

Introduction to Safe Network clinical treatment

Safe Network operates the largest community-based specialist clinical assessment and intervention service in Aotearoa New Zealand for those with concerning and harmful sexual behaviour towards children.

Who we are

We specialise in working with adults and adolescents to address their harmful sexual behaviour. Our clinicians also work with children who have problematic or concerning sexual behaviours, assisting them to learn to express themselves in healthier ways.

With specialist clinical treatment services based in Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, and Northland, our team of thirty clinical staff includes clinical psychologists, psychotherapists, counsellors, family therapists and social workers. We offer more than 20 years' experience in working with individuals and their families to address concerning and harmful sexual behaviour.

Our services

We provide specialist services for both males and females who display concerning and harmful sexual behaviour, under the following clinical pathways:

- **Early Intervention** (children aged 5-12 years)
- **Youth** (13-17 years) – there are services for girls and boys, including those who have been involved in technology-based concerning and harmful sexual behaviour
- **Adult** (18 years and over)
- **Internet** – those who have accessed, traded, or produced child sexual abuse material or who have engaged or communicated with children and young people online in a sexual context (grooming)
- **ID** – those with intellectual or cognitive disability or complex needs
- **Te Kakano** – Specialist clinical assessment and intervention services for children (5-12 years), youth (13-17 years), and adults (18 years and over), through kaupapa Maori therapeutic models of practice. *Our Te Kakano services have been developed and are delivered by Maori practitioners*

for Maori clients with the cultural and clinical guidance of a kaumatua

- **Amanaki Pasifika** – Specialist clinical assessment and intervention pathways for Pasifika children (5 – 12 years), youth (13-17 years) and adults (18 years and over). *Our Amanaki Pasifika service has been developed and is led by clinicians of Samoan and Tongan descent who are fluent in their language and able to meet the clinical and cultural needs of this client group.*

The referral pathway

How to get help

If you are concerned about the sexual behaviour of your child, youth or an adult you can arrange for a referral to Safe Network services.

Individuals may be referred to Safe by the Courts, Community Probation Service, Child Youth & Family (CYF), Police, family members, friends or other professionals within the community. They may also self-refer.

You can get help for you or someone you know by contacting CYF, the Police or Safe.

What is the process?

Assessment

Before a child, youth or adult is accepted into the service, it is important to assess whether Safe is the right place to provide the help that he or she needs. A comprehensive clinical assessment is undertaken in which we find out about the individual, their history and the sexual behaviour that has brought them to Safe. Their strengths and resources will be assessed, as well as their problems.

Family members and partners will be part of the assessment process. The wide-ranging effects of the concerning or harmful sexual behaviour, the safety of others and the needs of the family are all important factors for consideration.

Although assessment processes across the service areas may have aspects unique to the focus of that client group, all assessments are likely to involve the following:

- Up to four interviews with the individual and their significant family members or support people
- Information and reports are collected from other agencies or professionals who are involved, e.g. CYF, Police, counsellors
- Written questionnaires and psychological tests are completed by the client and their adult family member or other support person(s).

Once the interviews and tests are completed, a detailed report is prepared, including recommendations about the person's suitability for Safe's services. A copy of this report, including recommendations about the next steps, will be sent to the referring agency or person.

If an individual is accepted into Safe's services, they will be allocated to a suitable clinician to undertake the intervention. In most cases a schedule of regular appointment times and other session times will also be made available. Individuals are offered a tailored intervention pathway within a suitable service that could range from 6-18 months' duration. Each service includes all or some of the following:

- Weekly group
- Weekly one-to-one appointments as required
- Monthly family session
- Annual intensive group therapy intervention of three days' duration.

What can I expect from attending Safe's services?

Research indicates that around 95% of adults¹ and 98% of adolescents² with sexually harmful behaviour who complete one of Safe's services will not engage in any further harmful sexual behaviour.

Taking place parallel with the individual's treatment, education and support are also offered to their family,

partner and their wider support network, to give them the knowledge, resources and support that they need to help to prevent the harmful sexual behaviour from reoccurring.

Expected treatment outcomes

On completion of Safe Network's service we expect that:

- There is no further concerning or harmful sexual behaviour of any kind
- Full responsibility is taken for the concerning or harmful sexual behaviour
- Acceptance as a safe, responsible member of the individual's family has been regained
- The individual has become a functional contributor to the community
- Adults are able to engage in safe, intimate adult relationships
- Children and adolescents are able to have safe, meaningful relationships with peers and family
- A safe and healthy lifestyle has been created.

Our clients

Individuals attending Safe services have all engaged in concerning or harmful sexual behaviour towards children and many have been involved in a range of these behaviours. Those attending Safe come from all cultures, all social classes, all sexual orientations and all socio-economic groups.

Each person has their own story to tell as to what led them to attend Safe services, and each story is different and unique to them. What all of these people share in common is a need and a desire to change their behaviour.

How do I contact Safe?

To make a referral or enquiry, contact Safe on phone (09) 377 9898 ext 700. Or download a referral form from our website, www.safenetwork.org.nz, complete it and forward it to us.

¹ Community Solutions for the Community's Problem: An outcome evaluation of three New Zealand community child sex offender treatment programmes, by Ian Lambie and Malcolm Stewart, 2003

² Getting it Right: An evaluation of New Zealand community treatment programmes for adolescents who sexually offend. Ka pu e ruha, ka hao te rangatahi, by Ian Lambie, 2007.

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