

August 2018

Development of MSD Family Violence Funding Plan

Over the past few months our Family Violence Team has been talking with MSD-funded providers of family violence services to better understand the current services being delivered.

This is part of the first stage of creating a new Family Violence Funding Plan that is whānau-centred, outcomes-focused and integrated.

We talked to a number of randomly selected family violence service providers throughout New Zealand. Providers were gracious with their time and we gained many valuable insights.

Key themes from provider discussions

Some of the key themes we heard about were:

- A call for a shared understanding of family violence. The current lack of a shared understanding means there are inconsistent practices across the sector.
- Across New Zealand there are additional factors impacting on family violence which mean that people are presenting with compounding, complex needs. The factors we heard about most often were: intergenerational violence and trauma, lack of housing, increased use of drugs and alcohol (mainly P and synthetics), ongoing mental health needs and a lack of services, and the impacts of poverty which are now more pronounced.
- Providers mentioned that they were facing increased demand levels which they managed in a number of ways – including waitlists, referring to other providers and not being able to promote their services.
- The cost to deliver services has increased, which has decreased the contributory proportion that MSD funds. Additionally, it has become difficult to find the extra funding needed to meet operating costs.
- Staff in this sector are passionate and committed to making a difference in reducing family violence. Staff have been affected by a lack of increased funding through worsened work conditions and real income.
- MSD could improve the way it contracts services to provide more flexibility and to focus on outcomes rather than outputs.
- There are a number of service gaps including geographically and in the types of services available to communities, particularly for perpetrators.
- Providers recognise that just pouring more money into family violence will not solve the problem. The whole sector (government, communities and NGOs) needs to work differently if we want to achieve better outcomes.
- Providers are willing to participate in the creation of a better system and recognise that there is no quick fix to family violence in New Zealand.