



15 MAY 2019

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

On 15 March 2019 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information to support your research on South Asian women's experiences of Intimate Partner Violence in New Zealand:

- *The funding allocated to ethnic specific organisations that cater to South Asian women and how this has changed from the last government?*

The Ministry funds a number of services that support victims and perpetrators of family violence. In the 2017/18 financial year, the Ministry provided approximately \$23 million in funding for family violence victim support and perpetrator support services.

You may be interested to know that in September 2018 the Government established a Joint Venture of Chief Executives from key government agencies to lead the whole-of-government response to family violence and sexual violence. The role of the Joint Venture is to:

- set a clear direction for Government's commitment to reduce family violence and sexual violence
- develop a national strategy that establishes clear goals and targets for reducing family violence and sexual violence
- support the on-going evaluation and continuous improvement of responses to family violence and sexual violence to build an evidence base for effective interventions
- provide strategic, whole-of-government advice to Ministers to ensure current settings realise the long-term goals outlined in the strategy
- co-design with communities the necessary infrastructure, tools and support needed to deliver the components of an integrated system
- develop the capabilities of the public and front line staff in government and non-government organisations to safely identify and respond to violence before it escalates.

More information on the Joint Venture and the work programme is available here: www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/key-initiatives/reducing-family-and-sexual-violence/work-programme.

As part of Budget 2018, the Government allocated \$76.157 million of additional funding over four years to stabilise and strengthen MSD-funded services that respond to family violence. As a result of this increase the Ministry now spends approximately \$31 million on services for whānau and families, victims and non-mandated perpetrators. Further information is available on the Ministry's website at: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/2018/significant-funding-boost-for-family-violence-services.html.

Services that respond to family violence are available to anyone who needs support. Of the providers the Ministry funds to provide this support we know that some specialise in supporting ethnic communities these include: the Chinese New Settlers Services Trust (CNSST); New Zealand Ethnic Social Services Trust; Chinese Mental Health Consultation Services Trust; Shakti Community Council (Shakti); SHAMA (Hamilton Ethnic Women's Centre); and Christchurch Resettlement Services.

Of these organisations the Ministry is aware of one that specifically works with South Asian women. This organisation, Shakti provides culturally competent support services for women, children and families of Asian, African and Middle Eastern origin.

Ministry funding to Shakti over the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019 is as follows:

- \$505,431 in 2016/2017
- \$555,431 in 2017/2018
- \$627,692 in 2018/2019

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding providers of family violence services contracted by the Ministry to provide services for the greater Wellington region, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Mark Henderson
General Manager, Safe Strong Families and Communities