

# Introduction to Safe Network



**Safe Network** provides specialist services for concerning and harmful sexual behaviour towards or involving children and young people.



## Who we are

Safe Network provides specialist services for concerning or harmful sexual behaviour towards or involving children and young people <16yo.

Our goal is to work with our clients to address the factors that can lead to this behaviour, creating positive outcomes and a safer environment for our clients, their families, friends, and the wider community.

Safe Network has been successfully providing therapeutic, prevention and education services throughout the upper North Island for over 30 years, with eight sites throughout Auckland, Northland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty. Our multi-disciplinary team includes psychologists, psychotherapists, counsellors, art therapists and social workers.

Safe Network services are primarily funded by our Government partners, Oranga Tamariki / Ministry for Children, the Ministry of Social Development and the Department of Corrections.

## Our client services

### Children

It is normal and healthy for children to engage in some sexualised behaviours that are appropriate for their age. However, some behaviours may be age-inappropriate, hurt others or make them feel uncomfortable or confused.

Safe Network's Kaitūhura Explorer™ programme is a specialised service for boys and girls aged 5-12 years who have concerning sexual behaviour. The programme is tailored to the needs of each child, and can range from providing support and education to the adults in the child's life through to

a more comprehensive assessment and intervention programme with the child. Every year we work with over 200 children.

### Youth

Sexual development is one of many areas of change during adolescence, and young people engage in and display a range of sexual behaviour that is healthy and normal for their age. But when these behaviours are harmful, action is needed to prevent further harm.

Safe Network's Whakahuranga Discovery™ programme is designed specifically for young people aged 13-17 years who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviour. The programme is tailored to the needs of each young person, and can range from providing support and education to the adults in their life through to a more comprehensive assessment and intervention programme. Every year we work with over 250 youth.

### Adults

Safe Network offers a range of services for adults, and we work with over 400 adult clients each year.

Our Kaiwhakatere Navigator™ programme is for clients who have concerns about their sexualised thoughts about children but have never acted on these thoughts.

Our Waka Waiora Journey to Wellbeing™ programme is for adults who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviour towards children and young people <16yo. We also use this programme for adults who may not have engaged in physical behaviour towards children but have groomed young people online or have accessed, distributed or produced child sexual abuse images and films through the internet and social media.



## Our clients

All of Safe Network's programmes are flexible and adapted to the client's developmental stage, culture, gender, and preferred communication and learning styles. We work with:

- boys / men
- girls / women
- gender diverse clients
- neuro-diverse clients
- children, youth and adults with special needs
- children, youth and adults from different cultural and language groups.

Our goal is to work with our clients so that they are able to lead safe, balanced and healthy lives with positive connections to family/whanau and the wider community. This means that when clients complete their programme at Safe Network, we expect that they:

- are able to have safe, age-appropriate intimate relationships with others
- will no longer engage in concerning or harmful sexual behaviour
- gain acceptance as safe, responsible members of their families, whanau, and community.

Research indicates that around 95% of adults and 90% of adolescents with sexually harmful behaviour who complete one of Safe Network's programmes will not engage in any further harmful sexual behaviour. Although there is not yet any specific research on long-term outcomes for children who have been through Safe Network's programme, results are likely to be similar to those for youth. Feedback from family and whanau of children is unanimous about the positive difference Safe Network's programme has made for their child and their family.

## What is the process?

### Referral

We want to make sure our clients get the help they need. All of our programmes are open to self-referrals or referrals from family members, other agencies or other professionals within the community, provided it is with the consent of the person being referred.

The first step in the process is to complete and send through a referral form, available on our website.

### Assessment

Once we receive the referral form, we undertake an initial review to identify whether Safe Network's services are right for the person referred, and how

best we can help meet their needs.

The assessment process can vary depending on the client but usually involves the following steps:

**STEP 1** Two or three interviews with the referred person and key family members or support people



**STEP 2** Collection of information and reports from other agencies or professionals who may be involved



**STEP 3** Completion of questionnaires by the person referred and their family members or other support people

### Intervention

If our recommendation that the person referred takes part in a Safe Network programme is accepted, they will be assigned one of our specialist clinicians to provide therapy and manage their progress through the programme. The duration of therapy can vary based on the client's age and their needs. Typically, therapy can be up to six months for children, and up to 12 months for youth and adults.

### Our professional services

#### Professional education training packages

Safe Network provides specialist training for both public sector and private organisations who want to ensure that they and their staff are fully informed of the dynamics of concerning or harmful sexual behaviour. Organisations we work with include educational and tertiary institutions, care and protection agencies, Police, survivor agencies, not-for-profit groups, churches, and sporting organisations, as well as others.

If you would like to know more about how we might assist you, and/or the packages we provide please email us outlining your requirements.

#### Case consultation

Safe Network provides specialist case consultations to other professionals in order to assist them to determine the most appropriate course of action for any client prior to referral to Safe Network for a clinical assessment.



**96%**   
**of our adult clients**

say they now have the skills and strategies to avoid further HSB

To arrange an initial discussion as to how a specialist case consultation might be useful in supporting your clinical decision making process, email us outlining your requirements. A specialist clinician will contact you within 48 hours to discuss your needs.

### Research

Safe Network is committed to supporting research in areas related to the work of our Agency. Consideration of any research proposal will take into account its relevance to the work of Safe Network, its client base, the wider Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) and social services sectors, and its impacts on Safe Network's resources, including staff time and incidental costs.

If you are a researcher wanting to undertake research at Safe Network, please complete the research proposal form on our website and attach any relevant supporting documents.

### Our team

Safe Network has specialised in working with concerning and harmful sexual behaviour for over 30 years. All members of our multi-disciplinary team of clinical staff are professionally registered or working towards this.

### Our locations

Safe Network provides services at our sites in:

- Regent, Whangarei, **Northland**
- Windsor Park, North Shore, **Auckland**
- Grafton, **Auckland**
- Manukau, **Auckland**
- Hamilton Central, **Waikato**
- Greerton, Tauranga, **Bay of Plenty**
- Rotorua Central, **Bay of Plenty**
- Whakatane, **Bay of Plenty**

Services may also be available online, where suitable.

Our staff can travel to other, smaller centres in our region to meet with clients if appropriate. This is dependent on finding a suitable place to meet and the logistics involved.


### How do I contact Safe Network?

If you need assistance, contact us via the contact form on our website or the email address below. To make a referral, download a referral form from our website, complete it and forward it to us.




For more information about specific client programmes, including FAQs, refer to the fact sheets for the relevant programme or visit our website.

Try or use our **Problem Sexual Behaviour indicator App**



Download the App or use the URL: <https://safenet.co.nz>



ANDROID APP ON Google play | APPS APPS | Enter URL or QR code

Safe Network's **Problem Sexual Behaviour Indicator App** can assist you to identify whether someone's behaviour is concerning or not.

Hope • Trust • Confidence •