

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

# FAMILY VIOLENCE

*A WICKED PROBLEM*

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# WHAT IS FAMILY VIOLENCE ?

- **INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE** (2000-2010 – NZ HAD HIGHEST IPV RATE OF OECD COUNTRIES)
- **ELDER ABUSE & NEGLECT** (UP TO 32,000 OLDER PEOPLE MAY BE EXPERIENCING SOME FORM OF ELDER ABUSE)
- **CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT** (CURRENTLY 4 WORST IN OECD COUNTRIES)
- **DATING VIOLENCE** (1 IN 3 WOMEN EXPERIENCE PHYSICAL AND/OR SEXUAL ABUSE FROM A PARTNER IN THEIR LIFETIME)
- **SEXUAL VIOLENCE** (24% OF WOMEN AND 6% OF MEN HAVE EXPERIENCED ONE OR MORE SEXUAL OFFENCES IN THEIR LIFETIME)
- **VIOLENCE CAN BE PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, SEXUAL, FINANCIAL, NEGLECT**
- **OFTEN THE VIOLENCE IS INTENDED TO EXERT POWER AND CONTROL OVER THE VICTIM**
- **CAN BE GENERATIONAL AND INVOLVE ALL MEMBERS OF A FAMILY / WHANAU**
- **CAUSES DAMAGE TO PEOPLE, FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITIES**

# NZ STATISTICS

[WWW.AREYOUOK.ORG.NZ/FAMILY-VIOLENCE/STATISTICS](http://WWW.AREYOUOK.ORG.NZ/FAMILY-VIOLENCE/STATISTICS)

- 13 WOMEN, 10 MEN AND 9 CHILDREN ARE KILLED EVERY YEAR AS A RESULT OF FAMILY VIOLENCE
- IN 2014 POLICE RECORDED 101,981 FAMILY VIOLENCE INVESTIGATIONS – ONE EVERY 5½ MINUTES
- 1 IN 3 WOMEN EXPERIENCE PHYSICAL AND/OR SEXUAL ABUSE FROM A PARTNER IN THEIR LIFETIME
- INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE DEATHS ARE PERPETRATED ¾ BY MEN ¼ BY WOMEN
- HALF OF ALL HOMICIDES ARE FAMILY VIOLENCE
- ONE IN SEVEN YOUNG PEOPLE REPORT BEING HARMED ON PURPOSE BY AN ADULT AT HOME
- DISABLED WOMEN ARE NEARLY TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE
- 9% OF YOUNG BOYS 20% OF YOUNG GIRLS REPORT UNWANTED SEXUAL TOUCHING OR BEING FORCED TO DO SEXUAL THINGS
- ½ OF ALL INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE DEATHS OCCUR AT A TIME OF ACTUAL OR INTENDED SEPARATION
- ¾ OF INTERPERSONAL OFFENCES BY A FAMILY MEMBER ARE NOT REPORTED TO POLICE

# INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE – WHY DO WE STAY?

**LOVE:** They may sincerely love their partners, even if they do not like some of their behaviours. They may prefer to stay in the relationship rather than be alone.

**CONFUSION:** You may not recognise abusive behaviours.

**BELIEF THE OTHER PERSON WILL CHANGE:** You may believe you can change or help your partner if you devote enough time and energy to helping them. This almost always encourages the abusive behaviour and can even make it worse.

**PROMISES:** Violent partners may apologise and promise that the abuse won't happen again. Often the behaviour remains unchanged.

**DENIAL:** They often downplay their partner's violence, saying "it's not so bad" or "it could be worse".

**SHAME/GUILT:** Partners blame their partner and make them feel at fault and ashamed.

**FEAR OF RETALIATION OR THREAT:** Fear that your partner may harm you if they leave them.

**SUICIDE THREATS:** Fear that the partner will hurt himself.

**FAMILY/CHILDREN:** Not wanting to break up the family. Staying for the children's sake.

**FINANCIAL:** Fear of losing property and social status

# WARNING SIGNS - PERSONAL

## ABUSER/S

- THREATENING LOOKS OR WORDS
- CONTROLLING OF PARTNER AND CHILDREN
- CHECKING UP ON PARTNER - STALKING
- YELLING AND SWEARING
- PUTDOWNS AND CRITICISING
- PHYSICAL INTIMIDATION
- MAKING ALL THE DECISIONS
- JEALOUSY AND POSSESSIVENESS
- CONTROLLING FINANCES
- HARSH / INAPPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN

## VICTIM/S

- FEARFUL, NERVOUS – WALKING ON EGGHELLS
- SOCIAL ISOLATION FROM FAMILY, FRIENDS
- WORRIED ABOUT YOUR REACTION
- SAD, ANGRY, EMOTIONAL
- LACKING IN CONFIDENCE, LOW SELF ESTEEM
- SECRETIVE, SILENT AND WITHDRAWN
- BRUISING, UNEXPLAINED INJURIES
- FAMILY MAY BE TRANSIENT

# BARRIERS TO REPORTING

- *WHAT IF I'M WRONG*
- *IF IT WAS THAT BAD, SOMEONE ELSE WOULD BE DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT*
- *ITS NOT MY BUSINESS TO INTERFERE*
- *IT MIGHT COMPROMISE MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FAMILY*
- *SHE TOLD ME IT IN CONFIDENCE. I CAN'T PASS THAT ON.*
- *IF I SEE SOMETHING AGAIN, THEN I'LL RING*
- *I'LL WAIT UNTIL I KNOW FOR SURE*
- *I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS*
- *WHAT ABOUT MY SAFETY*
- *WHAT IF I HAVE TO GO TO COURT*
- *I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO*
- *CYF MIGHT JUST TAKE THE KIDS EVEN IF IT'S NOT THAT BAD.*
- *CYF IS UNDERSTAFFED, TOO BUSY AND IT'S PROBABLY NOT BAD ENOUGH.*

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

- EDUCATE YOURSELF – GET INFORMATION ON FAMILY VIOLENCE – [WWW.AREYOUOK.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.AREYOUOK.ORG.NZ)
- NEVER PUT THE VICTIMS OR YOUR SAFETY AT RISK.
- IF YOU THINK THERE IS IMMEDIATE DANGER – CALL 111 AND INFORM POLICE
- IF THE VICTIM/ABUSER IS A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBERS TRY TO PICK A QUIET TIME TO DISCUSS WHAT'S HAPPENING – NAME THE VIOLENCE
- IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS FOR THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN, REPORT TO CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY
- BE SUPPORTIVE, NON-JUDGEMENTAL, UNDERSTANDING, AND PATIENT
- TAKE TIME TO LISTEN AND TO TALK TO THE PERSON, WHETHER ABUSER OR VICTIM
- GET SUPPORT – PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL
- GET INVOLVED IN SOCIAL ACTION CAMPAIGNS – WHITE RIBBON

**New Zealand has one of the worst records for child abuse in the OECD Countries**



**Child Matters CPS**  
EDUCATING TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

In 2003 we were third in the OECD

Today we are somewhere between 4th and 5th

We are also one of the few OECD countries that doesn't have compulsory CP training for professionals working with children



# DAME WHINA COOPER



*Take care of our children  
Take care of what they hear  
Take care of what they see  
Take care of what they feel  
For how the children grow  
So will be the shape of Aotearoa*