

Adult Services

Waka Waiora Journey to Wellbeing™



Safe Network is a specialist community-based service offering clinical assessment and interventions for adults who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviour towards children or young people.



Who we are

Safe Network provides specialist services for adults who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviour towards or involving children and young people <16yo.

Our goal is to work with our clients to address the factors that led to this behaviour, creating positive outcomes and a safer environment for our clients, their families, friends, and the wider community.

Safe Network has been successfully providing therapeutic, prevention and education services throughout the upper North Island for over 30 years, with eight sites throughout Auckland, Northland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty. Our multi-disciplinary team includes psychologists, psychotherapists, counsellors, art therapists and social workers.

Safe Network services are primarily funded by our Government partners, Oranga Tamariki / Ministry for Children, the Ministry of Social Development and the Department of Corrections.

Our adults service

Safe Network offers a range of services for adults who have concerns about their sexualised thoughts or have engaged in harmful sexual behaviour towards children or young people.

All of our services for adult clients have been developed in New Zealand and are based on the latest research and international best practice. Our flexible and adaptive approaches ensure every client receives support that is tailored to their individual needs. We provide a rigorous, non-judgemental service that helps clients change their ways of thinking and behaving so they can move on towards a more positive future, including:

- a better understanding of themselves and what drives their thoughts and behaviours

- an ability to manage difficulties and challenges in new and healthy ways
- a greater level of wellbeing and resilience
- healthier and safer relationships with others.

“Completely satisfied with the service I have received. I have a deeper understanding of myself and a much more positive outlook for my future.”

Our programmes are strengths-based and adapted to best reflect each client's culture, gender and preferred learning and communication styles. The flexibility of Safe Network's adult programmes enables us to provide services to a wide range of adult clients with different needs, experiences and backgrounds.

Waka Waiora Journey to Wellbeing™

Safe Network's Waka Waiora Journey to Wellbeing™ programme is a specialised service for adults who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviour towards or involving children or young people. This may include:

- sexual contact with a child or young person
- non-contact sexual behaviour towards a child or young person, e.g. flashing, voyeurism
- accessing, producing or distributing sexual content involving children through the internet or social media
- grooming a child or young person with the intention of engaging in sexual conduct.

What is the process?

Referral

We want to make sure our clients get the help they need. Safe Network's Waka Waiora Journey to Wellbeing™ programme is open to self-referrals or referrals from family members, the Courts, Police or other professionals within the community, provided it is with the consent of the person being referred.

The first step in the process is to complete and send through a referral form, available on our website.

Assessment

Once we receive a referral form, we undertake an initial review to identify whether Safe Network's services are right for the person referred, and how best we can help meet their needs.

If we think Safe Network can help, we meet with them and undertake a more detailed assessment, finding out more about their background and history, the reasons for their referral, their strengths and their challenges. If they are being supported by a partner, whanau, family members or other professionals, we also engage these people in this process.

The assessment process can vary depending on the client but usually involves the following steps:

STEP 1 Two or three interviews with the client and their family members or support people



STEP 2 Collection and review of any information and reports from other agencies or professionals who are involved



STEP 3 Completion of assessment and psychosocial questionnaires with the client and any family members or support people

Following assessment, a detailed and confidential report is provided, confirming whether or not Safe Network's services are suitable for the client and recommending next steps. Subject to confidentiality provisions, a copy of this assessment report and recommendations will be sent to the referring agency or other appropriate people.

Intervention

If the client accepts our recommendation to take

part in our Waka Waiora Journey to Wellbeing™ programme, they will then be assigned one of our specialist clinicians to provide therapy and manage their progress through the programme. The duration of therapy will vary based on their needs, but is typically between six and twelve months. Therapy generally includes:

- weekly group meetings
- weekly or fortnightly individual appointments with a clinician
- regular review sessions with family/whanau and support people
- intensive group therapy or adventure-based interventions.

Our clients

Because our Waka Waiora Journey to Wellbeing™ programme is strengths-based, it can be adapted for each client to best reflect their culture and gender, as well as their preferred communication and learning styles. We work with wide range of adults, including:

- men
- women
- gender diverse adults
- neuro-diverse adults
- adults with special needs
- adults from different cultural and language groups.

OVER 400
adults worked
with each year



Our locations

Safe Network provides services at our sites in:

- Regent, Whangarei, **Northland**
- Windsor Park, North Shore, **Auckland**
- Grafton, **Auckland**
- Manukau, **Auckland**
- Hamilton Central, **Waikato**
- Greerton, Tauranga, **Bay of Plenty**
- Rotorua Central, **Bay of Plenty**
- Whakatane, **Bay of Plenty**

Services may also be available online, where suitable.

Our staff can travel to other, smaller centres in these regions to meet with clients if appropriate. This is dependent on finding a suitable place to meet and the logistics involved.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does your service work?

Yes. Research shows that 95% of adults who complete a Safe Network programme will not engage in any further harmful sexual behaviour.

Is this service confidential?

Safe Network will keep all client information confidential except where the client has consented for it to be released to a third party, where we are required to disclose it by law or where we raise a report of concern. We will only talk to people the client has given us consent to contact.

Do you work with different cultural groups?

Yes. The clients we work with come from a range of cultural backgrounds and we tailor our service to respect and be responsive to their culture.

Are there online options?

Yes. Although face-to-face appointments are preferred, we can offer online appointments where appropriate.

Do you include families when you work with clients?

Yes, where family are willing and available to provide support, we work with them to help them support the client's intervention.

Will clients need to pay to attend Safe Network?

If a client is referred to Safe Network under court order, their programme is fully funded by the relevant Crown agency and there is no charge for them to attend.

If the client is self-referred or has agreed to being referred by someone else, they may be eligible to have their programme funded by the Ministry of Social Development. The number of funded places is limited. If there are no funded places available the client can choose to pay for the full cost of their programme themselves or be put on a waiting list until a funded place is available.

Can clients get appointments outside of work or study hours?

Yes, depending on availability.

What expertise does your clinical team have?

Safe Network has specialised in working with concerning and harmful sexual behaviour for over 30 years. All members of our multi-disciplinary team of



clinical staff are professionally registered or working towards this.

What are the requirements for consent for your service?

Informed consent is a legal requirement for all health services. Adults are assumed to be legally competent to give informed consent, but where they aren't, it requires a legal guardian to consent on their behalf. Safe Network cannot provide services to a client who does not consent to it, even where they have been directed to attend our services by the court.

Do clients have to admit to claims of harmful sexual behaviour made about them, confess their harmful sexual behaviour to others or apologise to people their harmful sexual behaviour may have impacted?

No. Clients are not pressured to confess or admit to others about harmful sexual behaviour, nor required to apologise to anyone impacted by it. Although this can be an important step in family reconciliation and healing, it is not a requirement of our therapy process. Our Waka Waiora Journey to Wellbeing™ programme is strengths-based and focusses on helping clients develop the skills to lead better, safer and more fulfilling lives.

Does harmful sexual behaviour towards children or underage young people mean someone is a 'paedophile'?

No. This is not a term that is used in clinical settings anymore and we do not use it with any of the clients we work with.

Will clients be stigmatised or labelled 'sex offenders' if they come to your service?

No. We recognise that harmful sexual behaviour is usually a way that adults attempt to meet other needs in their lives. We work hard with our clients, their families and their support systems to ensure they are not labelled and stigmatised. Our approach is to build on the client's strengths and help them develop effective ways of coping, rather than dwelling on their sexualised behaviour or making them feel shame.

What if there are also other issues to be worked

through (e.g. mental health issues, alcohol or drug problems)?

We can support clients to access appropriate support in these other areas and coordinate this with the services Safe Network provides.

What do you do if a client has also experienced their own sexual abuse?

We can support them to access ACC-funded counselling for this and will liaise with that provider to coordinate our services.

What if I'm worried about the behaviour of another person?

If you believe a child or young person is at imminent risk of being abused or hurt by another person then the Police and Oranga Tamariki are the appropriate Government agencies to contact. If you are wanting to refer another adult to our services, then speak with them and encourage them to complete and forward a referral form to us. Any work we do with clients must be with their consent.

How do I contact Safe Network?

If you need assistance, contact us via the contact form on our website or the email address below. To make a referral, download a referral form from our website, complete it and forward it to us.



Our goal is to address the factors behind behaviour, creating positive outcomes and safer environments for our clients, their families, friends, and the wider community.



safe network^{app}

Download the App or use the URL: <https://safenet.co.nz>



Safe Network's **Problem Sexual Behaviour Indicator App** can assist you to identify whether someone's behaviour is concerning or not.

Hope • Trust • Confidence •