

FAMILY VIOLENCE PROVIDER UPDATE | APRIL 2021

Contract changes, consultations, new initiative for safety programmes, and remote delivery of programmes under COVID-19 restrictions.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa

This Provider Update has been prepared to highlight some of the key things happening in the re-contracting work and the wider sector. Along with audits and getting ready for some changes in our contracts from 1 July, there are several consultations happening across government and the Joint Venture Business Unit. We recognise this is a busy time for you all – please let us know if you would like a visit or a call to support you.

Intention to recontract for family violence services from 1 July 2021

Last week, we sent an email to agency managers giving formal notice of our intention to recontract with our family violence providers. Agency managers need to confirm willingness to continue the contract by 30 April 2021.

Please review the new invoice template and quarterly narrative reporting questions

New invoicing and reporting templates come into place on 1 July 2021. In late March, you will have received our email including the new invoice template and the updated quarterly narrative reporting questions. We also included an activity report which providers may want to use to internally track clients, although this will not need to be submitted to the Ministry from the 1st of July onwards.

We hope that you have been able to examine these templates and begun thinking about how to embed these into your invoicing and reporting processes.

Final contract changes document and another chance to hear about changes in online hui

The document outlining changes to the contract service specifications is attached to this Provider Update email. Your feedback contributed to some changes to the original proposals - please do read through the information, so you are prepared for 1 July.

We will be hosting two Zoom hui in April to answer any questions about the changes and how to embed these into your practice. The hui will be held on:

- Monday, April 19th - 1:30 – 2:30pm
- Thursday, April 22nd - 2:00 – 3:00pm
- The email with this update includes the hui dates and zoom link

Joint Venture Business Unit invitation to give feedback on workforce tools

The Ministry of Justice as a member of the Joint Venture for Family Violence and Sexual Violence will be supporting the work programme over the coming months in a number of engagement and consultation opportunities. We do recognise you may receive multiple contacts and invitations from a variety of sources as the JVBU works with other government partner agencies to engage with you all.

Over the past two years, representatives from the JVBU and family and sexual violence sector have worked together to develop tools to support a shared analysis and understanding of family and sexual violence in the areas of organisational standards and workforce capabilities. We have supported the development of two of these tools and will be working with the JVBU to ensure they align with our Code of Practice and contracts.

- The Family Violence Specialist Organisation Standards (SOS) are focused on lifting the capability of specialist family violence practitioners. The standards are intended to promote 'ongoing development of, and reflection on, safe, holistic and effective specialist organisational practice'.
- The Entry to Expert Workforce Capability Framework (E2E) defines family violence workforce capabilities at different practice levels: from foundational to expert. The capabilities will inform practice and development of family violence practitioners in order to provide a well-informed specialist workforce and support the start of a FV practitioner career pathway.
- Your feedback on these tools would be appreciated and you can provide any comments by completing the online survey by Friday 26 April. The tools, additional information and survey can be found [here](#).

Safety programme referrals may increase due to DV Programmes team initiative

Exciting news from the DV Programmes team. The Family Court Coordinators on the DV Programmes team are now phoning applicants with new Protection Orders to give them more detail about safety programmes and offer them a referral. These phone calls are made two weeks after the Order is made to allow some time for the initial family situation to settle.

Feedback from the recipients of these calls has been very positive so far, with applicants appreciating that someone has taken the time to speak with them personally. Since the project began on the 1st of February, there have been 138 adults and 103 children referred to safety programmes as a result of these calls. What this means for your agency is that you may begin to receive more referrals which have been generated by the Court.

If you have noticed an increase in court-generated referrals, or have any feedback from engaging with these clients, we would love to hear from you.

Remote delivery of individual and group sessions during any further lockdown

Some of you have asked about remote group delivery if we were to go into another regional or national lockdown. The recent contract changes document states that remote delivery of Justice funded non-violence programmes is only allowed in extenuating circumstances. This applies to business as usual programme delivery.

If there is any kind of regional or national lockdown, the COVID-19 guidance applies. This includes the ability to do all Justice programmes remotely, including group sessions. The link to COVID-19 guidance can be found here: <https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/MoJ-FV-Provider-COVID-19-communications.pdf>

From the entire Safety Services team, we appreciate all the time you have taken to complete surveys, attend hui and provide your feedback throughout the re-contracting process. We look forward to continuing this mahi with you.

Mauri Ora, Corrie and the Safety Services team