

### **Purpose**

1. This note provides information on your Cabinet paper seeking agreement to establish a new approach to addressing family violence and sexual violence led by a dedicated agent within central government.

### **We need to do things differently to address family violence and sexual violence**

2. Government's response to family violence and sexual violence is complex and multi-faceted and requires collective actions from at least 10 agencies across prevention, early intervention, crisis response and recovery responses. A variety of voluntary and distributed models of coordination have been tried over the past fifteen years yet our rates of violence remain high and our responses poor. Prior attempts have been hampered because they never combined all the required powers to develop an integrated response across government (see appendix one).

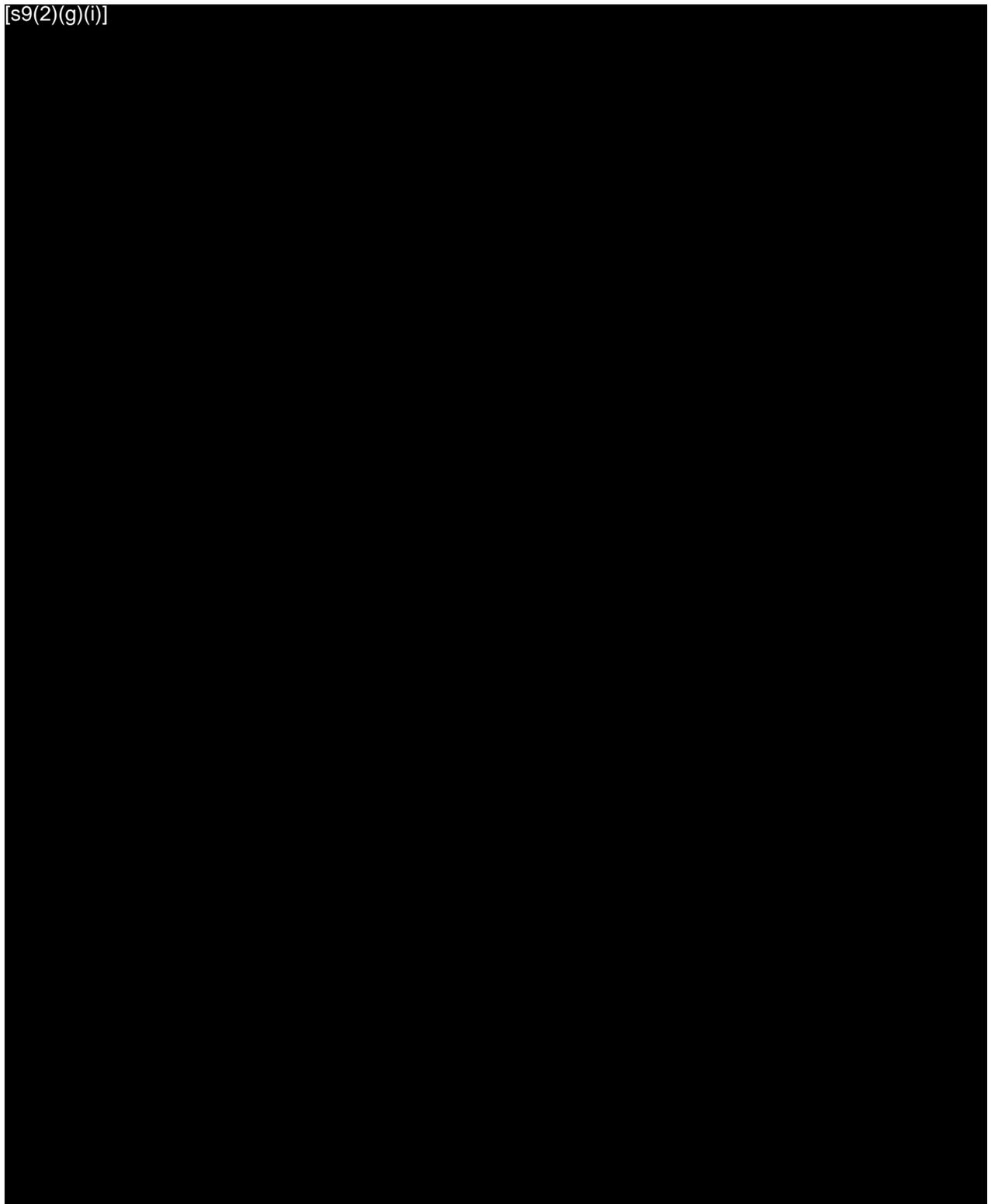
### **The paper therefore proposes to establish a dedicated agent to transform practice**

3. The paper recommends a dedicated agent should be established that is responsible and accountable for an effective whole-of-government response to family violence and sexual violence. The key levers the proposed dedicated agent would have, that were not utilised in the past are:
  - a. A stewardship role (ie, clear lead) for the performance of the whole-of-government response to family violence and sexual violence; and
  - b. The ability to inform the allocation of funding across agencies to ensure we have the right balance of services (eg, filling the gaps in prevention and early intervention) and to ensure sustainable and innovative specialist services.
4. Without such arrangements, it will be difficult for the Government to achieve its other goals, such as improving child wellbeing and achieving healthier and safer communities. Ongoing initiatives, such as embedding workforce capabilities and common risk assessment frameworks across the sector, will also struggle to continue.
5. If Cabinet agrees to establish a dedicated agent, the paper proposes a report-back in early May on the options for its organisation form.

### **Potential issues that will be raised by Cabinet Ministers**

6. You have consulted with other Ministers on the paper and we understand there is broad support from the Ministers of Māori Development, Whānau Ora, Women and Children.
7. Through our ongoing conversations and consultation with other agencies we consider it possible that the issues outlined in the table below may have been raised to Ministers by their officials.

[s9(2)(g)(i)]



Appendix one: Previous efforts of central coordination and cross-government approaches to family violence and sexual violence in New Zealand

Elements needed for effective stewardship of family violence and sexual violence system	Organisational form and support	1985-1992 Family Violence Prevention Coordinating Committee Ministerial Committee on Violence Supported by Team of 1-2 staff in MSD	1994-2002 Family Violence Focus Group Family Violence Advisory Committee Business Unit in Social Policy Agency in MSD	2002-2005 Te Rito Advisory Group Ministerial Group Māori Taskforce on Family Violence Team in MSD	2007-2009 Taskforce for Action on Sexual Violence Secretariat in Justice, 2-3 staff	2005-2015 Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families + Ministerial Group Māori Reference Group Pacific Advisory Group Expert Advisory Group Business Unit in MSD : 2-11 staff	[s9(2)(g)(i)]
	Strategy	No strategy, just actions for individual agencies	Crime Prevention Strategy; Government Statement in Family Violence Policy	Te Rito Family Violence Prevention Strategy <b>New Zealand's only national family violence strategy.</b> It is still being used by networks and communities	Short-term in order to provide advice to particular Minister	No Taskforce strategy, just actions planned or underway in each agency. E Tu Whānau and Pasefika Proud Programmes of Action developed but did not lead to cross-agency action	[s9(2)(g)(i)] [s9(2)(a)(i)]
	Aligned actions across government	No one responsible aligning and ensuring mutually reinforcing actions across government	No one responsible aligning and ensuring mutually reinforcing actions across government	No one responsible aligning and ensuring mutually reinforcing actions across government	No one responsible aligning and ensuring mutually reinforcing actions across government	No one responsible aligning and ensuring mutually reinforcing actions across government	[s9(2)(g)(i)] [s9(2)(a)(i)]
	Outcomes, monitoring and reporting	-	-	Some reporting on progress of individual actions, not outcomes, newsletters to sector	Government response to recommendations published, but no progress reports	No defined outcomes nor recorded decisions and consequent actions	[s9(2)(g)(i)] [s9(2)(a)(i)]
	Integrated budget bids	Budget decisions made by individual agencies and Ministers without a view to overall system	Budget decisions made by individual agencies and Ministers without a view to overall system	Budget decisions made by individual agencies and Ministers without a view to overall system	Budget decisions made by individual agencies and Ministers without a view to overall system	Budget decisions made by individual agencies and Ministers without a view to overall system	[s9(2)(g)(i)] [s9(2)(a)(i)]
	Co-design of services and support for implementation	Advisory role for NGOs on Committee HAIP pilot	Advisory role for NGO reps on Focus Group Short-term implementation support	Advisory role for NGOs Short term support only for FVIARS and networks	No	Advisory role for NGOs on Taskforce Short term support for new interagency initiatives	[s9(2)(g)(i)] [s9(2)(a)(i)]
	Partnership w/ Māori	Kaupapa Māori NGOs on Committee; Māori Women's Welfare League advisory role	-	Independent advice from Māori Taskforce; Kaupapa Māori NGOs represented on Advisory Group; consultation with Māori communities	Kaupapa Māori NGOs represented on the Taskforce; Nga Kaitiaki Mauri (TOAHNREST) reps	Separate advice from Māori Reference Group; kaupapa Māori NGOs represented on the Taskforce	[s9(2)(g)(i)] [s9(2)(a)(i)]
	Workface development	No	Good Practice Guidelines for Interagency Coordination	Established NZ Family Violence Clearinghouse; Risk Assessment and Safety national standard developed but not implemented	Practice guidelines	No	[s9(2)(g)(i)] [s9(2)(a)(i)]

- Not present
- Partly Present
- Present

Government agencies spent most of the time explaining why they weren't able to do anything – no money, other priorities, doesn't fit with internal work programme

The process for prioritising and allocating responsibility for initiatives appears to be more 'buck passing' with many agencies trying to avoid doing things

When the top decision makers were around the table, we saw some changes in individual agencies, but they started sending lower level officials, and we lost the ability to do anything

We weren't allowed to raise the issue of money

The Taskforce made people feel like something was happening, when it really wasn't

The large Government agencies are the only ones with resources to commit to these actions and hence they tend to retain control for most actions

Information in this table is based on a short period of desktop research (March 2018) and discussions with NGO reps and officials – it is not an exhaustive policy review