

Family Violence and Sexual Violence System Issues

Questions from Aviva

We invite your party's response to the following questions, informed by the attached briefing.

1. Overall approach

- 1.a. What do you see as the most urgent family violence and sexual violence issues facing Aotearoa?
- 1.b. What are your party's top priorities over the next parliamentary term to reduce family violence and sexual violence?

2. Prevention and education

Prevention work, including education in schools and community settings, is critical to reducing family violence and sexual violence over the long term.

- 2.a. How would your party support and resource violence prevention work?
- 2.b. What is your party's position on the loss of national school-based prevention programmes such as *Mates and Dates*, and how would you ensure young people have access to consistent, evidence-informed education about healthy relationships, consent and safety?

3. Police response to family violence

Frontline services are seeing reduced police capacity and inconsistent responses to family violence incidents and protection order breaches.

- 3.a. What would your party do to improve police responsiveness to family violence incidents and breaches?

4. Justice system delays

Survivors are experiencing long delays in investigations and court processes, often extending over several years.

- 4.a. What changes would your party make to reduce delays in the justice system for family violence and sexual violence cases?
- 4.b. How would you reduce the retraumatising impact of prolonged court processes on victim/survivors and tamariki?

5. Housing and emergency accommodation

We are seeing survivors remain in unsafe situations due to a lack of accessible emergency accommodation and safe, affordable housing options.

- 5.a. How would your party improve access to safe housing for people leaving family violence?

6. Access to sexual violence support (including ACC)

Survivors are facing long wait times for ACC-funded counselling and barriers to accessing support.

- 6.a. What would your party do to ensure timely access to specialist sexual violence counselling and support?
- 6.b. How would you improve accessibility and responsiveness within the Sensitive Claims system?

7. Income support and cost of living

Cost of living pressures and income support settings are contributing to people being unable to leave unsafe situations.

- 7.a. What changes would you make to better support people experiencing violence and economic hardship?

8. Sustainability of specialist services

Specialist NGOs are increasingly absorbing risk and complexity due to system pressures, without corresponding increases in funding.

- 8.a. What role do you see for community-based organisations in the wider system response?
- 8.b. How would your party ensure the long-term sustainability of specialist family violence and sexual violence services?

9. Coercive Control

Several Australian states have introduced standalone criminal offences for coercive control, recognising patterns of psychological, financial and controlling behaviour as serious forms of abuse. New Zealand currently addresses these behaviours through civil mechanisms under the Family Violence Act 2018 but does not have a standalone criminal offence.

- 9.a. Does your party support introducing a standalone offence of coercive control in New Zealand? If not, do you believe existing legislation provides sufficient protection and remedies for victims of non-physical abuse?

- 9.b. If a coercive control offence were introduced, which relationships should it apply to (e.g. intimate partners only, or also family members, carers and other close relationships), and what legal threshold would be required to establish an offence while protecting due process rights?
- 9.c. What safeguards would your party put in place to minimise unintended impacts on vulnerable or marginalised communities and reduce the risk of misidentifying the primary victim or aggressor in complex family violence situations?
- 9.d. What maximum penalty would your party support for coercive control offences?
- 9.e. What funding, training and other resources would your party provide to Police, the judiciary, specialist support services, community organisations and emergency housing providers to ensure effective implementation and meet any increased demand?

Labour Party Response

From: Matt Swann | Senior Advisor Labour Leader's Office

Authorised by Chris Hipkins MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2026 10:30 am

1. Overall approach

1. What do you see as the most urgent family violence and sexual violence issues facing Aotearoa?

Labour is deeply concerned about the rate of sexual violence in New Zealand and the lack of justice available to most survivors.

2. What are your party's top priorities over the next parliamentary term to reduce family violence and sexual violence?

Labour is committed to taking the following measures to address sexual violence:

- *Using primary prevention strategies to stop sexual violence before it happens by confronting dominant cultural norms—beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours that make rape and sexual abuse possible—and to promote and increase positive behaviour and ways of relating to replace sexual violence.*
- *Reviewing possible reforms to improve the criminal justice system's approach towards sexual violence, taking into account research that reflects the prevalence of sexual violence against women and children, and the cultural issues surrounding the reporting of sexual violence in some communities.*
- *Educate communities about what constitutes sexual violence, how to report it to the appropriate authorities, and how the justice system protects and supports survivors—all of which will encourage the reporting of sexual violence.*
- *Create a well-funded and resourced support network for survivors of sexual violence, beginning with initial support when sexual violence is reported through to meeting the long-term needs of the survivors.*

2. Prevention and education

Prevention work, including education in schools and community settings, is critical to reducing family violence and sexual violence over the long term.

1. How would your party support and resource violence prevention work?

- *Labour will invest in primary prevention strategies to stop sexual violence before it happens by confronting dominant cultural norms—beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours that make rape and sexual abuse possible—and to promote and increase positive behaviour and ways of relating to replace sexual violence.*
2. What is your party's position on the loss of national school-based prevention programmes such as *Mates and Dates*, and how would you ensure young people have access to consistent, evidence-informed education about healthy relationships, consent and safety?

Labour believes it is important to invest in prevention programmes that are evidenced-based and work for all young people.

3. Police response to family violence

Frontline services are seeing reduced police capacity and inconsistent responses to family violence incidents and protection order breaches.

1. What would your party do to improve police responsiveness to family violence incidents and breaches?

Family violence is our national shame. While there has been encouraging signs of increased reporting and more prosecutions, there is still so much more work to do. We believe that if Police are stepping back, there needs to be funding for services to fill that gap.

4. Justice system delays

Survivors are experiencing long delays in investigations and court processes, often extending over several years.

1. What changes would your party make to reduce delays in the justice system for family violence and sexual violence cases?

For Labour, victims and survivors are the priority for our justice system. We will work to increase support for victims and tackle the drivers of crime and violence with evidence-based policies. Labour is committed to significantly reducing domestic and sexual violence statistics and the level of reoffending by people who have previously been dealt with by the justice system. Our justice system should protect and support victims of crime and provide access to justice for all. Labour knows that a fair and just society is critical to giving New Zealanders the good life they deserve.

2. How would you reduce the retraumatising impact of prolonged court processes on victim/survivors and tamariki?

Labour is committed to modernising our courts and court structure in a principled manner with the aim of making it more effective, efficient, and responsive.

5. Housing and emergency accommodation

We are seeing survivors remain in unsafe situations due to a lack of accessible emergency accommodation and safe, affordable housing options.

1. How would your party improve access to safe housing for people leaving family violence?

Labour would reverse the "caused or contributed to their own need" test for emergency housing, so no one fleeing violence is ever made to justify why they left a home that wasn't safe, and we'd keep building public housing so there's somewhere secure to go next.

2. What would you change to ensure support is available before people reach crisis point?

Labour would fund frontline family violence and housing services properly so people can get help early.

6. Access to sexual violence support (including ACC)

Survivors are facing long wait times for ACC-funded counselling and barriers to accessing support.

1. What would your party do to ensure timely access to specialist sexual violence counselling and support?

The Labour Party is committed to ensuring that ACC is responsive to the needs of people who are recovering from sexual violence. It was the previous Labour government that launched Te Aorerekura, a 25-year plan to eliminate family and sexual violence, and we will see how to strengthen the system further when in government.

2. How would you improve accessibility and responsiveness within the Sensitive Claims system?

- The Labour Party is committed to ensuring that the sensitive claims system works well for the people that need it. We've been concerned that the rate of sensitive claims has been decreasing over the last three years – If someone needs help recovering from sexual abuse or harm, they should get it.

7. Income support and cost of living

Cost of living pressures and income support settings are contributing to people being unable to leave unsafe situations.

1. What changes would you make to better support people experiencing violence and economic hardship?

Labour has announced a variety of policies meant to help those experiencing economic hardship, such as free doctor's visits, a cap on public transport costs, and making sure supermarkets stop hiking prices unfairly.

8. Sustainability of specialist services

Specialist NGOs are increasingly absorbing risk and complexity due to system pressures, without corresponding increases in funding.

1. What role do you see for community-based organisations in the wider system response?

Labour will support policy developed in consultation with stakeholders and based on international best practice to address family violence. Labour policy on family violence will be evidence-based and will acknowledge that gender inequality is a cause of family violence. We will identify those groups within society who encounter barriers to accessing support and tailor programmes to meet their needs.

2. How would your party ensure the long-term sustainability of specialist family violence and sexual violence services?

As above.

9. Coercive Control

Several Australian states have introduced standalone criminal offences for coercive control, recognising patterns of psychological, financial and controlling behaviour as serious forms of abuse. New Zealand currently addresses these behaviours through civil mechanisms under the Family Violence Act 2018 but does not have a standalone criminal offence.

1. Does your party support introducing a standalone offence of coercive control in New Zealand? If not, do you believe existing legislation provides sufficient protection and remedies for victims of non-physical abuse?

Labour will have a renewed focus on domestic and family violence and preventing child abuse. Labour believes that our family law must be fair, responsive, and always focused on the best interests of the survivor. Labour seeks to break the cycle of abuse, experienced in many families, that

prevents women and children realising their full potential. Labour is yet to release our policy on preventing family and sexual violence - that will happen closer to the election.

2. If a coercive control offence were introduced, which relationships should it apply to (e.g. intimate partners only, or also family members, carers and other close relationships), and what legal threshold would be required to establish an offence while protecting due process rights?

As above.

3. What safeguards would your party put in place to minimise unintended impacts on vulnerable or marginalised communities and reduce the risk of misidentifying the primary victim or aggressor in complex family violence situations?

As above.

4. What maximum penalty would your party support for coercive control offences?

As above.

5. What funding, training and other resources would your party provide to Police, the judiciary, specialist support services, community organisations and emergency housing providers to ensure effective implementation and meet any increased demand?

As above.

Green Party Response

From: Raiha Demuth Senior Private Secretary, Office of Hon Marama Davidson, Co-Leader for Green Party of Aotearoa

Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2026 3:17 pm



22 September 2026

RE: Request for Party Response: Family Violence and Sexual Violence Frontline Briefing

Tēnā koe Jane,

Thank you for your email on behalf of Aviva and for the attached briefing. I share your concern that current policy and funding pressures are putting intense pressure on both your workers and tāngata whai ora. I want to emphasise my thanks to you and your colleagues for the incredible work you continue to do on the frontlines, despite the challenging environment you have been forced operate within over decades but especially over the last few years.

Below I provide responses to your questions, on behalf of the Green Party. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or my team if you require clarity on any of our positions.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Davidson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Hon Marama Davidson MP

Co-Leader for the Green Party of Aotearoa



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1. Overall approach

1.1 What do you see as the most urgent family violence and sexual violence issues facing Aotearoa?

Aotearoa still has unacceptably high rates of intimate partner violence, sexual violence and child abuse and sadly this looks to be increasing rather than coming down.

And yet this government has ordered funding cuts to both public and NGO organisations who are supposed to respond to family violence and sexual violence. This leaves impacted people with less options to seek help.

There desperately needs to be a renewed focus and resourcing of primary violence prevention work that is informed and led by the expertise of the sector and with the support and authentic partnership with government agencies.

The Green Party acknowledges that this current Government have de-prioritised the work to end violence – as seen by their failure to allocate a single new dollar of funding through this entire parliamentary term, to Te Aorerekura, the elimination violence strategy. This has placed enormous pressure on the community sector as public sector agencies appear to be shifting the responsibilities onto NGOs. But without any extra resourcing and often without the necessary information of the complex needs involved. I am deeply concerned about the safety and wellbeing of the workforce cross the sector as a whole. This also calls into question our nationwide capability and capacity to respond safely to violence.

Finally, although the family violence and sexual violence occurs across demographics, the sector have been clear that the lack of basic social supports in anyone's life can hamper the chances for access to justice and accountability, safe support, healing and recovery. At a time of record unemployment, homelessness, material hardship and unmet mental health needs – we must urgently ensure people have what they need to live good lives that they feel in control of. Alongside our focus on affordable lives in the areas of housing, income, health, household bills, transport and jobs, our 2026 Manifesto explicitly focuses on key growing concerns:

- Inadequate resourcing of frontline family and sexual violence organisations.
- The need for improved prevention, healing, recovery, accountability and restoration approaches.





1.2 What are your party's top priorities over the next parliamentary term to reduce family violence and sexual violence?

Our key priorities as outlined in our 2026 Manifesto are:

- Fund the implementation of the action plan for Te Aorerekura: National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence, centred on Te Tiriti.
- Resource kaupapa Māori solutions and community-led solutions to family and sexual violence, that have been developed by disproportionately impacted groups, including women, Pasifika, rainbow, and disabled communities.
- Prioritise violence responses and prevention by improving workforce and broader public understanding of the drivers and signs of violence, and how to respond in ways that enhance safety and healing.
- Amend the Crimes Act to criminalise coercive control, amend the definition of consent, and preclude a defence of reluctant consent to affirm that consent must be free and voluntary, and can be withdrawn at any time while ensuring these changes cause no further harm.
- Restore relationship and sexuality teaching guidelines — including education on healthy relationships, diverse identities and sexualities, and affirmative consent — in all schools.
- Increase funding for counselling and mental health support for victims, whānau, witnesses, defendants and legal professionals engaging in the justice system.

2. Prevention and education

1. How would your party support and resource violence prevention work?

Fully funding the implementation of Te Aorerekura and its action plans – including prevention, early intervention, and healing – is core to the Green Party's plan for ensuring our homes whānau, and communities are free from fear and harm. This includes:

- Resourcing kaupapa Māori and community-led initiatives developed by affected communities, including women, Pacific, rainbow, disabled, ethnic and older communities.
- Using long-term, flexible commissioning that covers the real cost of delivery, reduces fragmented reporting and enables providers to adapt services to local need.





- Investing in evidence-informed relationship, consent and violence-prevention education in schools and communities.
- Building a skilled, culturally competent and sustainable workforce, including consistent risk and safety practice and training for frontline statutory workers.
- Funding evaluation, disaggregated data and lived-experience measures so investment can be redirected towards approaches that demonstrate safety, access, healing and reduced reoffending.

2.2 What is your party's position on the loss of national school-based prevention programmes such as Mates and Dates?

The loss of nationally available school-based prevention programmes is a serious setback. The Green Party would restore relationship and sexuality teaching guidelines in all schools and support nationally available, evidence-informed prevention that builds healthy relationships, teaches affirmative consent, recognises diverse identities and sexualities, challenges harmful social norms, and equips students and school staff to recognise harm and connect safely with specialist services.

I will want to work directly with schools and the sector to understand what the gaps are across our education approaches. When Mates and Dates was winding up, some of the concerns raised were about retaining the skilled workforce from the programme and whether the schools delivering the teaching guidelines was the safest and most effective strategy for young people. I'd want to hear back about how this is going.

3. Police response to family violence

3.1 What would your party do to improve police responsiveness to family violence incidents and breaches?

Police is a specific area where I think we have gone backwards. Successive Police Commissioners have been signalling for some time that they want to return to 'core policing work' and that responsiveness to family and sexual violence is not what they see as core business. The issue is that they remain key to people seeking protection from harm. There will always need to be close working relationships and shared responsibilities between police and frontline harm organisations.

General trust in police is at threat, especially regarding their responses to harm. The next Police Minister will need to have trust restoration as a priority with some clear accountability measures.





The Green Party would improve police responsiveness as part of a nationally consistent, victim/survivor- and child-centred multi-agency model by ensuring that police resources are appropriately focused on reducing harm in our communities. Improving police responsiveness must side alongside the inclusion of specialist family violence capability, trauma-informed and de-escalation training, clear referral pathways to iwi and community providers, independent oversight, and monitoring of repeat referrals and whether victims/survivors report feeling safer after a safety plan is initiated.

4. Justice system delays

4.1 What changes would your party make to reduce delays in the justice system for family violence and sexual violence cases?

We would reduce delays in the justice system by reforming Family Court processes to effectively respond to family violence. This would look like supporting actions in Te Aorerekura to expand specialist courts, better resource community law centres, and expand trauma-informed justice approaches through Te Ao Mārama. In the longer term, the Green Party is committed to ensuring that court cases are resolved in a timely manner by increasing funding for the court system, increasing the number of judges and staff across the court system, and reforming court procedures to reduce delays. We would also work to reduce the cost of litigation and legal services by reforming court processes, reducing or abolishing court fees, and removing barriers to pro bono work.

4.2 How would you reduce the retraumatising impact of prolonged court processes on victim/survivors and tamariki?

The Green Party would support providing expanded access to specialist advocates, counselling, healing and mental health support throughout the justice process, including by expanding trauma-informed and culturally safe court models, with specialist support for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau.

5. Housing and emergency accommodation

5.1 How would your party improve access to safe housing for people leaving family violence?

The Green Party see safe housing as an essential part of family violence response and recovery. We are committed to expanding public, accessible, papakāinga, transitional and supported housing, including exploring guarantee rapid accommodation placement for people, especially young people, who cannot safely remain at home. We





will create and fund priority pathways from crisis accommodation into secure long-term housing.

5.2 What would you change to ensure support is available before people reach crisis point?

We would shift support upstream through early identification, accessible community entry points and proactive outreach before risk escalates. This includes stable funding for kaupapa Māori and community-led prevention, specialist and healing services and joined-up referrals across health, education, police, housing and social services; stronger income support. Local responses should be shaped with iwi, specialist sectors and communities, with children and young people prioritised.

Stronger income support is also a critical prevention and intervention tool for family violence to reduce severe financial stress that can exacerbate domestic strain. That is why the Green Party has a long-held commitment to increase benefits to liveable rates, individualise benefit entitlements, abolish benefit sanctions, and ensure all whānau have access to safe, affordable housing.

6. Access to sexual violence support (including ACC)

6.1 What would your party do to ensure timely access to specialist sexual violence counselling and support?

The Green Party has long been advocates for removing systemic barriers for ACC support for victim/survivors of sexual violence. To ensure timely access to support, we would advocate for more a sustainable funding model in ACC to fund specialist sexual violence counselling, crisis support and long-term healing – including by expanding kaupapa Māori services.

6.2 How would you improve accessibility and responsiveness within the Sensitive Claims system?

We would support a reform of the Sensitive Claims system around timely, survivor-centred access. ACC should work with specialist sectors and people with lived experience to monitor access, safety, equity and recovery outcomes and address barriers quickly. We worked with the former Government on getting ACC to cover birth injuries and we are confident that we can build on this for survivors of sexual violence.





7. Income support and cost of living

7.1 What changes would you make to better support people experiencing violence and economic hardship?

The Green Party will guarantee a decent income for everyone and pay for it with a fair tax system, including by:

- Increasing benefits to liveable rates.
- Individualising benefit entitlements.
- Abolishing benefit sanctions.
- Expanding Working for Families.
- Overhauling recoverable assistance so urgent grants are available instead of loans.
- Working toward writing off MSD debt.
- Expanding affordable housing and transitional housing support.

8. Sustainability of specialist services

8.1 What role do you see for community-based organisations in the wider system response?

Former Green Party MP Jan Logie initiated a Select Committee Inquiry in 2016 into the funding of sexual violence organisations, and was able to secure a massive funding boost to the sector. The Green Party are firmly on record for recognising that community-based organisations are core system partners. They bring trusted relationships, specialist expertise, cultural knowledge and local reach, and should help lead prevention, service design, delivery, risk responses and evaluation. Government should engage with purpose, incorporate victim/survivor and whānau voice, remove contracting and referral barriers, and support strong local governance with iwi, kaupapa Māori providers and specialist sectors. Lessons from effective local approaches should inform national improvement without displacing community leadership.

8.2 How would your party ensure the long-term sustainability of specialist services?

Changing the funding model for specialist services would be a priority.





The Green Party will push for flexible and multi-year contracts that meet the real cost of safe service delivery and support workforce retention. Under our recently released Te Waonui a Tāne policy, hapū would also be able to use funding to commission their own specialist services in their rohe.

9. Coercive Control

9.1 Does your party support introducing a standalone offence of coercive control?

Yes, our 2026 Manifesto commits to amending the Crimes Act to criminalise coercive control.

9.2 Which relationships should it apply to and what legal threshold should be required?

We have not completed comprehensive work on the application of such an offense. However, initial engagement with some sector experts indicates the offence could apply to current and former intimate partners and to family or whānau relationships where one person can establish and maintain domination through a pattern of coercive or controlling behaviour. A Green Government would seek to undertake robust engagement with the sector before drafting any such legislation.

9.3 What safeguards would be put in place to minimise unintended impacts and misidentification of victims?

Implementation must be designed to cause no further harm. Safeguards could include a pattern-based statutory definition; explicit recognition of entrapment, self-defence and resistance; specialist screening to reduce predominant-aggressor misidentification; trauma-informed and culturally safe training for police, prosecutors, lawyers and judges; access to independent specialist advocacy; safe information-sharing rules; and regular review of charging, prosecution and outcome data.

9.4 What maximum penalty would your party support?

We do not have a position on a maximum penalty. However, we note that our broader position aims to balance gaining justice for victim/survivors while ensuring that sentencing prioritises rehabilitation over punitive approaches.

9.5 What funding, training and resources would be provided for implementation?

Any legislation to criminalise coercive control must be complemented with:

- National guidance and accredited training for police, prosecutors, defence and family lawyers, judges, court staff and specialist services.





- Resourcing for kaupapa Māori and community-led services to support safe identification, advocacy, referrals and long-term recovery.
- Dedicated, multi-year implementation funding separate from existing frontline service baselines.
- Baseline data, disaggregated monitoring and independent evaluation of misidentification, charging, access, safety and reoffending outcomes.



Te Pāti Māori Response

From: Debbie Ngarewa-Packer <Debbie.Ngarewa-Packer@parliament.govt.nz>

Date: 24 September 2026 at 11:18:30 AM NZST

TPM Party Response: Family Violence and Sexual Violence System Issues

Overall approach

1. What do you see as the most urgent family violence and sexual violence issues facing Aotearoa?

Te Pāti Māori whole-heartedly acknowledges and agrees with the overview/key messages outlined by Aviva its briefing to decision-makers. We share Aviva's concerns regarding;

- Reduced police capacity and inconsistent responses to family violence
- Justice system delays that prolong trauma and slows recovery
- Housing instability and barriers to emergency accommodation
- Reduced access to sexual violence counselling and ACC changes
- Cost-of-living and income support pressures increasing risk

Taken together, our starting position is that these challenges have been exacerbated by wholesale changes to government policy which has opted for a "tough on crime, economy over people" approach and not community prevention and support for victims

2. What are your party's top priorities over the next parliamentary term to reduce family violence and sexual violence?

Te Pāti Māori's policy manifesto takes a holistic approach to the issues raised above. Specific policy responses to the issues raised can be found across our policy manifesto. We understand that that there are many intersecting issues that require a multi-pronged approach including, transforming the justice system, arresting housing instability and the cost of living.

Prevention and education

Prevention work, including education in schools and community settings, is critical to reducing family violence and sexual violence over the long term.

3. How would your party support and resource violence prevention work?

Te Pāti Māori supports community-led solutions to community wellbeing pointing to Whānau Ora as a successful, evidence-based prototype. We agree that tamariki across our kura should have access to high quality education in relationships studies and safety as a part of a national curriculum. In keeping

with our values, we believe every whānau and their tamaiti should have access to the information they require to live safe and healthy lives.

- 4. What is your party's position on the loss of national school-based prevention programmes such as *Mates and Dates*, and how would you ensure young people have access to consistent, evidence-informed education about healthy relationships, consent and safety?**

As above, Te Pāti Māori supports public promotion and resourcing for and by kura in educating tamariki in the importance of healthy relationships, consent and safety.

Police response to family violence

Frontline services are seeing reduced police capacity and inconsistent responses to family violence incidents and protection order breaches.

- 5. What would your party do to improve police responsiveness to family violence incidents and breaches?**

Our NZ police are clearly under pressure and we reject the new additions to their case-loads and resources which ties them up in policing the homeless and petty crime instead of fighting real crime and the drivers of crime. Our view is that policy must be freed up to the job the public requires of them. We will repeal legislation that takes the focus of police away from attending to family violence incidents and breaches.

Justice system delays

Survivors are experiencing long delays in investigations and court processes, often extending over several years.

- 6. What changes would your party make to reduce delays in the justice system for family violence and sexual violence cases?**

As with the police, the courts also experience significant back-logs in cases brought before them. We think there is an opportunity to transform the justice system and to support/empower community solutions in resolving and preventing crime locally.

- 7. How would you reduce the retraumatising impact of prolonged court processes on victim/survivors and tamariki?**

By intercepting and reducing back-logs through deferral toward community justice solutions, such as Whānau Ora prevention services.

Housing and emergency accommodation

We are seeing survivors remain in unsafe situations due to a lack of accessible emergency accommodation and safe, affordable housing options.

8. How would your party improve access to safe housing for people leaving family violence?

Te Pāti Māori housing policy makes specific commitments towards alleviating emergency accommodation numbers and providing relief for whānau and victims who are entitled to support as citizens of the state.

9. What would you change to ensure support is available before people reach crisis point?

Te Pāti Māori's justice and health policies propose a number of system-wide transformations aimed at prevention. Our manifesto proposes a number of changes to legislation and policy decisions around resourcing critical services for those in need.

Access to sexual violence support (including ACC)

Survivors are facing long wait times for ACC-funded counselling and barriers to accessing support.

10. What would your party do to ensure timely access to specialist sexual violence counselling and support?

Along with ACC, our view is that the system-wide transformation of the broader health system is required to ensure timely access to specialist sexual violence counselling and support.

Our starting position is to preserve the work of ACC in providing entitlements to citizens and to prioritise this right to all.

11. How would you improve accessibility and responsiveness within the Sensitive Claims system?

In keeping with our values, Te Pāti Māori supports any reviews and proposals which address improving accessibility and responsiveness within the Sensitive Claims system.

Income support and cost of living

Cost of living pressures and income support settings are contributing to people being unable to leave unsafe situations.

12. What changes would you make to better support people experiencing violence and economic hardship?

Te Pāti Māori's cost of living policy sets out a number of measures that provide immediate, medium-term and long-term relief for whānau in need. Taken

together alongside our tax policy, our starting position is to ensure that whānau keep more of their own money in their pockets by rebalancing the tax system to provide certainty of access to public services.

Sustainability of specialist services

Specialist NGOs are increasingly absorbing risk and complexity due to system pressures, without corresponding increases in funding.

13. What role do you see for community-based organisations in the wider system response?

Our view is that community-based organisations must be empowered to lead and that the government's role is to adequately resource and empower these groups by removing barriers, including legislation that is not fit-for-purpose, nor enabling enough to allow community solutions to be delivered.

14. How would your party ensure the long-term sustainability of specialist family violence and sexual violence services?

In keeping with our values, Te Pāti Māori remains open to any reviews and proposals which address long-term sustainability of specialist family violence and sexual violence services.

Coercive Control

Several Australian states have introduced standalone criminal offences for coercive control, recognising patterns of psychological, financial and controlling behaviour as serious forms of abuse. New Zealand currently addresses these behaviours through civil mechanisms under the Family Violence Act 2018 but does not have a standalone criminal offence.

15. Does your party support introducing a standalone offence of coercive control in New Zealand? If not, do you believe existing legislation provides sufficient protection and remedies for victims of non-physical abuse?

Te Pāti Māori takes family violence issues seriously and remain open to policy, legislative change or any other measure that ensures the wellbeing of whānau.

16. If a coercive control offence were introduced, which relationships should it apply to (e.g. intimate partners only, or also family members, carers and other close relationships), and what legal threshold would be required to establish an offence while protecting due process rights?

As above, we remain open to advice on what the appropriate applications and thresholds should be on the matter.

17. What safeguards would your party put in place to minimise unintended impacts on vulnerable or marginalised communities and reduce the risk of misidentifying the primary victim or aggressor in complex family violence situations?

As above, we remain open to advice on appropriate safeguards and balancing misidentification of primary victims or aggressors in complex family violence situations.

18. What maximum penalty would your party support for coercive control offences?

As above, we remain open to advice on an appropriate maximum penalty for coercive control offences.

19. What funding, training and other resources would your party provide to Police, the judiciary, specialist support services, community organisations and emergency housing providers to ensure effective implementation and meet any increased demand?

This is where Te Pāti Māori's policy manifesto is clearest: public services must be funded and supported appropriately to do the job the public requires of them. Te Pāti Māori will move swiftly to ensure that these critical life-line services receive the funding, training and resources they require to prevent, reduce and eliminate family and sexual violence.

Nāku iti nei, nā

Tineka Kumeroa on Behalf of Debbie Ngarewa-Packer MP

National Party Response

From: Jackson Megaw, Research and Communications Advisor, National Leader's Office

Date: 25 September 2026 at 11:39:41 AM NZST

Dear Jane,

I'm reaching out on behalf of the National Party concerning Aviva's Family Violence and Sexual Violence Frontline Briefing and accompanying request for National's response.

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you and for not meeting your deadline of 23 September. Due to the high volume of requests we are receiving for policy information, we are unable to provide a detailed answer to each of your questions. Instead, please find below a policy statement outlining National's position on ending family and sexual violence:

"National strongly condemns all family and sexual violence. In government, we have put victims at the centre of our response to violent offending, including sexual violence. We've criminalised stalking and harassment, given victims of sexual violence the power to determine name suppression orders, toughened sentencing and reinstated Three Strikes for serious repeat violent and sexual offenders, and removed the two-year divorce wait for victims of family violence. We've trained more police officers and there are 37,000 fewer victims of violent crime than when we came into government.

Our social investment approach to harm reduction means that we are changing the way we invest in support for vulnerable New Zealanders. This has meant that \$31.2 million over four years has been allocated for earlier intervention with vulnerable children and families, alongside \$9.25 million a year for frontline family violence and social services. Investing early in vulnerable children and families prevents further harm, and breaks cycles of long-term disadvantage. At the same time, we are making it easier for frontline providers to spend less time on paperwork and more time supporting people who need help. Community organisations with proven success outcomes benefiting from National's social investment approach include Ngāti Awa Social and Health Services Trust, Presbyterian Support Northern and Āwhina Whānau Services.

Under our government, MSD has maintained and expanded programmes such as E Tū Whānau, Pasefika Proud and the Ethnic Communities Violence Prevention programme, which are making a difference in communities disproportionately affected by family and sexual violence. These programmes are creating positive shifts in attitudes, behaviours and social norms associated with family violence. Evaluating these programmes gives us stronger evidence base for making decisions about how we prevent violence before it occurs and where government can make the greatest difference.

National also believes that people who have been displaced by family violence need secure and safe housing. We've built 8,400 more social homes, including 3,000 in Auckland, so that New Zealanders, including victims of family and sexual violence, can have a safe, secure and warm home. Through social investment, we are also backing organisations like Te Tihi o Ruahine who are supporting families experiencing housing insecurity.

There is more work to do, and if re-elected National will continue the fight against family and sexual violence. We will modernise consent laws so that there must be a 'yes', not just the absence of a 'no'. We'll also remove good character discounts at sentencing for all sexual offenders. We will continue to implement the Government's Te Aorerekura Action Plan – a national strategy to eliminate family violence and sexual violence. This means advancing improvements in the system, including ensuring a skilled and culturally competent workforce, safe and accessible responses, and greater investment in primary prevention."

ENDS

Opportunity Party Response

From: Bianca Beebe, Candidate for Southland

Authorised by H. Cargo, 2d Amera Pl, Auckland

Date: 28 September 2026 at 12:51:51 PM NZDT

Tēnā koutou katoa:

Thank you very much for reaching out to Opportunity with your briefing and questions regarding our positions. Apologies for the delay in response.

I am an Opportunity Party candidate, and hold the portfolios for Ending Sexual Violence, ACC, Women, and Workplace Relations & Safety. I have worked with other Opportunity Party candidates, as well as members of our Policy team to write the enclosed responses to your questions.

Please let me know if you seek any further clarification. Thank you so much for reaching out, and for all the hard work you do.

Ngā mihi:

Bianca Beebe

Overall approach

1. What do you see as the most urgent family violence and sexual violence issues facing Aotearoa?

Opportunity recognises the scale and seriousness of family and sexual violence in Aotearoa. We see the most urgent issues as preventing violence before it occurs, keeping victim-survivors and children safe, and ensuring that the health, justice and social service systems work together to reduce violence and re-victimisation.

Ultimately, we need to move from a system that too often responds after serious harm has occurred to one that prevents violence, intervenes earlier, protects victim-survivors and children, reduces re-victimisation, and uses evidence to determine where investment can make the greatest difference.

2. What are your party's top priorities over the next parliamentary term to reduce family violence and sexual violence?

Opportunity's priorities would be to prevent violence before it occurs, protect victim-survivors and children, improve the response of the justice and support systems, and ensure investment is directed towards approaches that make a measurable difference.

Our "Smart on Crime" policy strongly prioritises prevention of harm. We propose to:

- Offer voluntary interventions as soon as risk factors are identified, starting with a child's very first Oranga Tamariki Report of Concern.
- Expand the capacity of programmes that provide sustained, whānau-centred support for at-risk young people like parenting courses, youth mentoring and trauma counselling.
- Grow specialist courts and expand programmes that work including the Young Adult List, Te Pae Oranga, the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court and Rākau Ora.
- Target the real drivers of offending, including addiction, undiagnosed conditions like ADHD and FASD, and family violence and dysfunction.
- Regulate recreational use of cannabis to undercut organised crime and reduce youth incarceration
- In preventing sexual violence, we strongly support consent education being a standard aspect of all RSE.

Our overall approach is to prevent violence where we can, intervene earlier, put victim-survivors and children at the centre, improve the systems they have to navigate, and use evidence to determine where policy and investment can make the greatest difference.

Prevention and education

Prevention work, including education in schools and community settings, is critical to reducing family violence and sexual violence over the long term.

1. How would your party support and resource violence prevention work?

Effective prevention requires action across health, justice, education and social services, including early intervention, education, addressing the drivers of violence, perpetrator intervention and effective support for victims and survivors.

We support a more consistent and evidence-based approach to prevention funding, with decisions informed by experts, survivors and evidence about what works. Our proposed 10-year cross-party Health Plan would provide greater stability and predictability for the health components of prevention and support, but sexual violence prevention should not be confined to the health system.

Opportunity sees violence prevention as a long-term, cross-government responsibility, involving health, justice, education and social services. We would move away from short-term funding cycles and towards more stable, predictable investment, while ensuring that funding is directed towards approaches that demonstrate results.

2. What is your party's position on the loss of national school-based prevention programmes such as *Mates and Dates*, and how would you ensure young people have access to consistent, evidence-informed education about healthy relationships, consent and safety?

We oppose any one governmental cycle having the power to quickly reverse programs whose efficacy requires long-term planning and commitment. We specifically oppose reducing funding or access for healthy relationship education, and support reintegrating it earlier into standard curriculum.

Police response to family violence

Frontline services are seeing reduced police capacity and inconsistent responses to family violence incidents and protection order breaches.

1. What would your party do to improve police responsiveness to family violence incidents and breaches?

Opportunity recognises that an effective response to family violence depends on victims being able to trust that when they seek help, their concerns will be taken seriously and responded to appropriately.

No services will ever be effective if we cannot train and retain competent workers. In the case of police, that means integrating family and sexual violence as part of their core training, addressing the concerns that have been raised in reviews of police response to call-outs, and paying police adequately so we stop losing them to Australia.

Justice system delays

Survivors are experiencing long delays in investigations and court processes, often extending over several years.

1. What changes would your party make to reduce delays in the justice system for family violence and sexual violence cases?

Opportunity recognises that long delays can add significantly to the stress and re-traumatisation experienced by victim-survivors. We support expanding specialist sexual violence courts nationally. Specialist sexual violence courts have shown promising results, including reducing the time to trial start by around a third. We would support expanding this approach nationally and evaluating its effectiveness.

2. How would you reduce the retraumatising impact of prolonged court processes on victim/survivors and tamariki?

Opportunity believes the justice system should protect victim-survivors and tamariki from further harm while ensuring that cases are dealt with fairly and as promptly as possible. Per the above response, we support expanding specialist sexual violence courts nationally. Specialist sexual violence courts have shown promising results, including reducing anxiety and re-traumatisation for complainants.

Housing and emergency accommodation

We are seeing survivors remain in unsafe situations due to a lack of accessible emergency accommodation and safe, affordable housing options.

1. How would your party improve access to safe housing for people leaving family violence?

Opportunity recognises that housing insecurity and family violence are closely linked. Women leaving violent relationships can face particular barriers to remaining safely housed as they are frequently primary caregivers. Women who are sole parents, older, and/or living with disabilities face increased vulnerability.

We support expanding funding for emergency accommodation, and strongly oppose the government's move-on orders legislation.

2. What would you change to ensure support is available before people reach crisis point?

We would seek to raise people's financial floor, regardless of whether they are working, to prevent people being entrapped. Opportunity's proposed Tax Reset and Citizen's Income would provide adults with a financial foundation, while the proposed Child Support Income would recognise the economic contribution of parenting and caring. Greater financial security can give women more genuine choices about leaving an unsafe relationship and establishing an independent home.

Access to sexual violence support (including ACC)

Survivors are facing long wait times for ACC-funded counselling and barriers to accessing support.

1. What would your party do to ensure timely access to specialist sexual violence counselling and support?

Opportunity believes that people who have experienced sexual violence should be able to access timely, specialist and appropriate support, without unnecessary barriers or having to wait until their situation reaches crisis point. As a small party outside Parliament we do not have specific policy on this matter, but recognise one of the greatest barriers is lack of specialist sexual violence counsellors. It is impossible to guarantee victims their right to specialist care if there are no specialists available, so we think improving all of these services begins with the ability to train and retain qualified workers.

2. How would you improve accessibility and responsiveness within the Sensitive Claims system?

Opportunity believes that people who have experienced sexual violence should be able to access timely, specialist and appropriate support, without unnecessary barriers or having to wait until their situation reaches crisis point. As a small party outside Parliament we do

not have specific policy on this matter, but as above: all improvements must come from the ability to train and retain qualified workers.

Income support and cost of living

Cost of living pressures and income support settings are contributing to people being unable to leave unsafe situations.

1. What changes would you make to better support people experiencing violence and economic hardship?

Opportunity recognises that financial insecurity can make it much harder for someone experiencing family violence to leave an unsafe relationship and establish an independent life. Economic abuse can also deliberately undermine a person's ability to become financially independent. Per our above response, Opportunity's tax reset and Citizens' Income is about raising people's basic financial security.

Sustainability of specialist services

Specialist NGOs are increasingly absorbing risk and complexity due to system pressures, without corresponding increases in funding.

1. What role do you see for community-based organisations in the wider system response?

Opportunity recognises the critical role of specialist NGOs and community-based organisations in supporting people experiencing family and sexual violence. These organisations often have specialist expertise and trusted relationships with communities that are an important part of an effective response.

As a small party outside Parliament we do not have specific policy on this matter, but would include this question within our larger framework of advocating for minimum 10-year cross-Party frameworks (including funding) so organisations can plan and measure outcomes.

2. How would your party ensure the long-term sustainability of specialist family violence and sexual violence services?

Opportunity believes specialist family and sexual violence services need stable, predictable and long-term funding so they can retain skilled staff, maintain specialist expertise and plan for the needs of their communities.

As a small party outside Parliament we do not have specific policy on this matter, but would include this question within our larger framework of advocating for minimum 10-year cross-Party frameworks (including funding) so organisations can plan and measure outcomes.

Coercive Control

Several Australian states have introduced standalone criminal offences for coercive control, recognising patterns of psychological, financial and controlling behaviour as serious forms of abuse. New Zealand currently addresses these

behaviours through civil mechanisms under the Family Violence Act 2018 but does not have a standalone criminal offence.

1. Does your party support introducing a standalone offence of coercive control in New Zealand? If not, do you believe existing legislation provides sufficient protection and remedies for victims of non-physical abuse?

Opportunity recognises that family violence is not limited to physical violence. Coercive and controlling behaviour, stalking, economic abuse and other forms of psychological abuse can cause serious harm, and our prevention and support systems need to recognise and respond to these forms of violence.

We are open to considering a standalone offence of coercive control, but we have not settled a final position on whether a new offence is the best approach. We would want to be guided by evidence and by survivors, communities and relevant experts. We would want to prioritise prevention and providing immediate resources to victims, rather than leading with a carceral approach.

2. If a coercive control offence were introduced, which relationships should it apply to (e.g. intimate partners only, or also family members, carers and other close relationships), and what legal threshold would be required to establish an offence while protecting due process rights?

Per the above response we do not have a final position on an offence of coercive control.

3. What safeguards would your party put in place to minimise unintended impacts on vulnerable or marginalised communities and reduce the risk of misidentifying the primary victim or aggressor in complex family violence situations?

Per the above response we do not have a final position on an offence of coercive control.

4. What maximum penalty would your party support for coercive control offences?

Per the above response we do not have a final position on an offence of coercive control.

5. What funding, training and other resources would your party provide to Police, the judiciary, specialist support services, community organisations and emergency housing providers to ensure effective implementation and meet any increased demand?

Per the above response we do not have a final position on an offence of coercive control.

NZ First Response

From: From: Hamza Qureshi, Senior Policy & Research Advisor
New Zealand First Leader's Office (Rt Hon Winston Peters)

Sent: Wednesday, 7 October 2026 13:47

DRAFT NZ First Response – Questions by AVIVA

Please note as a disclaimer that for a lot of areas, the party has yet to finalize its policies. The questions answered draw inspiration from publicly announced policies for the upcoming elections, party principles and past party policies - which may or may not be part of NZ First Election Manifesto for 2026.

Overall

1. What do you see as the most urgent family violence and sexual violence issues facing Aotearoa?

The most urgent issues are the high rates of domestic and sexual offending, long justice system delays, and the severe harm inflicted on victims and children. NZ First views stopping family violence and protecting vulnerable Kiwis as paramount for community safety, public health, and law and order.

2. What are your party's top priorities over the next parliamentary term to reduce family violence and sexual violence?

For that, please wait for our manifesto to be published soon.

Our top priorities have been recruiting 500 new frontline police, prioritizing victim safety over offender rights in sentencing, and expanding funding for specialist NGOs like Women's Refuge. We also focus on accelerating court processes to reduce delays and delivering early intervention support for at-risk families.

Prevention and education

Prevention work, including education in schools and community settings, is critical to reducing family violence and sexual violence over the long term.

3. How would your party support and resource violence prevention work?

NZ First supports resourcing frontline community providers and NGOs directly rather than growing Wellington bureaucracies. We prioritize early intervention programmes, Family Start, and community-led initiatives that support healthy family environments before crisis points occur.

4. What is your party's position on the loss of national school-based prevention programmes such as *Mates and Dates*, and how would you ensure young people have access to consistent, evidence-informed education about healthy relationships, consent and safety?

We support refocusing school curricula on core academic fundamentals while ensuring young people receive age-appropriate, values-driven relationship and civics education.

As a conservative party, we believe that education about relationships and sex should begin at home with minimal school input using a blanket approach.

Police response to family violence

Frontline services are seeing reduced police capacity and inconsistent responses to family violence incidents and protection order breaches.

5. What would your party do to improve police responsiveness to family violence incidents and breaches?

We will deliver on our commitment to train 500 new frontline police officers and double Youth Aid officers to ensure rapid incident response. We also support stricter bail laws, mandatory minimums for violent offenders, and enforcing immediate consequences for protection order breaches.

Justice system delays

Survivors are experiencing long delays in investigations and court processes, often extending over several years.

6. What changes would your party make to reduce delays in the justice system for family violence and sexual violence cases?

NZ First supports streamlining court administration, increasing judicial resourcing, expanding alternative dispute resolution, and utilizing digital pre-hearing processes. We focus on eliminating procedural bottlenecks, so family violence and sexual violence cases reach timely, fair resolution.

7. How would you reduce the retraumatizing impact of prolonged court processes on victim/survivors and tamariki?

We advocate prioritizing victim and child safety over offender rights, expanding the use of remote or pre-recorded evidence, and ensuring victim-survivors have access to legal aid. We also support prohibiting perpetrators from abusing court processes to cause further harm to victims and children.

Housing and emergency accommodation

We are seeing survivors remain in unsafe situations due to a lack of accessible emergency accommodation and safe, affordable housing options.

8. How would your party improve access to safe housing for people leaving family violence?

NZ First supports expanding state and social housing stock, providing low-cost government loans to local councils for social housing, and supporting transitional housing initiatives. Our regional housing plans prioritize safe, immediate shelter for families escaping domestic abuse.

9. What would you change to ensure support is available before people reach crisis point?

We advocate expanding 0800 advice line services, strengthening early intervention social sector trials, and resourcing community networks like Whānau Ora and Plunket. Providing early family support and financial relief helps prevent escalation into crisis situations.

Access to sexual violence support (including ACC)

Survivors are facing long wait times for ACC-funded counselling and barriers to accessing support.

10. What would your party do to ensure timely access to specialist sexual violence counselling and support?

We funded community-based mental health initiatives like Gumboot Friday (\$6 million per year) to provide free counselling for young people. Wait for our manifesto for more details.

11. How would you improve accessibility and responsiveness within the Sensitive Claims system?

We advocate reviewing ACC dispute resolution processes to ensure claims are client-centered, responsive, and resolved in a timely manner. We support removing rules that force victims of ongoing life-debilitating trauma to repeatedly submit redundant documentation.

Income support and cost of living

Cost of living pressures and income support settings are contributing to people being unable to leave unsafe situations.

12. What changes would you make to better support people experiencing violence and economic hardship?

NZ First is easing cost-of-living pressures through tax threshold adjustments, FamilyBoost credits, removing GST from rates, and reviewing benefit abatement levels. We support emergency financial assistance so economic hardship never prevents a victim from leaving an unsafe home.

Sustainability of specialist services

Specialist NGOs are increasingly absorbing risk and complexity due to system pressures, without corresponding increases in funding.

13. What role do you see for community-based organisations in the wider system response?

Community-based NGOs like Women's Refuge are the essential frontline backbone of NZ's family violence response. They deliver tailored, compassionate, and culturally responsive care far more effectively than centralized government bureaucracies.

14. How would your party ensure the long-term sustainability of specialist family violence and sexual violence services?

We support multi-year Crown funding agreements for core specialist providers, indexing service contracts to inflation, and reducing administrative compliance. We also support increasing tax benefits (up to 50%) for corporate givers to boost private charitable funding.

Coercive Control

Several Australian states have introduced standalone criminal offences for coercive control, recognising patterns of psychological, financial and controlling behaviour as serious forms of abuse. New Zealand currently addresses these behaviours through civil mechanisms under the Family Violence Act 2018 but does not have a standalone criminal offence.

15. Does your party support introducing a standalone offence of coercive control in New Zealand? If not, do you believe existing legislation provides sufficient protection and remedies for victims of non-physical abuse?

NZ First supports examining a standalone criminal offence for coercive control to hold perpetrators accountable for non-physical, psychological, and financial abuse. We believe non-physical patterns of coercive behavior cause severe harm and require strong criminal deterrence beyond civil protection orders.

16. If a coercive control offence were introduced, which relationships should it apply to, and what legal threshold would be required to establish an offence while protecting due process rights?

The offence should apply to intimate partners and close family/carer relationships where a duty of care exists. The legal threshold must require proving a deliberate, documented pattern of controlling behavior that causes serious psychological distress or fear, protecting due process.

17. What safeguards would your party put in place to minimise unintended impacts on vulnerable or marginalised communities and reduce the risk of misidentifying the primary victim or aggressor in complex family violence situations?

We advocate mandatory, specialized family violence training for Police, prosecutors, and judges to accurately assess risk patterns and primary aggressors. Clear operational guidelines and standardized risk tools ensure primary victims are protected rather than misidentified.

18. What maximum penalty would your party support for coercive control offences?

We support robust maximum penalties consistent with serious domestic violence offences to reflect the severe harm of long-term psychological abuse. Penalties should include imprisonment and mandatory participation in accredited perpetrator rehabilitation programmes.

19. What funding, training and other resources would your party provide to Police, the judiciary, specialist support services, community organisations and emergency housing providers to ensure effective implementation and meet any increased demand?

We would allocate dedicated operational funding for specialized Police and judicial training on coercive control dynamics. We also commit to expanding financial grants for frontline specialist NGOs, legal aid, and emergency housing providers to handle increased demand.