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**IDENTIFYING AND ASSESSING RISK IN
MEN WHO HAVE A HISTORY OF
VIOLENCE TOWARDS THEIR FEMALE
PARTNERS**

by

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A thesis
submitted to Massey University
in partial fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of Master of Social Work

Massey University
1997

Abstract

The general aim of this study was to explore how workers in National Network of Stopping Violence Services (NZ) Inc./Te Kupenga Whakoati Mahi Patunga member groups assess risk of repeated violence in men accessing stopping violence programmes. Increasingly with implementation of legislation such as the Domestic Violence Act 1995, and increasing referrals from Community Corrections, workers engaging with men who are violent towards their female partners will be increasingly asked to make predictions of current and future levels of risk of repeated violence. These predictions of risk are central to accountability processes developed by National Network of Stopping Violence Services (NZ) Inc./Te Kupenga Whakoati Mahi Patunga.

This study reports on risk factors identified within a sample of 373 men accessing a New Zealand based stopping violence programme. A consistency between factors identified within the international literature and within the local sample was found. A survey of workers running stopping violence programmes was undertaken to see if the risk factors that they saw as salient, were consistent with those identified in other research. Twenty-three (23) workers responded to the survey and the results indicate a tendency to focus upon contextual indicators of risk at the expense of dispositional, historical and clinical indicators. The results also show that there are a number of constraints to the thorough assessment of risk in men presenting at stopping violence programmes which include; lack of time, competing demands on time, lack of training in risk prediction, and a lack of consistent tools to undertake the task.

Acknowledgements

This has not been an easy thesis to write due a significant number of life crises that seemed to get in the way every time I seemed to be making progress.

I am indebted to a number of people who have encouraged, cajoled and believed that I could and would complete this study. Particularly thanks go to my two supervisors, Dr Ruth Anderson and Mr Mark Tisdall, whose perceptive and at times ruthless comments made this a stronger piece of work. Of course I take total responsibility for what finally appears on the pages.

I would like to thank my partner Suzanne Hall , who saw me disappear most nights towards the end of the writing up phase and shouldered the additional burden of pre-schoolers demands. Without her support and understanding this study would never have been completed.

I am also indebted to Stopping Violence Services (Christchurch) Inc. who allowed me access to client data for analysis. Working in the front-line with men who are violent and abusive to women is not an easy task and I appreciate their efforts to make our community a safer and better place.

To the many workers from National Network of Stopping Violence Services (NZ) Inc./Te Kupenga Whakoati Mahi Patunga agencies throughout the country who responded to the survey, I thank you for having confidence in me to carry out this piece of work.

Ken McMaster

December 1997

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