

# 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](http://www.rapecrisis.org.nz) for a list of support agencies in Aotearoa/ New Zealand.

<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:kylie@rapecrisis.org.nz) or 09 360 4001 ext 207.

## Newsletter Archive

Visit [www.rapecrisis.org.nz](http://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/](http://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

