



# Critical and Sensitive Research Issues Symposium

Ngā Kaupapa Muna – The Unspoken  
Issues

Violence and Abuse in Our Communities

Ellerslie Event Centre, Auckland  
9 November 2009

# What we have been asked to consider

- What we can do to address and stop the issues in our whānau and communities
- How we can give voice to issues of violence and abuse
- The intergenerational impact if these issues are not addressed

# What we have been asked to consider

- What barriers exist which prevent us from eliminating violence and abuse in our communities
- How we break down these barriers
- What are the ethical considerations we face?

# Key messages/issues

- Dr Tracey McIntosh
  - What are the implications of brutal and brutalising language on the lived experience?
  - We must use our ways of knowing to address the problems of violence and abuse, power of our collective responses
  - Utilising power-centred research and solutions to violence

# Key messages/issues

- The Hon. Dr Pita Sharples
  - Violence is an attack against whakapapa, whānau and identity
  - We must dig deep into our traditions to challenge the social construct of silence
  - “Change that which is ours to change”
  - Move beyond polarising victims and offenders, invest our time into supporting those working with whānau

# Key messages/issues

- Prof. Karina Walters
  - Violence to women and children is not part of our original instructions
  - Today is a Naming Ceremony, where we name violence and establish a new way of relating to it, which draws upon our original instructions, and allows us to heal
  - How do we transcend the trauma and look to the wisdom of the future?

# Key messages/issues

- Dr Boni Robertson, Aunty Delmae Barton
  - A special dreaming of all our aspirations, to the stars and beyond
  - Research as fodder for the government to impose further violations upon our communities
  - Sustainable ways for governments to take up the solutions signalled by our communities
  - Redress the image that our culture is violent



# Key messages/issues

- Amster Reedy
  - “If the philosophy is right, the practice is right”
  - Oriori karakia as a framework to guide us in how to raise our children
  - “Its not how far back we go in our culture, but how far forward we are prepared to take it”
  - What is stopping us looking for the skills we need?



# Key messages/issues

- Heather Henare
  - Issues of “gender symmetry” and the “degenderising of domestic violence”
  - Role of research in creating a picture of domestic violence
  - Ensure the implications of gender are given careful consideration in our work
  - As a country are we still happy for women to be blamed for domestic violence?

# Key messages/issues

- Students Against Violence Everywhere
  - Every little bit counts
  - Had enough of the silence on violence
  - Why, when we've had so many opportunities, does violence still occur in our homes?
  - Ripple effect which disturbs all the water
  - Need for multi-level approaches

# Key messages/issues

- Moana Jackson
  - Issue of owning up to the violence versus being public about violence with an ever-watchful Pākehā media
  - The great unspoken issue is the violence of colonisation
  - Must address the wider context of family violence, remove the root causes so that others are not harmed

# Key messages/issues

- Mereana Pitman
  - Must develop an analysis around violence
  - “When we lay our hands to our children, we lay our fists to the hearts of our grandparents”
  - “Red Flag” areas and Sacred Cows
    - We must know, understand, become informed in order to challenge, deconstruct and reconstruct

# The development of a research agenda

- Have we canvassed all the issues?
- What challenges face us as we develop a research agenda?
- How can we support or contribute?

# Feedback and Discussion