

Connections! Hui

Feedback from Ethnic Communities on Te Aorerekura, the National Strategy to Eliminate Violence

organized by Shama
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A 25-years strategy

- ✓ In **December 2021**, the government launched Te Aorerekura – Aotearoa’s first ever **National Strategy for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence**.
- ✓ The 25-years strategy sets out a framework to drive government action in a unified way and harness public support and community action.



A 25-years strategy



The strategy is available here :

<https://tepunaaonui.govt.nz/national-strategy/>



Different languages are available (English, Maori, Samoan, Tongan, Hindi, Mandarin), as well as an easy read version, an audio file and a braille version



A 25-years strategy

Six shifts proposed in the strategy :



Shift One: Towards strength-based well-being

Shift Two: Towards mobilising communities

Shift Three: Towards skilled, culturally competent and sustainable workforces

Shift Four: Towards investment in primary prevention

Shift Five: Towards safe, accessible and integrated responses

Shift Six: Towards increased capacity for healing

The Connections Hui aimed at gathering feedback from community workers on the strategy

1

A presentation of the strategy was given to all the participants

2

Participants were divided in 6 breakout rooms, in order to discuss the 6 shifts proposed in the strategy.

3

Each group presented their main topics of discussion in plenary



Representation & participation

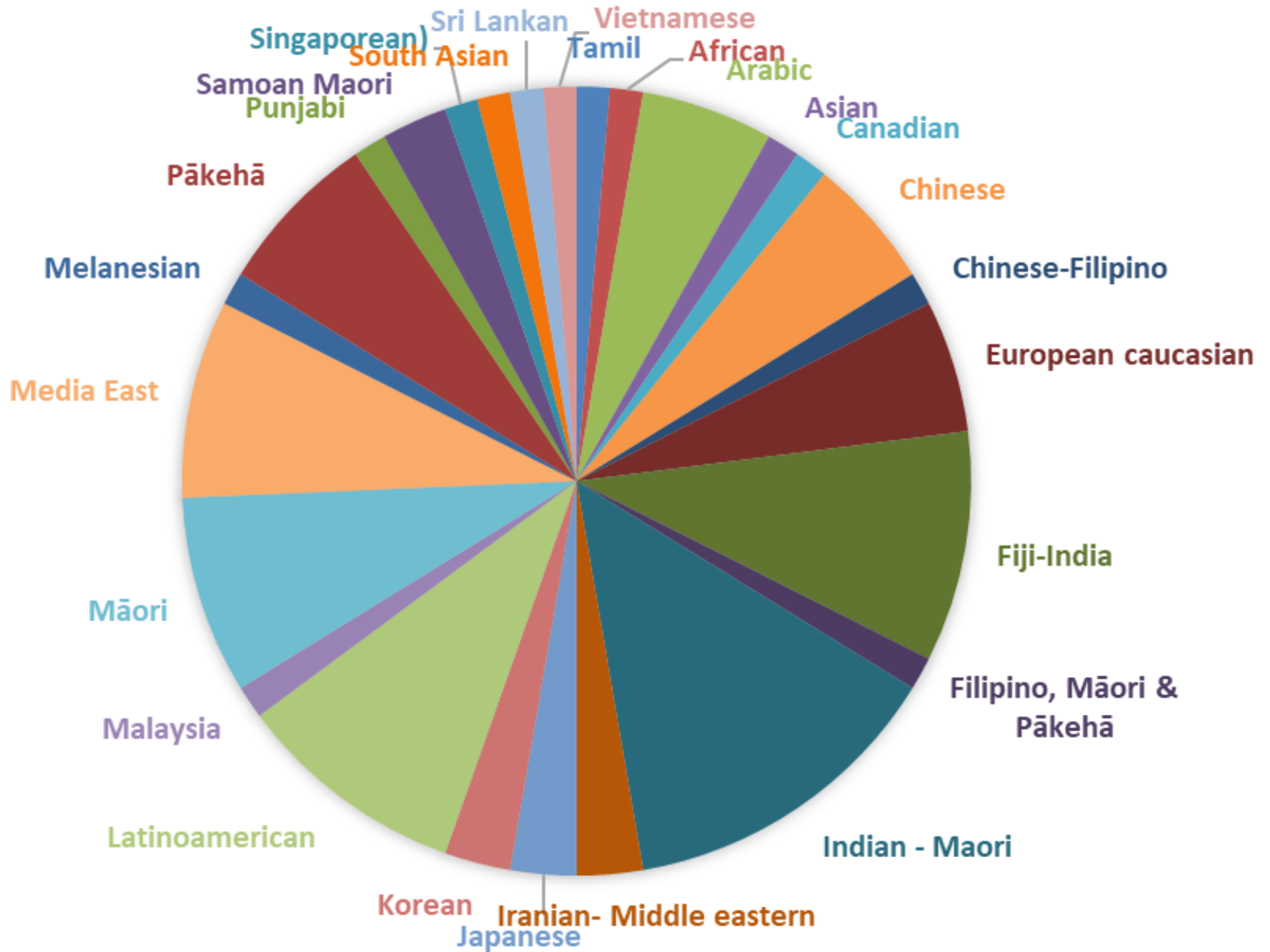
101 persons

26 ethnic groups

8 religious group

4 genders (female, male,
transgender, non-binary)

Representation & participation



1

What actions do we need to see so this shift is achieved in our communities?

2

Are the actions proposed relevant to us?

**Six breakout
rooms,
discussing
around two
main
questions.**

Several levels of discussion

There were different levels of conversation in each breakout room. In this context, it seemed that providing a framework displaying the main themes that were discussed was more relevant than following the shifts from the strategy.



About the strategy



The strategy appears to be **complex**, it is a big scale project which involves many stakeholders. It raises the question of the **implementation** of the strategy and its actual impacts on the **daily practice** of community workers.



About the strategy

- ✔ Community workers tend to have a **holistic view**, which is necessary to address the issues they face. The governmental strategy is **segmented**.
- ✔ This context makes it tricky to find a **common channel** for effective communication and feedback.

About the strategy

Questions raised

1

IMPLEMENTATION

- What is going to look like on the ground?
- How will the strategy help support the work that is already being done?
- Is there more funding available for community groups?

2

ENGAGEMENT & ACCESS

- How is it going to look like to engage everyone?
- Who needs to be engaged?
- Is there other types of content available (video, audio)?
- Other languages available?



Towards a co-construction model?

There is a need for ongoing conversations between governments and community workers. It would be beneficial to work together on the implementation of the strategy. A governmental framework might differ from a community-led framework. In that sense, initiatives and programs led by the community - and the holistic view that they carry, would be more impactful.



Defining community



As an individual, we belong to several communities, and more importantly, those communities are evolving towards our life. Being identified as part of a community doesn't necessarily mean that we feel like we belong to this same community. Many share that they feel isolated, even within a group.



How do we work towards providing individual responses as well as community-centered responses?

How do we work towards providing individual responses ?

1

BY CREATING A MULTITUDE OF SAFE PLACES

A safe place will look different for each individual, even within the same community.

2

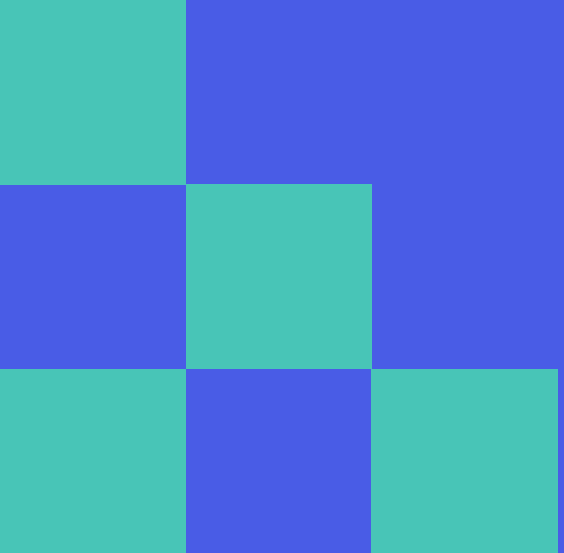
BY ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO SPEAK OUT IN DIFFERENT WAYS

Telling the stories of people from different communities could help to relieve the shame that forbids people to speak out.

3

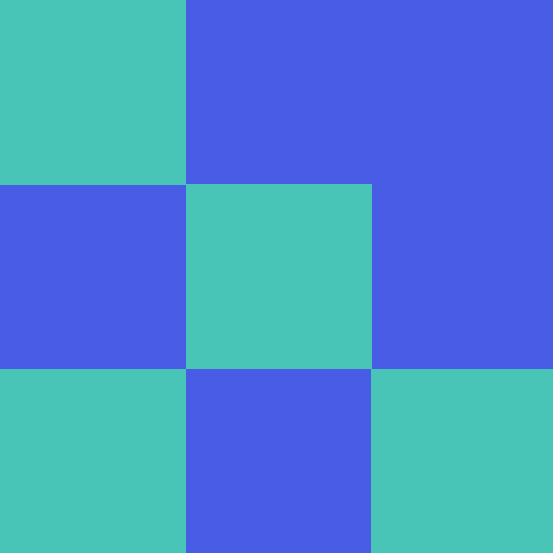
BY LOOKING CAREFULLY TO GROUPS WHICH ARE INVISIBLE

Some communities are left aside (for example, disability, elderly, international students). Those intersections need to be looked into.



Working on physical and emotional well-being

- ✓ Taking a step back : working on people's sense of belonging in Aotearoa, considering their emotional well-being as well as their physical one, is a key to prevention of family violence.
- ✓ Families who have their basic needs covered are more resistant to harm.



Working on physical and emotional well-being

- ✓ Various barriers that migrants face when they get to Aotearoa (difficulty to find job, financial stress, drop in the social status, etc.) can lead to building frustrations and eventually to violent behaviours.
- ✓ The violence of the system (systemic racism, requirement for a NZ-based experience, etc.) and the inequities that it leads to need to be acknowledged - so action can then be taken for change.

How do we work on the causes ?

1

TOWARDS SOCIAL COHESION

Working towards social cohesion is working towards the elimination family violence and sexual violence.

2

A LOT OF KNOW-HOW

A lot of knowledge and good practices in community group's response, supporting what is already there might be more efficient than creating something new.

3

DECOLONIZE PRACTICES

Te Ao Maori, and more broadly indigenous knowledge, should be weaved deeper into government strategies and responses. They encompass spiritual and existential questions, as well as a collective perspective on well-being, both much needed in a Western society focused on individualism and having rather than being.



How can the government help?

Specific statistics and data on ethnic communities would be helpful to support community groups in their strategic thinking.

An identified liaison process would ensure that all the resources and organizations are known amongst the sector, as well as a community of practice to learn from each other.

*« If you want to go fast,
go alone,
if you want to go far,
go together »*