



GPs' vital role in addressing family violence

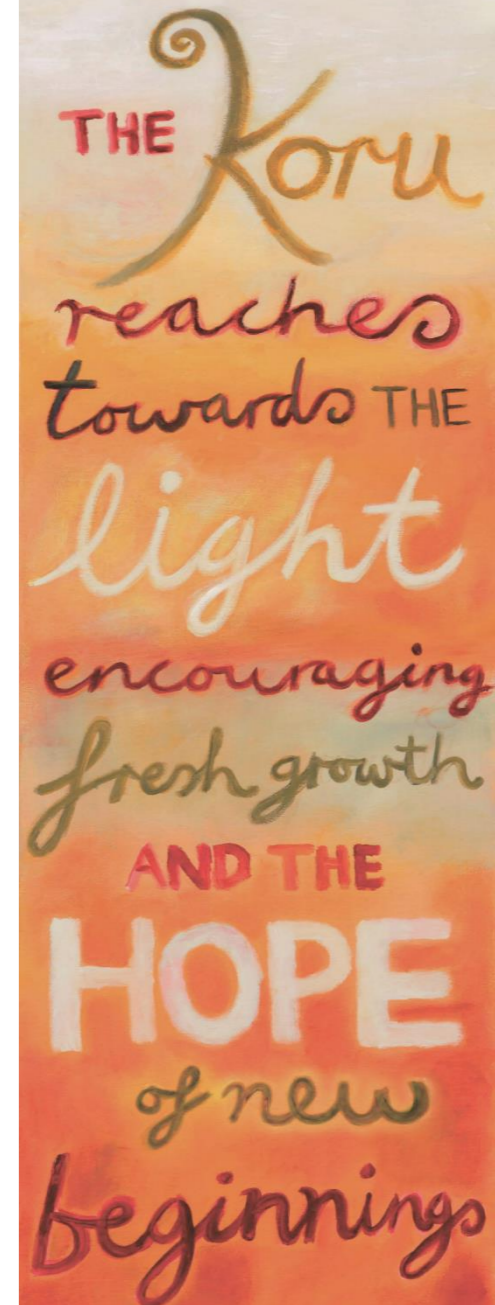
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Holly Carrington
Shine DVFREE & Policy Advisor



Founded in 1990, Shine provides specialist domestic violence services:

- National Helpline, advocacy and women's refuges
- Non-violence programmes
- Nationwide training, DVFREE workplace programme, systems/policy advocacy



Acknowledgements

- You may have personal experience of family violence
- Call our free Helpline **0508 744 633** (7 days, 9am-11pm)

Prevalence

- 1 in 3 NZ women physically or sexually assaulted by an intimate (ex) partner in their lifetime (*Fanslow et al, 2011*)
- Gay, lesbian, bisexual adults more than twice as likely to experience IPV (*NZ Crime and Victims Survey, 2018-2019*)
- Police attend a domestic violence callout every 4 minutes, and estimate only 20% of domestic violence reported (*NZ Police, 2018*)



Jackie's story...

Dr. Jackie Blue:

“Women are waiting to be asked. Nobody thought to ask me.”



Health screening and referral: what can result



Family Violence Act 2018 legal definition

A **family relationship** is:

- Intimate (ex) partners (intimate partner violence)
- Family members
- Flatmates
- Any close, personal relationship

Family violence is

- A range of abusive behaviours - physical, sexual, psychological, financial, etc.
- A pattern of behaviour where acts may not seem abusive, but overall effect control

Family violence health impacts



Child Abuse and Neglect

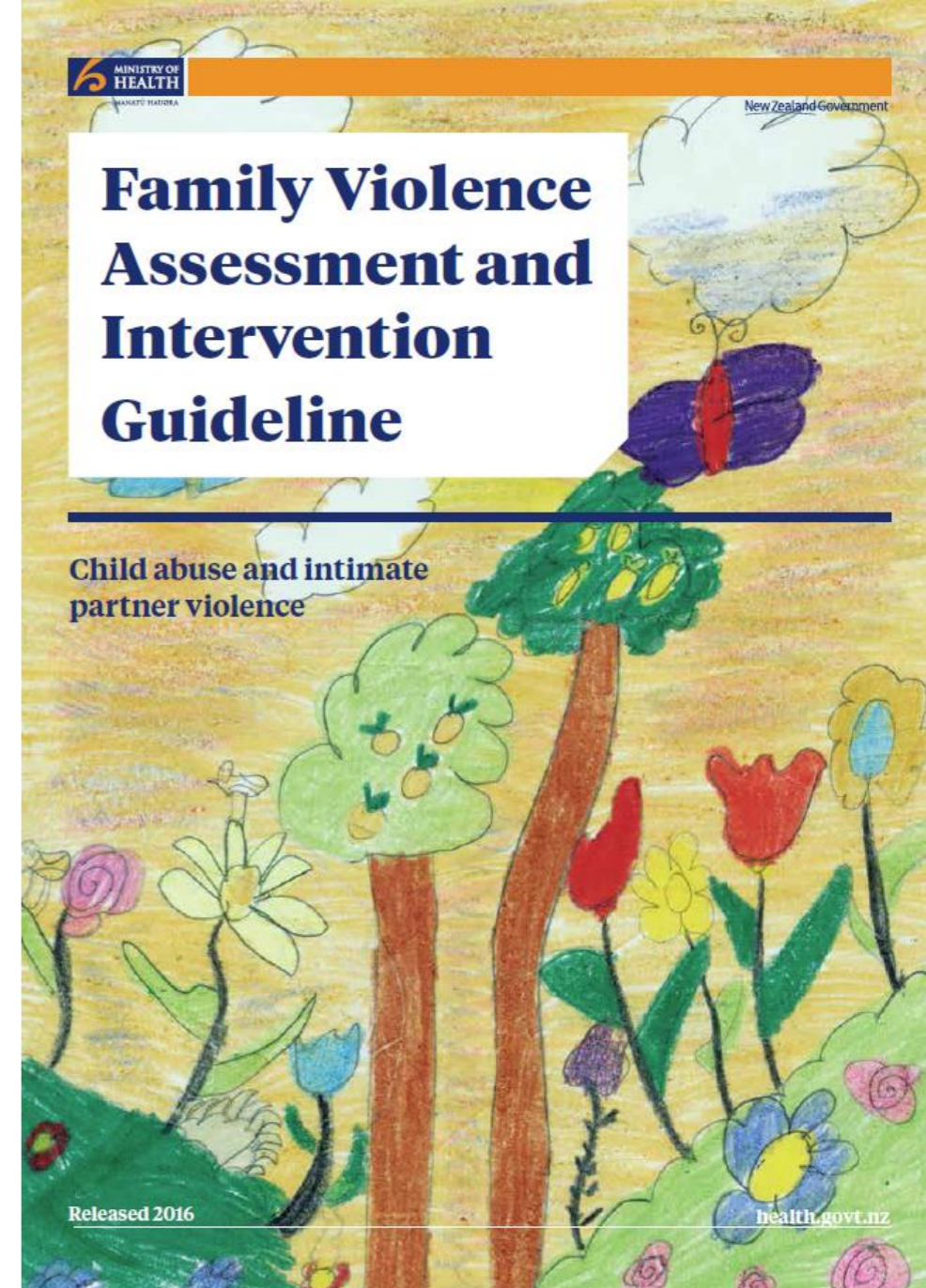
- Exposure to family violence has similar long-term impacts as direct physical violence (Edleson, 1999)



Health response best practice

Ministry of Health Guideline (*first published 2002, last updated 2016*) recommends:

- A focus on intimate partner violence and child abuse/neglect as significant precursors of poor health outcomes
- Routine enquiry of adult females
- Indicator-based enquiry for other adults *and* for child abuse/neglect





Why routinely enquire for IPV?

- It is **common** and has severe consequences on physical and mental health
- It is usually **not** disclosed without a direct question
- People **will** commonly disclose IPV when questioned directly in the context of a professional relationship with an attitude of caring and non-judgement
- Only asking about violence when there are indicators (other reasons to suspect it) **will miss** a substantial proportion of potential disclosures about family violence.

Why are GPs so important?

- GPs viewed as safe and trusted
- GPs are often the only person a victim is allowed to see or talk to by herself – best opportunity for safe intervention

BUT – the GP is not responsible for solving the problem. They are a link in the chain of support.



Before asking questions... a systems approach

- ***Governance & leadership** - leadership backing, dedicated funding
- **Programme coordination** - dedicated roles
- **Collaboration** with community/referral agencies
- **Policy and procedures**
- **Supporting resources**
- ***Referral pathways**
- **Evaluation and monitoring**
- ***Provide for safety of practitioners – workplace safety and support**
- **Education/training - TRAIN LAST**

...



A safe health response involves referring to and consulting with domestic violence specialists.

Leaving ≠ Safety

5  **%**

**of intimate partner (IPV)
deaths occurred at the
time of actual or intended
separation.**

Ministry of Health:

VIP violence intervention programme

District Health Boards:

- Funding for DHB Coordinators, national coordination, training for trainers (Shine), evaluation (AUT)

Training contracts for professional groups

- For primary care >> MEDSAC



Where to begin: for your organisation

- **MEDSAC** (Medical Sexual Assault Clinicians Aotearoa, formerly DSAC) provide:
 - Free training: Recognition and Response to Partner Abuse
 - Other family violence resources e.g. IPV & Child Protection policy templates for Primary Care
 - Reach out for support to develop systems before training
 - Go to <https://medsac.org.nz/>

Where to begin: for you as a health professional

It is not safe to initiate patient conversations about IPV/CAN before systems & training in place.

BUT if your patient brings it up, **know who to refer to** and **who to consult with**:

➤ local DHB VIP Coordinators & FV specialists:

National specialist helplines (*contact to find our local services*):

- **Shine:** 0508-744-633 (9am-11pm, 7 days)
 - Or chat online at www.2shine.org.nz
- **Women's Refuge:** 0800-733-843 (24/7)
 - Or chat online – click this icon in footer of Stuff.co.nz, thewarehouse.co.nz etc:
- **Elder Abuse Response:** 0800 32 668 65
 - Or text 5032 (24/7)





Thank you!

shine*