

Standing up for Māori victims of crime

Developing a Victims Code

Presentation Iwi and Māori Hui
28 November – 8 December 2011
Ministry of Justice, Wellington

Sue van Daatselaar, Victims Centre Manager
Marama Royal, National Kaiwhakahaere Victim
Support



MINISTRY OF
JUSTICE
Tāhū o te Ture

What is the Victims Centre?

It DOES:

- **Work across government**
- **Lead the development of a Victims Code**
- **Outward facing – engagement focus**

It is NOT:

- **A service in a building that victims contact for support**

WHERE AND HOW MANY:

- **Small team attached to the Crime and Social Policy team with the Ministry of Justice (initially until October 2012)**

Māori Advisory Group

Members	Position
Alex Holes	Senior Advisor Maori, Ministry of Justice
Superintendent Wallace (Wally) Haumaha	National Manager Maori, Pacific and Ethnic Minorities Services, NZ Police
Mere Pohatu	Regional Director, Te Tairāwhiti, Te Puni Kokiri
Neil Campbell	Director Māori, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Services, Department of Corrections
Yvonne Carroll	Analyst, Families and Communities, Ministry of Social Development
Marama Royal	National Kaiwhakahaere, Victim Support
Sandz Peipe Te Pou	Kaitakawaenga, Nga Kaitiaki Mauri, TOAH-NNEST
Mike Hinton	Restorative Justice Aotearoa Chair and Nga Whare Waatea, Manukau Urban Maori Authority
Matthew Mullany	Rangatahi Representative

Victim defined

The Victims' Rights Act defines a victim as:

'a person who has suffered harm from an offence committed by another person'.

And includes parents of child victims (0-17 years) and close family members of a person who is murdered or made incapable – unless that parent, guardian or family member is charged with the commission of the offence.

Includes offences in the home, public and workplace.

Most of the public is at low risk of being a victim

Experience of crime



Source: The New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey: 2009 Main Findings Report (2010)

Questions

- 1. What do you want to see happen for Māori victims of crime?**
- 2. What is happening on the ground that is making a difference for Māori victims?**
- 3. How could a Victims Code and a Victims Centre best serve the interests of Māori?**
- 4. Anything else you want to discuss?**

Improving government accountability

Victims of Crime Reform Bill will require:

- **Ministry of Justice to develop a Victims Code**
- **Require certain agencies to have formal complaints processes (included in the Code)**
- **Agencies must include in their Annual Report to Parliament a summary of services provided and complaints received.**
- NZ Police, Ministry of Justice, Department of Corrections, Crown Law, Ministry of Social Development (CYF), Department of Labour
- ACC, Ministry of Health, Te Puni Kokiri

Purpose of a Victims Code

To make available to victims information about:

- victims' rights,
- services provided to victims by government agencies and other organisations, and
- the duties and responsibilities of government agencies.

Tool for improving the quality of service delivery

How could a Victims Code assist?

Victims say they need	Potential Initiative
An accessible, appropriate, comprehensive and sustained system of support	Victims Code outlines system of support
Improved police, court and victim notification procedures	Victims of Crime Reform Bill
Improved attitudes and actions of police, court staff and lawyers	Guidance and training supporting the Victims Code
Better information and communication between victims and agencies	Victims Code clarifies information and communication

Different models for a Code

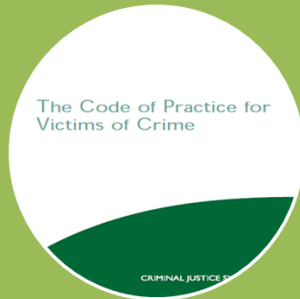


Code of Rights

e.g. Code of Health and Disability Services Consumer' Rights

Legally enforceable rights and obligations on providers to provide a service

Audience: Victims and Service Providers



Code of Practice

e.g. UK Code of Practice for Victims of Crime

Standards of behaviour, codifying longstanding and approved practices or restoring standards that had lapsed

Audience: Service Providers

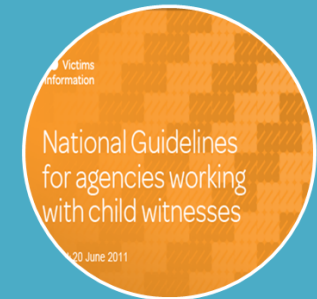


Code of Ethics

e.g. Police Code of Conduct

Identify the moral commitments of a profession, values, elevated basis for professional reflection and association

Audience: Professional groups, practitioners



Guidelines, protocols, recommendations

e.g. Child Witness Guidelines and the Alberta Victims Protocol

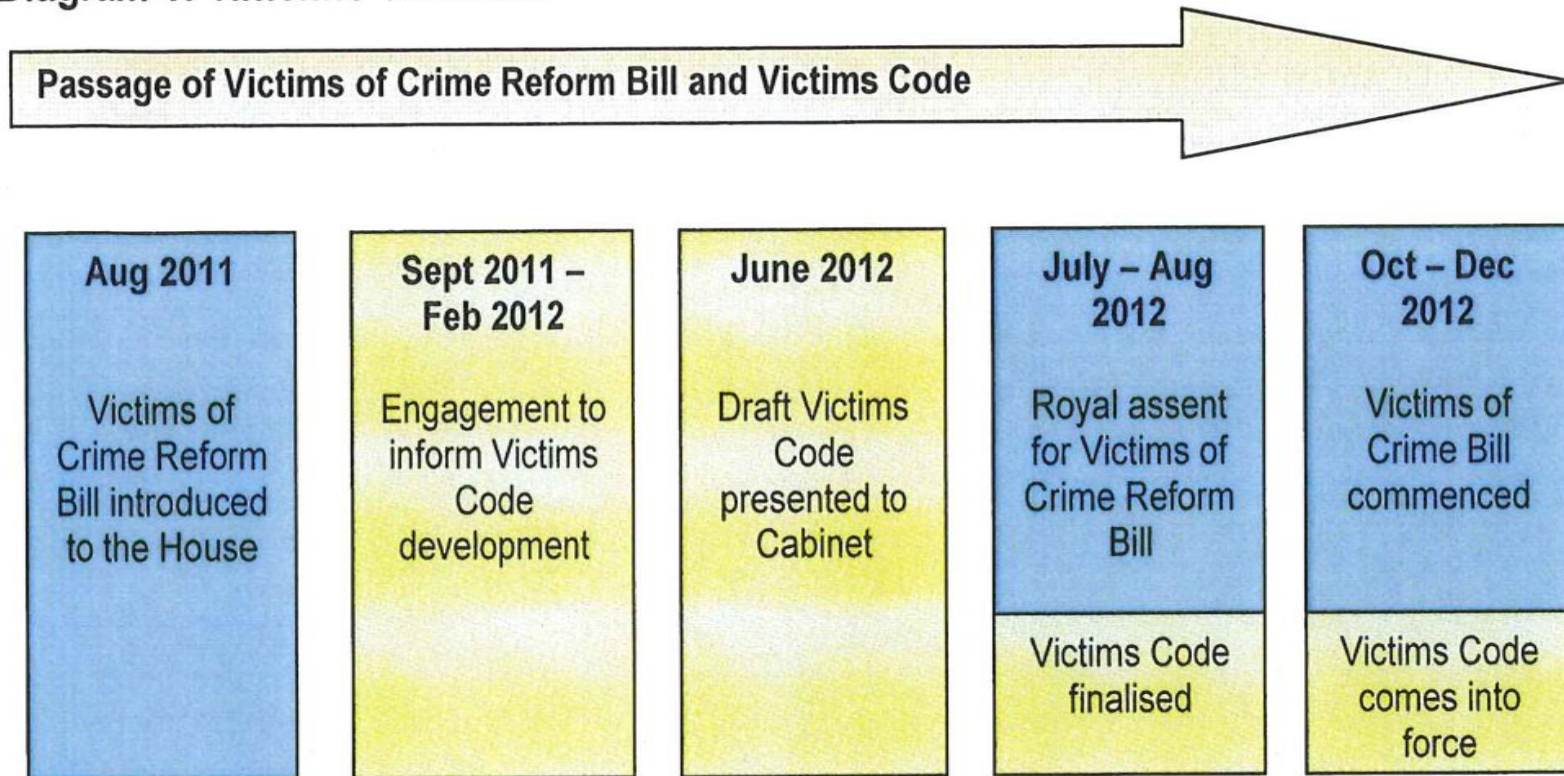
Guidance rather than strictly governing practice. When not legally enforceable, intended to influence conduct.

Audience: Service Providers and practitioners

Common minimum standards

Developing the Code

Diagram 1: Timeline of events

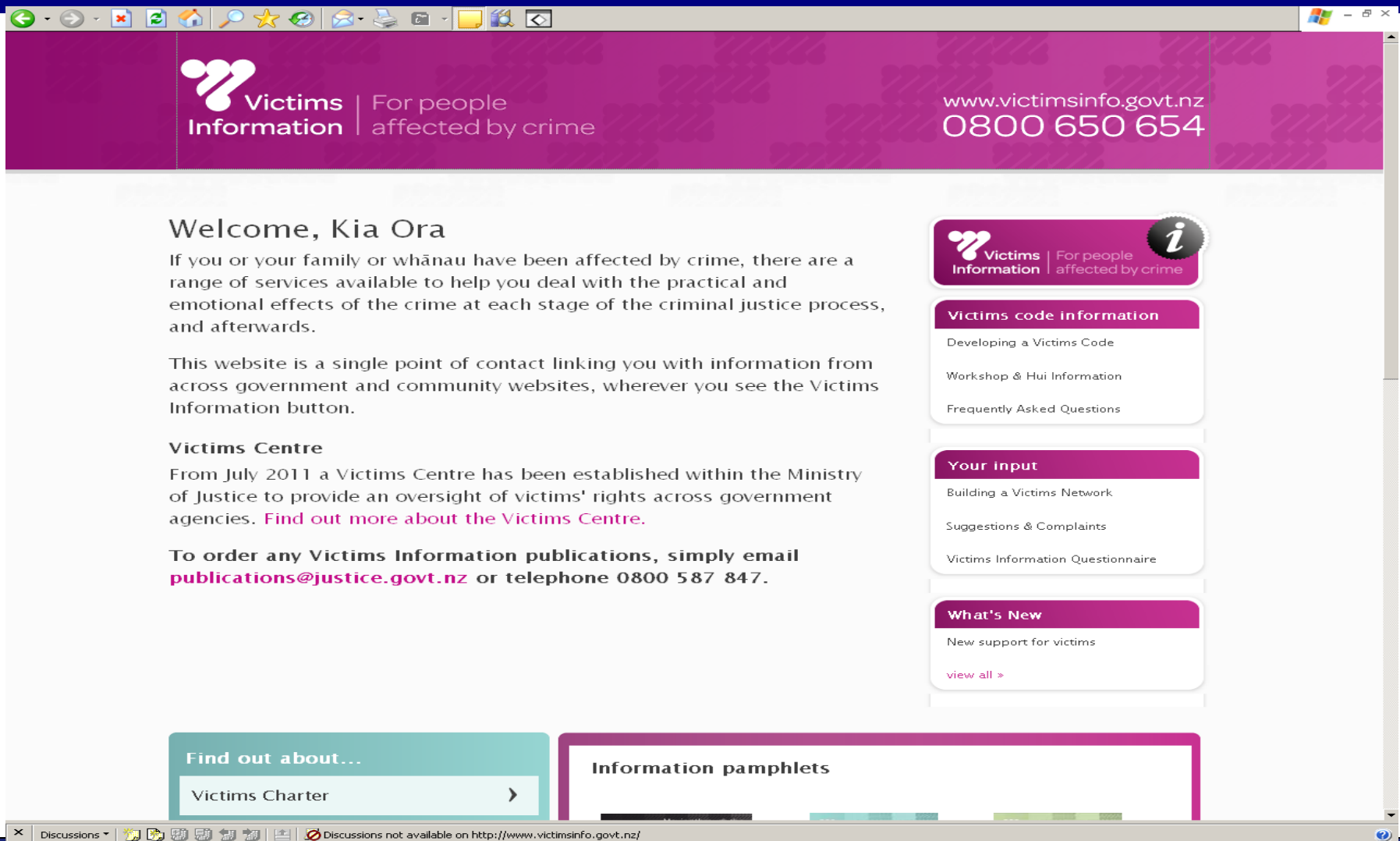


Engaging victims and the wider community

Public consultation

Opportunity for input

- Complete the online evaluation form for the workshop on <http://www.victimsinfo.govt.nz/workshop-and-hui-information/>
- Share this information with others
- We invite 'your input' on: www.victimsinfo.govt.nz
 - Interest in a network
 - Victims Information Questionnaire
 - Email us with comments on the background papers to victimscentre@justice.govt.nz



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the homepage of the Victims Information website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.victimsinfo.govt.nz/>. The website has a purple header with the logo and tagline "Victims Information | For people affected by crime" on the left, and the website name and phone number "www.victimsinfo.govt.nz 0800 650 654" on the right. The main content area features a "Welcome, Kia Ora" section with a paragraph about services, a "Victims Centre" section, and contact information. On the right side, there are four vertical menu boxes: "Victims code information" (with sub-items: Developing a Victims Code, Workshop & Hui Information, Frequently Asked Questions), "Your input" (with sub-items: Building a Victims Network, Suggestions & Complaints, Victims Information Questionnaire), "What's New" (with sub-item: New support for victims), and a "view all >" link. At the bottom, there are two boxes: "Find out about..." with a link to "Victims Charter" and "Information pamphlets". The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows several icons and a notification that says "Discussions not available on http://www.victimsinfo.govt.nz/".

Victims Information | For people affected by crime

www.victimsinfo.govt.nz
0800 650 654

Welcome, Kia Ora

If you or your family or whānau have been affected by crime, there are a range of services available to help you deal with the practical and emotional effects of the crime at each stage of the criminal justice process, and afterwards.

This website is a single point of contact linking you with information from across government and community websites, wherever you see the Victims Information button.

Victims Centre

From July 2011 a Victims Centre has been established within the Ministry of Justice to provide an oversight of victims' rights across government agencies. [Find out more about the Victims Centre.](#)

To order any Victims Information publications, simply email publications@justice.govt.nz or telephone 0800 587 847.

Victims code information

- Developing a Victims Code
- Workshop & Hui Information
- Frequently Asked Questions

Your input

- Building a Victims Network
- Suggestions & Complaints
- Victims Information Questionnaire

What's New

- New support for victims

[view all >](#)

Find out about...
[Victims Charter](#)

Information pamphlets