

# Supporting Specialist Family Violence Services

As part of Budget 20 we want to ensure continued access to family violence specialist services for victims/survivors (including elder abuse victims/survivors) and perpetrators, supporting the delivery of more effective social services by non-government organisations.

## Budget 2020

**Providing better outcomes for people impacted by family violence and elder abuse, including victims/survivors and perpetrators.**

**Government is investing an additional \$183 million over the next four years in the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) funded specialist family violence services for victims/survivors and perpetrators of family violence.**

- New Zealand has devastating levels of family violence.
- This has led to overwhelming demand for specialist family violence services for victims/survivors of family violence and perpetrators of violence.
- Current funding for essential specialist family violence services is not adequate to meet costs, does not support safe practice and drives high caseloads, low salaries and unpaid hours for sector specialists and other workers.
- In addition, the costs associated with delivering services have increased. These include contracting requirements, such as health and safety requirements, accreditation and other social sector workforce development costs.
- The additional funding will allow providers to start addressing their cost pressures and to retain, support and develop valuable staff.
- Providing improved working environments for staff leads to better outcomes for people affected by family violence.
- Specialist family violence service providers employ social workers and workers whose skills and experience are in high demand in the social sector. The additional funding will allow them to offer more competitive wages in-line with other similar services.
- By year four, this additional funding will have more than doubled baseline funding for MSD-funded family violence services.
- We know that there is likely to be additional pressure on family violence services due to the impacts of COVID-19. Additional funding has been secured to help address this (refer COVID-19 Budget Package Family Violence factsheet).
- As part of this investment in the family violence sector, we'll continue to work closely with the sector to make our communities safer for everyone.

Costs (operating) \$m					
Sector	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
Woman's Refuges and other victims/survivors' services	17.0m	34.0m	42.0m	49.0m	<b>142.0m</b>
Elder abuse	2.5m	5.0m	7.5m	10.0m	<b>25.0m</b>
Perpetrators	2.5m	3.5m	5.0m	5.0m	<b>16.0m</b>