

Kia Ora Koutou,

Jo Hodder here, I would like to introduce myself as the community Family Violence Intervention Network (VIN) Coordinator.

This role is now hosted by Jigsaw Whanganui and I am excited to be working with agencies across our community to look at how together we can prevent family harm.

The mahi of the VIN role is to mobilise communities in the prevention family harm, e.g. providing activities to increase an understanding of the impact family harm has on the whanau, encouraging people to ask for help, and to ensure everyone in the community takes the repercussions of family harm seriously, and knows how to help when needed.

My role involves building relationships inside and outside of the community sector by organising campaigns, community education/training, as well as working alongside businesses to offer education and support on how family harm impacts on the wellbeing of employees and on the productivity of the business.

The Family Violence Intervention Network contributes significantly to the mahi of the VIN member agencies and contributes to the collective community endeavours of effective interventions and responses of those experiencing the trauma of family harm/intimidate partner violence. The purpose of all interagency/community approaches around family harm is to improve the safety of all involved in the violence and to be able to engage both the victim and the perpetrator of the violence in the opportunity to stop the harm and the hurt.

The network links different forms of violence together to make the connections between the cause and effect, and seeks out the solutions to oppression and inequality of people.

We have a number of events planned for the New Year:

- An expo for agencies involved in the family harm sector to come together to share their mahi with each other, and for the public to see the amazing resources we have in Whanganui.

- A workshop on trauma-informed integrity, including how to recognise the trauma people hold inside, and how to be mindful of not re-traumatising harmed people in the work we do.

- Another workshop focusing on what family harm looks like, and what child neglect looks like. This will include a presentation on our local family harm statistics, and a community panel discussion of what are we doing to address them

If you would like to know more about family harm prevention or how to support someone who has been involved in a family harm experience please feel free to contact me, jo@jigsawwhanganui.org.nz or phone the Jigsaw office.

Noho ora mai,

Jo Hodder
VIN Coordinator

Upcoming events...

Finishing 2020 on a high!
Check out page 3 for details!



30TH ANNIVERSARY OF JIGSAW WHANGANUI

FRIDAY **20** 1.30-4.00 PM
2020

Plumber Dan
14 NOV 2020
DUCK RACE
Yes!
it's back!!

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Kaupapa whānau – thriving children, flourishing families

A young family's journey with Jigsaw

a recount from the Jigsaw Whanganui Social Worker

A request by community health to support a young parent family was followed up by the intensive home-based social work team. The family consisted of; mum who was 22 weeks pregnant and her 2 year old child and the dad of the unborn baby. At the first home visit, the couple welcomed the social worker and shared their current concerns around housing, household management, budgeting, probation obligations, pregnancy with a chronic disease, and the introduction of a new baby to the family. A working relationship quickly developed with plans and tasks. The couple's most immediate concerns were housing eviction, rent arrears, probation work, and historical debt. The social worker informed and assisted the couple to navigate the social housing process.

As the rapport grew, the mum openly shared about her past grief from losing a baby due to complications associated with her chronic health and her worry for the safe arrival of her new baby. The social worker listened to her story and at the end affirmed and encouraged her strengths and resilience. The social worker encouraged mum to talk to her midwife about her current worries and to think about the types of support she might need during the third trimester.

The couple's baby was born at Whanganui hospital. The birth was difficult and there were complications for both baby and mum related to Mum's chronic health condition. Baby and parents were immediately flown to Wellington hospital for further specialised treatment. When the family returned to Whanganui they re-connected with the social worker. They shared their baby's birth story and the impact it had on them as a couple and the wider family.

The couple moved into a new rental and worked together to make it a family home. However, after a short period, the couple moved out due to non-repairs and a breakdown in communication between them and landlord. The social worker supported the couple through the tenancy tribunal complaints process and the court granted the couple a bond refund and cleaning costs.

The family's next rental home was a welcomed positive. But the intensity and volume of stress endured over the past months impacted greatly on their relationship. Dad's increased hours and responsibilities at work meant he was often away from home. Mum struggled with caring for the children and house on her own and she stopped self-care. She was admitted to hospital, exhausted and dehydrated. A wrap-around package including home help was given on discharge. The social worker increased home visits to three times per week to support daily routines including self-care. The social worker also co-ordinated meetings with family supports (maternal and paternal sides) and services (maternal mental health, home help, dietitian, plunket and community nurse).

As mum's overall health improved so did her energy levels and she felt more confident in her role as a mum. Dad re-negotiated hours of work that was more family friendly. The couple planned 'date nights' with each other and as a family. Mum expressed her desire to obtain NCEA credits for future employment. The social worker supported mum's enrolment on literacy and numeracy courses and within a term, mum had successfully passed her assessments gaining NCEA level 2. A part-time casual job was offered to mum which she accepted. When dad's health was compromised at work causing him to go on a sickness benefit, mum picked up extra hours to supplement their household income. Dad acknowledged the role changes from work to home was difficult. He reached out to his GP for support and now a few months down he has a good home routine and a more balanced life.

It was a pleasure to work alongside mum, dad, their two children and the wider family - to welcome the arrival of their baby son, to listen and attend to their aspirations for their family to see the positive bond and growth of the children and to share the network and resources of this agency.



***Not actual family pictured**

Join us at our upcoming events

We would love to see you there!



14 NOV 2020

DUCK RACE
Yes!
it's back!!

RACE STARTS 11AM AT DUBLIN STREET BRIDGE AND FINISHES BY THE WAIMARIE

FIRST PRIZE \$1,000

SECOND PRIZE \$500 **THIRD PRIZE \$250**

Tickets are limited and available from:

- Whanganui River Traders Market, Saturday mornings
- Plumber Dan - 176 Victoria Avenue, Wanganui
- Jigsaw Whanganui - 236 Victoria Avenue, phone 06 345 1636
- On-line at www.jigsawwhanganui.org.nz

\$10 PER TICKET

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Nau mai, Haere mai
Please join us to celebrate the

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF JIGSAW WHANGANUI

AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORGANISATION'S HISTORY

NOV
FRIDAY **20** 1.30-4.00 PM
2020

THE PIONEER ROOM, WHANGANUI WAR MEMORIAL CENTRE

Join us for afternoon tea and journey back to our beginnings.

For catering purposes, please RSVP by Monday 9th November to admin@jigsawwhanganui.org.nz


Kaupapa whānau – thriving children, flourishing families



THANK YOU!

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I would like to support families to be the best they can be!

Please accept my donation of \$_____.

Payment made by:

Cheque

Online bank transfer

Bank transfers can be made to account number 02-0792-0110661-01

Please contact Tim at Jigsaw Whanganui if you would like information on donations by automatic payments or bequest to Jigsaw Whanganui.

Our EPiC Club Supporters donate from \$7.00 per week to support our intensive social work services. If you would like to become an EPiC supporter give us a call on **06 3451636**. Support a local charity and be part of sustainable and meaningful change in people's lives.