

# **BEYOND ZERO TOLERANCE: SETTING THE AGENDA FOR FAMILY VIOLENCE WORK IN NEW ZEALAND**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Launching the next two decades of family violence work requires a vision of where we want to get to. This presentation describes how a review of the past 20 years of family violence work, as well as integration of existing models for understanding violence can help us chart a course for the future.

## **INTRODUCTION**

In 2005 the New Zealand Families Commission commissioned a review to summarise what we know about responding to family violence, and to set the stage for future action. This presentation summarises the findings of that review, and describes some of the initiatives that have grown out of the work.

## **CONTENT**

Four key themes emerged:

- 1) The need to move beyond “zero tolerance” for violence, and seek to foster and support healthy relationships
- 2) The need to extend our practical knowledge of how to achieve collaboration and coordination across sectors (horizontal integration)
- 3) The need to ensure that high level policies and the practice on the ground work together (vertical integration), and
- 4) The need to improve our ability to meet people (individuals and communities) at different stages of understanding of violence, in order to foster positive change.

A conceptual model that builds on the ecological model, and that can guide future work, is presented.

## CONCLUSIONS

Investment in developing healthy relationships is a fundamental part of eliminating violence. The conceptual models that we use can provide a roadmap for moving us along this path. The model also has implications for other areas of mental health promotion.

**Theme 3:** Coalition building across diverse sectors and settings

**Determinants:** Freedom from violence.

**Charter recommendation:** Eliminating violence requires a conscious striving toward healthy relationships. Achieving this goal requires the active involvement of individuals, families, communities and societies, as well as the engagement of all sectors of society.

## References

Fanslow, JL. (2005). Beyond zero tolerance: Key issues and future directions for family violence work in New Zealand. Wellington: Families Commission.