMMENDS:

- that information prepared as part of the Taskforce work programmes is made publicly available;
- the monitoring of progress on the recommendations in the Report to ensure action is targeted to where it is most effective.

IN ADDITION (AND IN SUM), TOAH-NNEST RECOMMENDS:

- the Taskforce continues for a minimum period of four years with revised terms of reference that give effect to a Māori worldview;
- funding for the TOAH-NNEST network as experts and workers in sexual violence prevention and response;
- TOAH-NNEST are involved in ongoing work across government agencies;
- a lead agency for sexual violence policy and funding is identified;
- resourcing to bring together the respective findings of; the Tiaki Tinana case study, the stocktake of kaupapa and tikanga tangata whenua services and Te Puāwaitanga o Te Kākano; and
- further research into the needs of specific communities.

AN ONGOING FOCUS ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS NEEDED

At the end of its term, the Taskforce is aware that the challenge now is to keep this important issue on the government agenda. Action is needed now and over the longer term to ensure that the Taskforce's foundation of work and information and the partnership between government and the community sector is not lost.

The Report concludes that partnership/leadership and funding are the essential elements of the way forward. What is needed now is a coordinated, resourced, well-led and embedded response to address the complex social issue of sexual violence.

Kua ea te Okākī ā Hine

New Zealand Government