

# Adult Service

**Safe Network** operates the largest community-based specialist clinical assessment and intervention service in Aotearoa New Zealand for those with concerning and harmful sexual behaviour.

## Who we are

Safe Network is New Zealand's largest community-based specialist service for those with concerning, problematic and harmful sexual behaviour. Our specialist clinicians work with adults and adolescents to address their harmful sexual behaviour towards children or others, as well as with children who have concerning sexual behaviours, assisting them to learn to express themselves in healthier ways.

Our services are based in Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, and Te Tai Tokerau/Northland. Our clinical staff includes psychologists, psychotherapists, counsellors and social workers.

## Our adult service

Safe Network offers tailored services to adults whose behaviour of a sexualised nature is having, or has had, a problematic or harmful impact on themselves and others.

These services include clinical assessment and intervention for both male and female adults (18 years and over) who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviour involving children, including accessing, distributing or producing child sexual abuse images and films through the internet and social media.

## The referral pathway

If you are concerned about your sexual behaviour or that of your partner or another adult, you can get help by contacting Safe Network and arranging a referral to our services.

Individuals may self-refer to Safe Network or can be referred by family members, friends, the Courts, Community Probation Service, Police or other professionals within the community.

## What is the process?

### Assessment

Before we accept a client into our intervention service, we assess whether Safe Network is the right place to provide the help that they need. When a client attends an assessment, it is best if they have an adult support person with them. This person could be a spouse, partner or friend who knows about their problematic sexual behaviour. A comprehensive clinical assessment is undertaken in which we find out about the individual, their history and the sexual behaviour that brought them to Safe Network. Their strengths and resources will be assessed, as well as their problems and challenges. The support person will be part of the assessment process. The wide-ranging effects of the problematic or harmful sexual behaviour, the safety of others and the needs of the family are all important factors for consideration.

Although the assessment process is tailored to the specific needs of the individual client, it is likely to involve the following:

- Up to four interviews with the client and their significant family members or support person
- A review of information and reports from other agencies or professionals who may be involved, e.g. Oranga Tamariki, Police, counsellors
- Psychological evaluations performed by the Safe Network clinical staff. Clients may also be asked to complete additional psychological tests and questionnaires.

Once completed, a detailed assessment report is prepared, with recommendations about the client's suitability for Safe Network's intervention service and the proposed intervention required. These recommendations will be discussed with and explained to the client, and a copy of the report

may also be sent to the referring agency or person where this is appropriate.

**Intervention**

Once accepted into intervention, the client will be allocated to a clinician to lead this work. Clients are generally offered 6-18 months of tailored intervention that includes all or some of the following:

- Weekly group meetings
- Individual appointments with a clinician, as required
- Meetings with other people connected to the client that can support the client's intervention (System Review Meetings)
- One intensive three-day group therapy intervention.

**Will clients need to pay to attend Safe Network?**

Generally the full costs of services at Safe Network are covered by our Government-funded contracts. Where there are limited or no funded positions available, then a part-charge or fee-for-service contract may be offered.

**Our clients**

All our adult clients have thought patterns or behaviours of a sexualised nature that have a problematic impact for themselves and others. Within our adult client group are people who have had problematic thoughts but haven't acted on them, adults who have engaged in a range of harmful sexual behaviours towards children, and adults with intellectual disability who have engaged in problematic sexual behaviour towards others. Each person has their own story and reasons for attending Safe Network services, and each story is different and unique to them. What all our adult clients have in common is a need and a desire to change their behaviour.

**How do I contact Safe Network?**

To enquire or to make a referral, contact Safe Network by phone or download a referral form from our website, complete it and forward it to us.



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