

# Whāngaia: Waitematā Bulletin

## From the Director

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Waitematā Whāngaia Nga Pa Harakeke Bulletin. This month we reached a significant milestone in our Whāngaia Ngā Pā Harakeke journey: the activation of the District Safety Assessment Meeting (SAM) table. Superintendent Tusha Penny (pictured addressing the first meeting) emphasised the importance of agencies working together, acknowledging that lives will be saved through information sharing, joint safety planning tailored to the needs of the whānau and the activities and interventions carried out by our service providers.

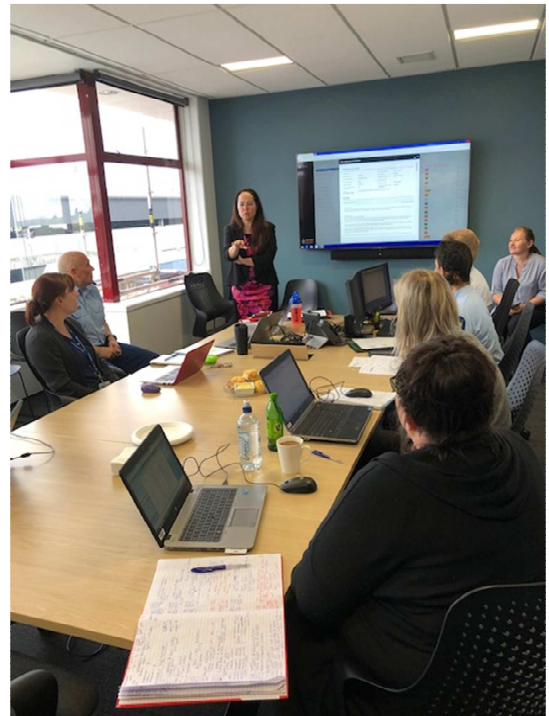
We are now preparing to train our Police staff, our SAM partners and NGO service providers in using the IT solution that will be used to deploy our resources and drive our referral process. This solution, the Family Safety System (FSS), is an internet based programme which allows licence holders remote access to FSS via an internet based portal.

Police will be issuing licences to service providers that will allow direct communication between the SAM table and the licence holder.

To receive a licence from Police it is critical that individuals are VCA vetted. Senior Sergeant Wendy Pickering, our District Victims Co-ordinator will hold the portfolio and in the section below you will find out how to access a licence. This is an exciting new referral process which I believe will ultimately see NGOs spending less time involved in meetings and more time alongside victims.

If you have any questions or queries around this process don't hesitate to contact either myself or Senior Sergeant Pickering.

**Detective Inspector Brett Batty**



## Whāngaia Ngā Pā Harakeke Progress

The Hub is complete with the tukutuku panels and frosted harakeke glass adding strong imagery to the meeting rooms underpinning the work that we are doing to make our whānau and families safer.

We are pleased to welcome Helene and Jenny from Oranga Tamariki and Priscilla and Gemma from Corrections who have joined us in the Hub. WiFi enables them to remotely connect with their agencies databases. During their induction, they met local staff, visited and observed Counties Manukau Whāngaia Nga Pa Harakeke and got to learn more about the model.

Sergeant Tim Stevens has been working towards a smooth transition from weekly / twice weekly FVIARS meetings to daily Safety Assessment Meetings (SAM) which began Monday 24th September. Initially, the SAM table has representatives from Police, Corrections and Oranga Tamariki working together, sharing information and assessing the safety of whānau involved in family harm episodes, then delivering family harm prevention interventions.

The second phase of the SAM model is the introduction of the Family Safety System (FSS) computer programme. We are aiming to have this available to all our partners (government and non-government) by the end of November. Training will commence in early November.

In the lead up to this, we need to know that you are vetted in accordance with the Vulnerable Children's Act so that we can issue licenses and organise training. Licenses to access FSS will be allocated to individuals within partner agencies who will be providing services to whānau: women, men and children via the SAM process.

If you require a licence please send an email to [WNPH.Waitemata@police.govt.nz](mailto:WNPH.Waitemata@police.govt.nz) with the header "VCA Compliant".

Please include:

1. the **full name** of the person who will be needing access to FSS
2. the name of the organisation
3. a phone number
4. a **scanned copy** of a relevant approval / compliance document.

## Spike

Calls for family harm attendance has been spiking – this is a double edged sword. On one hand we are reassured that victims are reporting family harm and willing to work with us and our partners to make their life and those of their children safer. On the other hand, we are disheartened that so many women are being maltreated and abused.

We don't know why there has been an upsurge in reporting or why there has been an increase of family harm episodes. We do know that breaking the pattern of family violence and reducing the harm inflicted on victims is our common goal and we are determined to change and save lives.

## News and Views

### Family and Whānau Violence Legislation Bill

As many of you will all be aware, the Domestic Violence Act 1995 has been subject to a review over recent years. The Family and Whānau Violence Bill which modernises the Domestic Violence Act, passed through its second reading on the 11 September. Police have been advised by Justice that the expected go live date for this legislation will be 3 December 2018. Some changes to this Act will not be implemented on this date, but will be held back until 1 July 2019.

The Family and Whanau Violence Bill introduces three new offences:

- Strangulation or Suffocation (up to 7 years imprisonment)
- Coerced Marriage or Civil Union (up to 5 years imprisonment)
- Assaults Family Member (up to 2 years imprisonment)

Police will begin training frontline staff in the new legislation next month. For more information on the Bill check out:

[https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL\\_72556/family-and-wh%C4%81nau-violence-legislation-bill](https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL_72556/family-and-wh%C4%81nau-violence-legislation-bill)

## Meet the Team

### Sergeant Tim Stevens

I have been the Family Harm Prevention Sergeant for the last six months and currently I am working on the successful commencement of the SAM table.

I have really enjoyed working to include our fellow Government agencies in the SAM model. We have already seen the benefits of sharing a work space with our partner Government agencies and look forward to building on this collaborative approach to share information and ensure better outcomes for our vulnerable whanau.

What has really stood out to me is the passion and dedication that all our Police, Government Agency, and Partner Agency staff have for making a difference in the lives of our victims and their families. I look forward to sharing more success stories as we develop the Whāngaia Ngā Pā Harakeke model.

Prior to joining the Family Harm team I worked in the District Custody Unit.

It has been great to be able to get out into our Waitemata West Community and work with our partner agencies to prevent harm in the community.



When I am not at work I am a busy husband and father to two young boys. In my (limited) spare time I'm a passionate AFL fan and umpire at New Zealand Level.



## GOOD NEWS STORIES

### From The Fono

This is a great example of how appropriate interventions and addressing the root causes of Family Harm has had a successful outcome for a family and consequently, multiple families.

W, had become unemployed and fell into alcohol and gambling addictions. As a result of the Family Harm team involvement he enrolled and completed the Men's programme at the Fono and worked with Tupu Services for help with his addictions.

W, his wife and their children are very happy with the plans he's put in place to move forward and they know they are supported by The Fono if they should need assistance. W's relationship with his wife has improved so much that fellow members of their church have referred themselves to The Fono seeking the same level of transformation.

### The App

We knew it was good! The 5F App has won several awards at the Best Design Awards: a Gold Pin in the User Experience category, and a Purple Pin, the highest award available, in the Public Good category. Technically strong, the app has enabled staff to spend time listening and formulating safety plans with family harm victims without needing to spend time recording information - officers now have instant access to background and context as well as any family harm history.

Before the app, police filled out a 13-page paper form for every incident they attended. In 2017, police responded to 121,000 cases of family harm, or an average of 331 each day. The app effectively replaced 1.5 million pages of paperwork per year, 500,000 hours of police time.

Congratulations to Smudge Apps on the awards and thank you. As the judges commented:

*Reducing the potential for harm to vulnerable citizens and streamlining processes at the same time is an absolute win-win technology for the community*

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/news/107273449/app-created-for-nz-police-wipes-out-15-million-forms-per-year?cid=app-iPhone>

### Contributions

We would love to hear from you! Please send your *Good News Story* to us or tell us about your agency so we can highlight the great work you do in the community. The email address is [wnph.waitemata@police.govt.nz](mailto:wnph.waitemata@police.govt.nz)

## Contact Us

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|---------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Detective Inspector Brett BATTY | <a href="mailto:Brett.Batty@police.govt.nz">Brett.Batty@police.govt.nz</a>                 | 021 192 0537 |
| D/Senior Sergeant Kelly FARRANT | <a href="mailto:Kelly.Farrant@police.govt.nz">Kelly.Farrant@police.govt.nz</a>             | 021 191 4375 |
| Senior Sergeant Wendy Pickering | <a href="mailto:Wendy.Pickering@police.govt.nz">Wendy.Pickering@police.govt.nz</a>         | 021 191 4174 |
| Dr Cathie COLLINSON             | <a href="mailto:Catherine.Collinson@police.govt.nz">Catherine.Collinson@police.govt.nz</a> |              |



Whāngaia Ngā Pā Harakeke - Thriving Children, Strong Families, Resilient Communities