

RPE UpDate

Issue 3 – Autumn 2009

Working together to eliminate rape and sexual abuse



Rape
Prevention
Education

RAPE CRISIS AUCKLAND INCORPORATED

WHAKATU MAURI

Community Action: Preventing sexual violence

By: Veronica Marwitz, Education & Research Manager

When communities work together sexual violence can be prevented. In New Zealand, it is estimated that as many as 1 in 4 females and 1 in 8 males are likely to experience sexual violence in their lifetimes. This comes at a huge expense to our country as the cost of sexual violence is about \$72,000 per incident (total \$1.2 billion in 2003-04').

Community Responsibility

Communities, including parents, teachers, bus drivers, coaches, business owners, social networks and others can learn to identify signs of sexual violence and sexually violent behaviours and how to respond to them. You can create a sense amongst your community that sexual violence is unacceptable and that it is OK for a victim/survivor or potential offender to seek help.



How Bystanders can help

A bystander can be any person in the community who witnesses behaviour that is harmful to another. It is important that we all know how to intervene safely when we witness harmful or abusive behaviour. If there are clear messages in

We all play a part in ending sexual violence.

your community that sexual violence is unacceptable, and people endorse the idea that prevention is everyone's responsibility then there is more likely to be active, safe bystander intervention.

(Continued overleaf.)

Thanks Vodafone

RPE participated in the Vodafone New Zealand Foundation Cup on 26 February. Louise Nicholas represented RPE in the touch rugby game that featured All Black legend Frank Bunce. RPE launched a "Touch...but only if it's consensual ☺" campaign in honour of the game.



Above: Louise with Warrior legend Ruben Wiki and Vodafone New Zealand Foundation Chairman, Mike Stanley. Left: The RPE Team at the Vodafone New Zealand Foundation Cup.

Community Action: Preventing sexual violence *(continued)*

Case Study About Lack of Help

16 year old Melanie was at a party. Most people, including Melanie, were drunk. As the evening wore on she got more drunk, louder and uninhibited. She was having a great time and was entertaining to be around.

Around 1 am Melanie passed out on the couch. A group of five guys began removing items of her clothing and touching her breasts and genitals. Bystanders' reactions were mixed. Some people thought Melanie had brought the assault on herself with her drinking and skimpy dress. However, most bystanders were disturbed and didn't think it was OK. Rather than intervene, they left.

The experience has taken a toll on Melanie's life; she was sexually violated. It also had an impact on the bystanders; some felt disturbed and guilty for not intervening.



What Bystanders Can Do

Incidents of sexually inappropriate, harassing, abusive or violent behaviour where bystanders fail to intervene occur often due to bystanders believing that others will intervene or that it is not their business to get involved. However, there may be numerous opportunities where bystanders can help.

If there is an opportunity to intervene, you can decide:

- **if something is wrong.** Is the person being treated with respect and care?

- **if your help is needed.** Don't take cues (such as to do nothing) from people around you. If you'd appreciate someone intervening (if this was your child, parent, friend or family member) then do your best to take some action.
- **if it is your responsibility to intervene.** We all have a responsibility to work to create a safer world.
- **if you can calmly, safely intervene, go ahead.** Do not step into a situation where you could put yourself in danger. Call the police or report behaviour to an authority.
- **to talk to someone.** Visit www.rapecrisis.org.nz for a list of support agencies in Aotearoa/ New Zealand.

¹ Roper, T. & Thompson, A. (2006). Estimating the costs of crime in New Zealand in 2003/04 New Zealand Treasury Working Paper. <http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/research-policy/wp/2006/06-04>. Accessed 15th March 2009.

Professional Education

Professional Education workshops provide professionals with the latest skills, best practices and research about the prevention of sexual abuse and violence.

Workshops include:

- **"Dealing with Disclosures"** – effective and safe pathways to responding to disclosures; practical implications; services for survivors and professionals
- **"Preventing Sexual Violence – What Works for Youth"** – current research, common issues, dealing with disclosures and Tiaki *Tinana* (prevention initiatives developed by Māori specialists).

Thanks to [ACC Injury Prevention](#), professionals may attend two new workshops free of charge:

- **"Host Responsibility"** for hospitality professionals – prevent sexual violence in the workplace and keep patrons safe. Available in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.
- **"Creating Safe Families, Whanau and Communities"** for postnatal care and home based childcare professionals – preventing sexual violence, understanding offender behaviors and dealing with disclosures. Available in Auckland, Whangarei and Hamilton.

For details, please contact **Kylie Tippett** at kylie@rapecrisis.org.nz or on **09 360 4001 ext 207**.

Above right: Aaron Gilmore from Dancing with the Stars delivers a presentation at a Dealing with Disclosures workshop.

Below right: BodySafe educator Jason Reti-Thomson (JT) and Professional Education Manager Kylie Tippett look forward to launching RPE's "Host Responsibility" workshops.



Rape Awareness Week

4-8 May 2009

**“Raise
Awareness
Please
Everyone”**

Louise Nicholas, RPE 4 March 2009

Raise Awareness by supporting prevention education in your neighborhood!

Complete and return the donation form in this newsletter **TODAY.**

Working with Childhood Sexual Abuse: Strengthening & Informing Practice

14 & 15 May 2009
Crown Plaza, Auckland

In consultation with RPE, Auckland Sexual Abuse Help Foundation and the Counselling Service Centre, **Safe Network** will hold a symposium to strengthen best practices amongst child sexual abuse workers. To register, visit www.safenetwork.co.nz or contact Victoria Lendich on 09 377 9898 ext 722.



RPE will host a **Dealing with Disclosures Workshop 13 May 2009** (the day before the symposium). To register contact kylie@rapecrisis.org.nz or 09 360 4001 ext 207.

Newsletter Archive

Visit www.rapecrisis.org.nz to access newsletter archives, including:

- **Winter 08** – BodySafe – How Schools Benefit
- **Spring 08** – Tiaki Tinana – Seeking Better Outcomes for Māori Communities

UpDate



Tiaki Tinana

Russell Smith, Project Manager

Russell participated in the “Patu Free Aotearoa New Zealand Forum” at the Waitangi celebrations; he spoke with Ngatihine Radio about Tiaki Tinana’s role in Maori communities (see photo above.)

Louise Nicholas, Survivor Advocate

Louise is assisting Te Ohaakii a Hine – National Network Ending Sexual Violence Together to research **“Cost as a barrier to victims/survivors of sexual violence in their recovery and in accessing services and justice.”** This study is to provide government with a better understanding of the costs that arise for victim/survivors.

Survivors of sexual violence, please go to www.bradone.com/s/ to fill out the important online research survey.



Billie, Louise, Aaron and Kylie working on RPE’s Rape Awareness Week plan.

BodySafe

Kate Butterfield, Team Leader

BodySafe faces a big year with schools throughout Auckland requesting BodySafe for their students. Demand for BodySafe has grown, demonstrating the importance of sexual violence prevention education for youth.

Aaron Gilmore from Dancing with The Stars, Survivor Advocate

Aaron Gilmore and Rebecca Hobbs have danced through to the fifth season of **Dancing with the Stars**. Aaron is a key figure in many RPE workshops where he shares his story. You will see Aaron during Rape Awareness Week, 4-8 May 2009.

RPE Calendar Highlights

- **April 29, 2009**
Preventing Sexual Violence – What Works for Youth
- **May 4-8, 2009**
Rape Awareness Week
- **May 13, 2009**
Dealing with Disclosures Workshop
- **July 2, 2009**
Dealing with Disclosures Workshop
- **October 7, 2009**
Dealing with Disclosures Workshop

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



By Dr Kim
McGregor

Nga Mihi Kia Koutou

Promoting survivor advocacy through lobbying continues to be an important part of my daily role with RPE. The list below includes some of the activities RPE has been involved with over the last six months:

Te Ohaakii a Hine – National Network Ending Sexual Violence Together (TOAH-NNEST) – RPE has been a founding member since 2005 and continues to be a part of the Pae Takawaenga (elected Executive) of this bi-cultural network.

Task Force for Action on Sexual Violence (TASV) – I continue to be one of four representatives from TOAH-NNEST on this government task force started in July 2007.

Improvements to Sexual Violence Legislation in New Zealand – RPE made a submission to this government discussion document about including a positive definition of consent; guidance for the reasonable belief test; extending the rape shield; and alternative legal practices and judicial models.

Australian National Sexual Assault Prevention Roundtable – I was privileged to be the only New Zealander to attend and speak at the two day discussion held in December.

Waitangi – RPE participated and met **Prime Minister John Key**, Minister of Social Development **Paula Bennett**, various MP's and **Mayor Bob Harvey** of West Auckland.

Additionally, I recently met with **Minister Pansy Wong** to discuss the importance of the work of TOAH-NNEST and TASV.

Most of the work associated with survivor advocacy is underfunded and as such RPE contributes significant resources to support my involvement. Many thanks to RPE supporters, staff and Board for helping make this possible.

Arohanui.

Migrant & Refugee Project

Regrettably, due to a lack of funding, RPE had to bid farewell to our Migrant and Refugee project. However sexual violence prevention pamphlets in over 15 languages developed for child and family safety will remain available and we aim to continue to provide sexual violence prevention to a diverse array of communities.



FEATURED CORPORATE SPONSOR

Thank You Elizabeth Arden

Elizabeth Arden's support provides invaluable aid for RPE programmes and events.



Visit www.elizabetharden.com to learn more about their fragrance portfolio.

You CAN do something positive about sexual violence.

Make a donation toward providing prevention education to youth via RPE's BodySafe programme. Our society needs to be founded on respectful relationships... if you agree, please kindly make a donation now.

YES! I want to support BodySafe prevention education for youth

Please complete this section, detach and return to RPE at the below address or phone 09 360 4001 to speak with Yvonne Hoffmann, Administration Manager, or email yvonne@rapecrisis.org.nz.
RPE, PO BOX 78-307, Grey Lynn, Auckland 1245

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Preferred method of contact: Post Phone Email

\$20 \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1500 \$Other _____ Cheques made payable to RPE BodySafe

Please debit my: Visa MC AMEX _____

Name on card (please print) _____ Signature _____ Expiry / _____

Please contact me so I can:

- Make a regular donations by automatic payment
- Leave a bequest to RPE
- Hosting a fundraising initiative for RPE and
- Please sign me up for the RPE newsletter