

a safe learning environment in educational institutions and introducing a new school culture regarding the eradication of bullying.

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN NEW ZEALAND

Domestic violence is causing more and more concern through the world as it results in more deaths and injuries per year than terroristic attacks or car crashes are happened. Domestic violence and abuse can happen to anyone. It occurs within all age ranges, ethnic backgrounds, and economic levels. And while women are more often victimized, men experience abuse especially verbal and emotional. The bottom line is that abusive behavior is never acceptable, whether from a man, woman, teenager, or an older adult. A person deserve to feel valued, respected, and safe. Although very often domestic violence is presented as a violent beating of a victim, in reality violence may take various forms from physical abuse to subtle psychological manipulation. In any case, domestic violence is aggressive assertion of power over close people whom an abuser is supposed to love and protect. Violence may be openly physical, or manipulatively psychological; it may take economic or even sexual form, and sometimes even children may become a tool for abusing and controlling a partner. An offender who is identified as family commits about half of all homicides in New Zealand. 76% of family violence incidents are not reported to the police. Police investigated 118,910 incidents of family violence in 2016 or about one every 5 minutes. New Zealand has one of the highest reported rates of domestic violence in the developed world. A raft of changes to laws was brought in December 2018, and July this year, that aims to tackle the level of domestic abuse. The new laws include a toughening of the definition of family violence and bring in a specific offence of assaulting a family member. A significant amount of new money has been allocated to back this new legislation. This year \$320m was budgeted for family violence and sexual violence initiatives, the largest investment ever to try to reduce the level of abuse. In addition, a new agency has been created to oversee the work of the government.

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