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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

THE PEOPLE'S BLUE- PRINT

1. What is *The People's Blueprint*?

A plan developed by the Glenn Inquiry for reducing New Zealand's unacceptably high rates of child abuse and domestic violence. It combines insights from those directly affected with a new framework and suite of measures based on research and expert advice. The plan aims to prevent, detect and intervene early in a way that is cohesive, trusted and effective at keeping children and families safe from violence.

2. What does it say?

That big shifts are needed across leadership, culture and services to eliminate family violence. Once transformed along the lines set out in *The Blueprint*, the new system can deliver reliable, respectful and coordinated support for families, plus prevention through education and early intervention. The basic human right to be safe from violence is honoured by a new system that involves everyone in changing attitudes and behaviour.

3. What are the main recommendations?

The Blueprint proposes a 'whole system' to end fragmentation, featuring:

- a standalone agency to coordinate a national strategy and check the system is fit for purpose. It will also run a central database and evaluate programmes
- a 'One Family: One Judge' family violence court with wide reach to handle both civil and criminal matters relating to family violence. It will be a hub equipped with a specially trained workforce and new powers to intervene early, and marshal services and treatment around whole families

- national prevention and intervention campaigns which include rolling public awareness campaigns and school-based education
- tighter liquor laws to stop alcohol abuse feeding violence
- long-term counselling for victims and perpetrators
- an investment approach to funding which offers more certainty for proven services and better evaluation of what works.

4. Does *The Blueprint* suggest anything controversial?

The court system changes are bold, but are based on integrated courts already working in the United States. Tighter liquor laws may meet resistance but the Inquiry considers the clear evidence of alcohol's contribution to family violence can no longer be ignored. The public safety benefits far outweigh any inconvenience from tougher rules. Likewise, the wider public good resulting from the ability to keep better track of perpetrators and high-risk families through a secure, centralised database, outweighs any privacy or civil rights concerns.

5. Why is *The Blueprint* different from other reports on family violence?

It is grounded in the real life experiences of 500 people directly affected by abuse who told their stories to the Inquiry for its first stage of work, *The People's Report*. Combined with other commissioned research and available literature, these powerful personal accounts provide a compelling base of evidence to support the recommendations.

6. How does all this make a better system?

The measures are underpinned by a framework designed by systems experts. They identified the essential functions for a viable system, working at the national, regional and programme level to deliver the cohesion and collaboration missing from the current patchwork approach

7. What happens now?

The Blueprint is for everyone. The Inquiry wants it read freely so it can build momentum for change across all layers of society. *The Blueprint* challenges decision-makers to step up and take leadership with a unified response, but also reminds individuals they can make a start in their own right.