

Jan Logie MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary to the Minister of Justice (Domestic and Sexual Violence Issues)

Family Violence and Sexual Violence (FVSV) COVID-19 response

Date: 27 March 2020

Action sought

Deadline

Note	the Joint Venture's approach to COVID-19 and provide any feedback	31 March 2020
Note	the draft agenda for the FVSV Ministers meeting on 1 April 2020 and provide any feedback	31 March 2020
Forward	a copy of this briefing to FVSV Ministers for your meeting on 1 April 2020	31 March 2020

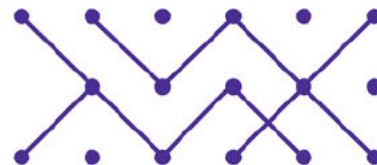
Contacts for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone (work)	First contact
Stephen Glover	Deputy Director, Family Violence and Sexual Violence	s9(2)(a)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fiona Ross	Director, Joint Venture		

Under-Secretary's office to complete

<input type="checkbox"/> Noted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Seen	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn	<input type="checkbox"/> Not seen by Minister

Comments



Purpose

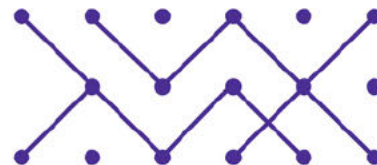
1. To provide an update on the Joint Venture's (JV) proposed approach to take a system-wide view of the impact and response to family violence and sexual violence (FVSV) in the context of COVID-19.
2. This briefing provides an initial view of issues, risks and priorities identified to date. There will be issues and impacts that we have not yet anticipated and new issues that emerge as the COVID-19 response evolves. We will need to continue to learn and adapt our approach as we go.

We will re-prioritise the work of the JV to support the FVSV response to COVID-19

3. We know that people affected by FVSV are at increased risk during the COVID-19 epidemic. As a result, FVSV services are essential services as part of the COVID-19 response. We are re-prioritising the work of the Joint Venture (JV) to support this response.
4. JV agencies are already acting to ensure the delivery of these essential services and to enable providers to change how they deliver these services to reflect COVID-19 guidance. Key messages and information have been added to the Government's central COVID-19 website.
5. Responses are also emerging within the FVSV sector: a working group with representatives from the FVSV sector and government has already begun meeting, and SHINE and DVFREE has developed advice to employers for 'working remotely and family violence' in response to the level four alert now in place.
6. It is critical that government continues to take a Joint Venture approach to tackling family violence and sexual violence as part of the COVID-19 response: to ensure this response is as effective as possible, making best use of available resources and avoiding fragmentation, gaps and duplication.

Putting in place structures and processes will help us take a system-wide view of the impacts and response to FVSV in the context of COVID-19

7. We are working to quickly establish structures and processes that will enable us to:
 - utilise the collective resource available across the JV and wider government to address FVSV in the COVID-19 context,
 - understand the evolving concerns and needs of the sector and vice-versa,



- ensure key messages are communicated to the public,
- be agile to share learnings and innovations, and;
- rapidly respond to issues and opportunities as they arise.

8. While our thinking is still developing about how best to achieve this we have identified several immediate opportunities for taking a structured approach:

Establishing a FVSV COVID-19 Sector Advisory Group

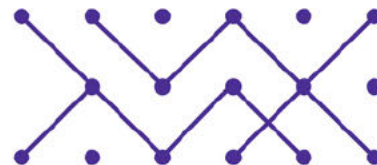
9. An ad-hoc working group with representatives from the FVSV sector and government has already begun meeting. We propose to formalise this group as a key channel to support two-way information sharing about what the sector needs and how government is responding. The membership and reporting lines of the group will need to be reviewed to ensure there is the right level and breadth of representation and to ensure accountability. We will also work with Interim Te Rōpū.
10. The JV will provide regular status updates to the overall COVID-19 emergency management structure – for people affected by FVSV (as a vulnerable community) under the welfare pillar. This will summarise information from our networks on wellbeing, the ability of services to address needs, and any emerging risks and issues.

Diverting all available JVBV resources towards the response and putting in place processes to enable agility and rapid response

11. This is a rapidly changing environment and we will need to work quickly and nimbly to respond to issues and opportunities as they arise. We are developing processes that will allow us to capture, triage and action emergent issues from across the JV, wider Government and the FVSV sector. We are diverting all available resource from the Joint Venture Business Unit (JVBV) towards this work.

An initial FVSV work-programme in response to COVID-19

12. We are engaging across the JV and wider FVSV sector to understand the immediate and medium term FVSV needs in response to COVID-19. Taking a system-wide view will allow us to identify common issues that would benefit from a coordinated approach, have oversight of who is doing what and ensure that nothing falls through the gaps.
13. We are in the process of collating what is already happening across the JV and the emergent issues. The following work-streams are emerging as priorities for action:



Keeping FVSV services going will be critical during and after the COVID-19 pandemic

14. The Government has confirmed that services that support victims of FVSV have been categorised as essential services and will continue to operate throughout all COVID-19 alert levels. These services are likely to be facing increased demand, reduced staff capacity and will need to change the ways they operate.
15. On 26 March 2020 the Government announced a package of funding totalling \$27m for essential social services. \$16 million* of this has been allocated towards FVSV to bolster existing essential social sector services delivered by non-government organisations (NGOs) so they can continue to support individuals, families, whānau and communities at risk through uncertain circumstances and respond to increased demand.
16. The JVBU will continue to play a role working with JV agencies and FVSV sector groups to ensure a system-wide view is taken of the issues, opportunities and what action needs to be taken. Our existing work on Integrated Community Responses (ICR), workforce capability and new models for contracting are relevant to this work and we are considering how we reshape the work accordingly.

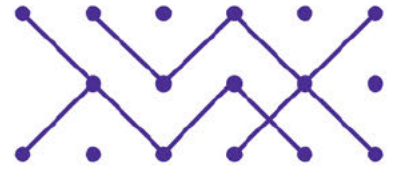
Emergency housing is an immediate priority during the alert level-4 lock-down period

17. The requirement for all New Zealanders to self-isolate for at least the next four weeks will create increased demand for emergency and safe housing because of an increase in FVSV. This issue impacts the work of several agencies including Ministry of Social Development and Police so a coordinated response is required.
18. The JVBU is working with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development that are responsible for the wider homelessness plan, as well as other relevant JV agencies and FVSV sector groups to ensure a consistent, national approach to FVSV related accommodation needs.

Preventing violence from happening in the first place should form a key part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic

19. The evidence suggests that key messages and resources should be made available to the public and should, where possible form part of the government's official COVID-19 communications. Initial messages have been built into COVID-19 communications and there is FVSV prevention content on the www.covid19.govt.nz website. We have also worked with JV agencies to develop core messages that have been shared across communications teams.
20. The JVBU will continue to draw together what is happening across government and the FVSV sector and support the development of centralised resources and messages, identify opportunities for refocussing and/or leveraging existing work and developing new

* This figure was later updated to \$12 million

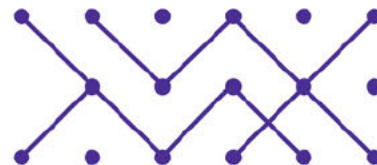


initiatives. We will work with JV agencies to determine the most effective means to get these messages out to the public. This will have a prevention focus to include messaging that FVSV is not OK; what individuals, employers and communities can do to help keep people safe; and what services those who use violence can access to prevent violence.

21. Further advice is being developed for FVSV Ministers in this space.

Next steps

22. Please provide any feedback and discuss this overall approach at the FVSV Ministers meeting on 1 April 2020. We will continue to provide regular updates on this work.



Recommendations

It is recommended that you

1. Note the Joint Venture's approach to COVID-19 and provide any feedback	YES/ NO
2. Note the draft agenda for the FVSV Ministers meeting on 1 April 2020 and provide any feedback	YES/ NO
3. Forward a copy of this briefing to FVSV Ministers for your meeting on 1 April 2020	YES/ NO

Stephen Glover, Deputy Director, Joint Venture Business Unit

Date / /

APPROVED

SEEN

NOT AGREED

APPROVED

SEEN

NOT AGREED

Jan Logie

Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister
of Justice (Domestic Violence and Sexual
Violence)

Date 30 / 03 / 2020