

Reducing Domestic Violence in the Pacific

2007

Overhead Transparencies

**“Ko te ngaru kare ona
akau,
ka tino te 'enua”**

**The wave that meets no
reef will damage the
land**

Introductions

- Name, Station and role.
- What would you like to get out of this training?
- Have you attended any Domestic Violence training before, and if so what was the most valuable thing you learned from that training?
- Name one thing that you think is the **main** purpose of the police force.

Each person is to introduce their partner and share their partner's responses to the questions above.

The role of the police is to:

**Protect people and
property**

**The main focus is to
protect people.**

Setting Ground rules

- In your groups brainstorm 4 to 5 ways in which we can help to create an environment where everyone feels safe, and people can trust one another enough to share their thoughts, feelings and true values.
- Please write each point on a **separate** piece of paper, ready to share with the rest of the group

The purpose of this training is to:

- raise the awareness of police officers to the dynamics of domestic violence,
- ensure that police officers understand the importance of their role in helping to reduce the incidents of domestic violence in their countries
- to support officers in having ***consistent*** practice when dealing with domestic violence

Themes, Aims and Intended Outcomes

Theme One: The dynamics of Domestic Violence

Aim: To raise the personal and professional awareness of domestic violence.

Intended outcomes:

- apply concepts and theories in relation to their work in dealing with domestic violence
- demonstrate understanding in domestic violence incidents

Theme 2 - Responding effectively to Domestic Violence

Aim: To support Pacific police in developing consistent basic in-country guidelines and practice when dealing with domestic violence

Intended outcomes:

- use basic guidelines and procedures in dealing with domestic violence incidents
- apply problem solving strategies within their work in domestic violence.

Theme Three: Developing partnerships

Aim: To understand the importance of the role of Pacific Police and the value of partnerships in helping to reduce the incidents of domestic violence in their countries

Intended outcome:

- construct and maintain effective partnerships and community links to deal with domestic violence incidents

Objectives

By the end of this session participants will be able to:

- define domestic violence
- describe the behaviours that are attributed to domestic violence
- identify who the victims of domestic violence are
- describe the effects of domestic violence on it's victims
- explain why domestic violence is important to address

What is Domestic Violence?

The term domestic violence includes physical violence against a female by a male where those people are connected by a relationship (including marriage and de-facto relationships)

(Pacific Police Domestic Violence Policy V3 25 -10-06)

Definition of Domestic Violence

- Domestic violence means violence against a person by any other person with whom that person is, or has been, in a “domestic relationship”

Domestic relationship

- A person is in a domestic relationship with another person if the person:
- a. is a marriage or de-facto partner
 - b. is a family member of the other person
 - c. ordinarily shares a household with the other person; or
 - d. has a close personal relationship with the other person

What are the types of violence used in domestics?

- **Physical abuse** e.g. shoving, throwing things, pulling hair, twisting arms, choking, punching, scratching, pushing, biting, slapping.

More serious examples of physical abuse include murder, wounding, or attacks with weapons such as bush knives, knives, sticks and stones

- **Sexual abuse** e.g. sexual violation (forcing a person to have sex or take part in sexual acts they do not want to), rape, and or indecent assault
- **Psychological (emotional or mental) abuse** e.g. verbal abuse and put downs, humiliation, bullying, threats, intimidation (often in front of the children), damaging property or threatening to, harassment e.g. constant phone calls or visits to home or workplace.

- **Social** including verbally abusing (criticising, humiliating and insulting) or putting the victim down in front of others, or depriving them of freedom or company of friends or family
- **Economic** including where the abuser / offender takes control of financial resources and may forbid the victim to work thus controlling all the finances and being denied basic needs such as food and money

Who are the victims of domestic violence?

- International research shows that 98% of the victims of domestic violence are women.
- Children experiencing or witnessing domestic violence within the family are also directly or indirectly affected.
- **Violence against women is a crime, and *must* be treated as such, including when occurring within the family**

What are the effects of domestic violence?

Effects on victims:

- Suffer stress
- Be anxious and depressed
- Become mentally ill
- Kill themselves
- Have miscarriages
- Have fewer skills for coping and solving problems
- Be cut off from other people
- Suffer from headaches, asthma, and other stress related illnesses and
- Abuse their own children

Effects on children

- Nearly half of all children whose mothers are abused are also abused.
- Most are physically abused, some are sexually abused and
- All suffer emotional abuse.

Often children who witness domestic violence are:

- Nervous and withdrawn
- Full of anxiety and can be restless
- Wet their beds
- Do not do well at school
- Suffer from headaches, stomach complaints, asthma and stuttering
- Sometimes are cruel to animals
- Copy aggressive language and behaviour in their play
- Run away from home
- Boys beat up their girlfriends when they are teenagers

Effects on offenders

Offenders are victims in their own way. If offenders do not choose to stop their abusive or violent behaviour, they may face the likely consequences of:

- Breakdown of their relationships
- People they care for living in fear of them
- Facing criminal charges
- Serious injury or death to themselves, the other person or their children and
- Loss of contact with their children

Why do we need to address the issue of domestic violence?

- Worldwide more women under the age of 44 are killed or disabled because of domestic violence than through cancer, malaria, traffic accidents or war
- Domestic violence is a serious violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- In NZ family violence is underreported by as much as 90%
- would this be the same for the Pacific - or more? - as often within the Pacific domestic violence is seen as a private matter between domestic partners and not viewed as a crime?

- Violence against women within the context of the family may be the leading cause of injury and death to women worldwide – yet it is the least likely to be reported.
- A recent Pacific Regional Policing Initiative country needs assessment identified domestic violence as a regional issue with little Police capacity to respond to it