



## Outcome 4 - Rights Protection and Justice



“Our rights are protected; we feel safe, understood and are treated fairly and equitably (without discrimination) by the justice system.” New Zealand Disability Strategy, 2016-2026

This means that people who need impairment-specific support receive it without repeatedly asking as they journey through the justice system – as a victim, perpetrator, witness, or jury member. In addition, that needs and rights are taken into account and safeguards are place for those at risk of violence and abuse.

### Strategy In Action

#### The Safeguarding Adults from Abuse (SAFA) inter-agency response pilot

The Safeguarding Adults from Abuse (SAFA) project’s overall goal was to develop an integrated safety response to safeguard “vulnerable adults”.

For SAFA, the term “vulnerable adults” referred to disabled adults, older adults and adults with complex care and support needs who were at risk of or experiencing family harm or any other form of abuse or neglect, and because of their support needs were unable to remove themselves from the risk of harm.

The project was initiated in 2015 by the SAFA Collective, which included People First’s Keeping Safe Feeling Safe Working Group, Age Concern, agencies in the disability and abuse prevention sectors, the wider community, disabled people, at-risk adults who use services, carers, family and whānau.

In 2016, Waitemata Police and Waitemata DHB jointly ran a six-month pilot of the SAFA response across the Waitemata District. As a result 40 victims were removed from unsafe situations and instead connected with support and services to improve their safety.

A Police review concluded that the pilot gave Police staff the ability to better recognise vulnerable adults, improve their confidence in responding and the processes to provide victim support. Feedback from stakeholders was very positive:

“Stakeholders felt that the process increased accountability for improving the safety of vulnerable adults, facilitating engagement of partner agencies and a more collective response.”

“Agencies felt the Pilot had supported them to respond better to the ‘grey areas’, particularly around what to consider when managing relationships with vulnerable adults, assessing risk and identifying appropriate support services and strategies.”

**Safeguarding Adults Consultant and Coordinator, Sue Hobbs says:**

“A Safeguarding Adults framework is needed nationwide for ‘vulnerable’ adults (under 65 years) with complex care and support needs who are at risk of or experiencing abuse, much like the new service, Elder Abuse Response Service (EARS), supports older adults (65 years and over) who are at risk of abuse, neglect and harm.

“SAFA will support organisations to work together to safeguard adults with complex care and support needs who are at risk of or experiencing abuse or neglect – which includes family harm and sexual harm.”

# Resources and Guidance

## People First New Zealand

People First New Zealand Inc. Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi is a national disabled persons organisation that is led and directed by people with learning (intellectual) disability. The organisation's website includes information about rights (including in Easy Read format), as well as information about the Keeping Safe Feeling Safe Course (an abuse prevention programme for adults with learning (intellectual) disability).

- website [peoplefirst.org.nz](http://peoplefirst.org.nz)
- email [mail@peoplefirst.org.nz](mailto:mail@peoplefirst.org.nz)
- phone **0800 206070**

## Office for Disability Issues

The Office for Disability Issues website provides a range of resources aimed at educating disabled people about their rights, including the Convention of the Rights with Persons with Disabilities.

- website [odi.govt.nz](http://odi.govt.nz)

## Age Concern

Age Concern has an Elder Abuse response service. Contact details for different geographical areas are on its website or you can call.

- website [ageconcern.org.nz/ACNZ\\_Public/EANP\\_contact\\_information.aspx](http://ageconcern.org.nz/ACNZ_Public/EANP_contact_information.aspx)
- phone **0800 EA NOT OK (0800 32 668 65)**

## Bullying-Free NZ

Bullying-Free NZ has a section on its website specific to preventing and responding to bullying of children with disabilities.

- website [bullyingfree.nz/about-bullying/students-with-disabilities](http://bullyingfree.nz/about-bullying/students-with-disabilities)

## Family Violence It's Not OK

It's not OK is a community-driven behaviour change campaign to reduce family violence in New Zealand, funded by the Ministry for Social Development. Its goal is to change attitudes and behaviour that tolerate any kind of family violence. The website includes various research and resources.

- website [areyouok.org.nz](http://areyouok.org.nz)
- phone **0800 456 450**

## Citizens Advice Bureau

The Citizens Advice Bureau has useful information about reporting abuse of children and vulnerable adults.

- website [cab.org.nz/vat/fp/va/pages/reportingabuse.aspx](http://cab.org.nz/vat/fp/va/pages/reportingabuse.aspx)

## Patient.info (UK website) – Safeguarding adults information

Patient is an online medical resource supplying evidence-based information on a wide range of medical and health topics to patients and health professionals. It has some useful information:

- for clinicians [patient.info/doctor/safeguarding-adults-pro](http://patient.info/doctor/safeguarding-adults-pro)
- for patients [patient.info/health/safeguarding-adults-leaflet](http://patient.info/health/safeguarding-adults-leaflet)