



Haere mai to our second Outing Violence newsletter for 2025!

We're here to highlight violence prevention mahi and knowledge building for Takatāpui and Rainbow communities in Aotearoa.

Get [in touch](#) if you have any questions or mahi to share, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [LinkedIn](#) for regular updates, and visit our [website](#) for more information.

[Hohou Te Rongo Kahukura](#) is dedicated to building Takatāpui and Rainbow communities in Aotearoa New Zealand free of family, partner and sexual violence. Our work is underpinned by Te Tiriti o Waitangi, so we include everyone who is sex, sexuality and gender diverse, under, in and over our glorious Rainbow.

OUR NEW WHARE!!!!

After years of being hosted by the wonderful [Shama](#), we have moved into our own space in Kirikiriroa Hamilton. Our community office has room for our groups, support for survivors and our busy kaimahi, as well as a billboard we intend using to promote celebration of Takatāpui and Rainbow communities. We were also very happy to host Green Party co-leader Marama Davidson with her colleagues Ricardo Menéndez March and Lawrence Xu-Nan recently, to talk about how well Te Aorerekura is improving safety and wellbeing for our communities.



NEW RESOURCES FOR ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK



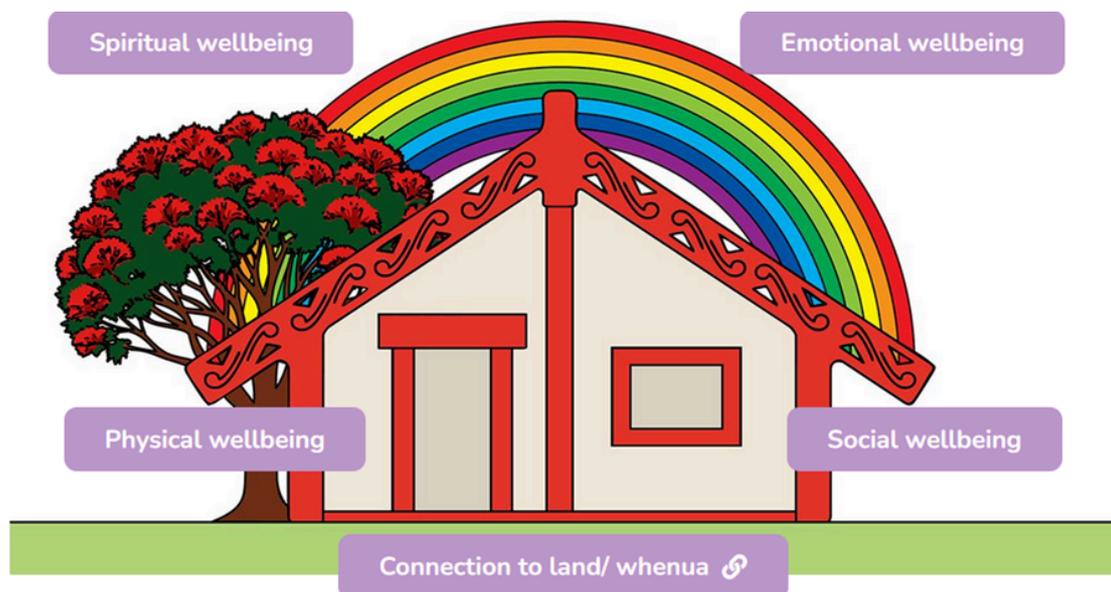
Elder abuse in Aotearoa NZ is hidden, despite affecting at least one in ten people over the age of sixty-five. But for Takatāpui and Rainbow older people, the risks of elder abuse are heightened

by lifetime experiences of discrimination, family disconnection and older persons strategies, policies and services that have not been set up with our needs in mind.

This year, for Elder Abuse Awareness Week, we are thrilled to launch two brand new resources based on our [community research](#). We are grateful to older people in our communities telling us what they wanted, our reviewers and our funders, the Office for Seniors.

Professional development: Rainbow Ready – preventing elder abuse

Every older person deserves to feel and be safe and be treated with dignity and mana. [Rainbow Ready](#) is an interactive, online module for those who work with older people, including in aged care, healthcare or social services. It covers who older Takatāpui and Rainbow people are, what elder abuse includes, and the specific ways in which elder abuse is experienced in Takatāpui and Rainbow communities. The module features quotes, audio clips and short videos with older Takatāpui and Rainbow people.



Ageing with Pride Aotearoa

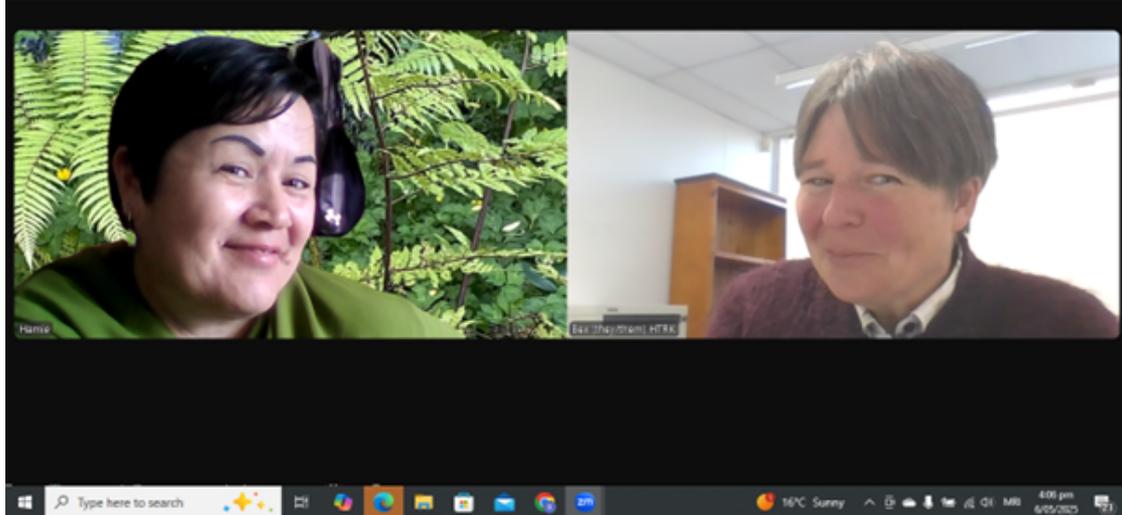
Many people in our communities say they haven't done as much planning for ageing as they'd like for many reasons, including fear of losing independence and control. The benefits of planning are significant, including to help make sure identity, dignity and mana are upheld in healthcare and other support services and to protect decision-making, so older people have everything they need to be safe, healthy and looked after.

[Ageing with Pride Aotearoa](#) is a free online resource for Takatāpui and Rainbow elders, covering financial help, homecare services, housing, social connections, and more! There's information about safeguarding legal and healthcare wishes through enduring power of attorney, advanced care planning, or making a will, as well as links to resources and film and audio clips

highlighting Takatāpui and Rainbow history.

Please share both resources in your networks for Elder Abuse Awareness Week!

TRAINING UPDATES



Our training team has been busy delivering hybrid training to [Whakarongorau](#), who run family violence, sexual violence and elder abuse national helplines. We've enjoyed the chance to offer professional development to their social workers and therapists to support respectful and safe responses to Takatāpui and Rainbow survivors and communities. We believe helplines offer significant advantages for help-seeking for our communities, and we appreciate the commitment of the Whakarongorau staff team.

*"Our team of call takers answer thousands of calls, texts and webchats from across the motu, 24/7, supporting people impacted by family violence, sexual harm and elder abuse. Since the **Rainbow Safe** training, our team say they are better equipped to support calls from Takatāpui and Rainbow communities, and we're looking forward to deepening our understanding with ongoing support over the coming months."*

Stacey Randall, Family and Sexual Harm leader

Te Kete Koha Communities of Practice is our monthly online professional development session, free to all those who complete our online or in-person training. Our last three sessions have focused on:

- Takatāpui and Rainbow experiences of abuse in care – Paora Moyle
- Know the facts – addressing misinformation about child sexual abuse – Kahukura Rogers-Rahurahu and Bex Fraser
- Navigating Different Worlds – Antnz Burgess

Feel like you're missing out? [Find out more](#) about our in-person and online training.

SUPPORT SERVICE UPDATE – AND NEW ROLE



In December 2024, with support from ACC, we launched the first [sensitive claims service specifically for Takatāpui and Rainbow survivors](#). We've celebrated this landmark for our communities by signing up close to 50 trained therapists and social workers, most of whom are from our communities.

More than six months in now, we're still seeing about four new Takatāpui and Rainbow kiritaki every week, most of whom are self-referrals. We have promoted the service in Hamilton, but not yet nationally. People coming to us for help are:

- More likely to be young: 49% are aged 20-29 years, and 6% aged over 50 years. We have clients ranging in age from 16 to 68.
- Most likely to be in Hamilton (28%), but living in 18 different regions of Aotearoa
- Most likely to be attracted to many genders: 57% are bisexual/pansexual/fluid, 15% are queer, and 9% are asexual
- Most likely to be Pākehā or Māori: 57% are Pākehā, 25% Māori and 6% Pacific and Asian
- Beyond gender binaries: 53% are non-binary genders, and the remainder cis and trans men and women
- More likely to be disabled: 62% of our kiritaki have at least one disability, including physical disabilities. 58% are neurodivergent

We're continuing to seek therapists and social workers to join our service, so if you are interested, please [fill in this form](#).

If you want to make a referral or self-referral, please [contact us](#).

Would you like to work with us? We are seeking a co-ordinator for our Sensitive Claims service. This role requires extraordinary communication skills as well as an approach that is gentle, kind and determined to find the best outcomes for Takatāpui and Rainbow kiritaki who are seeking support after sexual harm. The successful applicant is likely to be one who enjoys setting and maintaining effective processes, as well as imagining and moving towards improved support for Takatāpui and Rainbow people.

The role is initially 20 hours per week, and is likely to grow. Please email connect@kahukura.co.nz for a copy of the role description.

SURVIVOR VOICES

Many survivors come to us seeking survivor stories to watch, listen to and read. It's difficult to meet these needs, because our communities are small; we know one another; and abusive people with power in our communities often do everything they can to socially isolate survivors and those who support them. Fear of being excluded is very real, and it stops many survivors in our communities from naming their experiences.

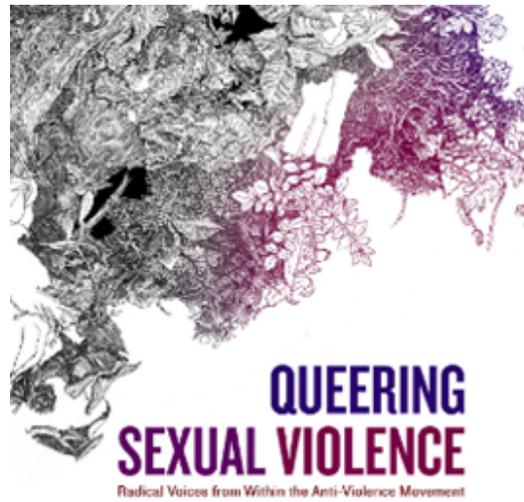
But this is changing!

There has been a substantial growth in survivor stories, talking about many forms of violence. Many are Hohou Te Rongo Kahukura rōpū members or survivors we have supported, while others name experiences of conversion practices or abuse in care.

Partner and sexual violence

The award-winning [Queering Sexual Violence](#) was the first of its kind, a diverse anthology of queer and trans survivor voices, published in 2016 in the US.

In amongst the mostly US based contributors is a chapter from Hohou Te Rongo Kahukura's Sandra Dickson.



[Sometimes u-hauling is love bombing](#) is a blog from an anonymous Takatāpui survivor of partner violence. They reflect on how difficult it can be to name violence in small communities.

[Finding the strength to choose myself](#) is a blog from an anonymous Samoan lesbian survivor of partner violence. She reflects on her life changes through the lens of cultural values.

[Bye, bi biphobia](#) is a blog from Sandra Dickson, discussing in depth biphobia and the rates of violence towards bisexual+ people in Aotearoa.

[My lockdown story](#) explores coercive control and gaslighting in a relationship between two women, and the lasting impacts of emotional abuse – even when it's invisible to outsiders.

The Insider's Guide: [family violence in takatāpui and rainbow communities](#) is a podcast hosted by MSD. Our kaimahi Kahukura Rogers-Rahurahu and Sandra Dickson describe their own experiences of violence, and the work of Hohou Te Rongo Kahukura.

Breaking Silence has made a deliberate attempt to highlight family violence within diverse communities. There are two episodes with survivors from our communities:

[Breaking Silence | Season 2 | Episode 4: Sandra Dickson](#) discusses specific forms of abuse in Takatāpui and Rainbow communities, including from her own experience.

[Breaking Silence Season 4 Episode 6: Hamie](#). Hohou Te Rongo Kahukura's Hamie shares her journey of finding herself, her Takatāpui community, te reo, and utilising natural remedies to support her healing.

Conversion practices are harmful and unethical attempts to change a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Te Kāhui Tika Tangata | Human Rights Commission has many resources to support those experiencing conversion practices, including [short videos](#) with survivors Andre Afamasaga, Kaan Hiini, Jim Marjoram and Lagi Thompson-Rikys, and a brief description of OutLine's [Conversion Practices Survivor Network](#).

Hohou Te Rongo Kahukura Tauwi lead Bex Fraser features with Diverse Church founder Craig Watson in a RE News discussion of [surviving spiritual abuse](#).

Doron Semu discusses his experiences of faith-based conversion practices in [There was no fix for me](#), available to watch or read at Tagata Pacific.

[Beyond Conversion](#) is a nuanced look at the fight to ban conversion practices in Aotearoa, based on interviews with several survivors, available to watch on TVNZ+.

Abuse in care

Takatāpui and Rainbow people have been targets for all forms of abuse in care, often after experiencing violence in our families of origin.

Tu Chapman, chair of Intersex Trust and survivor advocate, features in [Turori Chapman: I Am Me](#), a short film about abuse in state care, and Tu's resistance and recovery.

Joshy Fitzgerald was sexually abused in care and given electric shocks because he was gay. He tells his story as part of the [Abuse in Care report](#).

Joan Bellingham was subjected to 12 years of abuse in psychiatric care, for being lesbian. She has bravely told her story in many places, including [this article](#).

Maureen Taru, a gay survivor, shares her experiences via video of familial childhood sexual abuse followed by abuse in state care as part of the [Abuse in Care report](#).

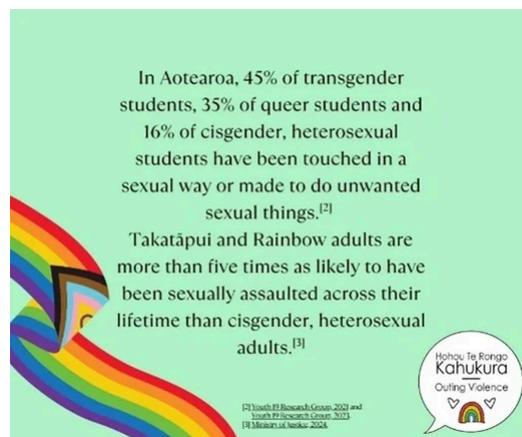
Mr UB, a Pacific gay man, describes sexual abuse and conversion practices during state care, and the impacts on his sense of himself as part of the [Abuse in Care report](#).

Survivor stories, and the things we learn from them, become even more important as hate-based rhetoric about Takatāpui and Rainbow communities increases.

KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

While we're on hate-based rhetoric, the false association of Takatāpui and Rainbow people with grooming and perpetrating child sexual abuse is growing at the rate we haven't seen for decades. We have created two simple data stories to help address this kind of misinformation. Our messages are simple – people who harm children find it easier to abuse when we are looking in the wrong places – and this should concern everyone involved in violence prevention.

The first data story offers accurate information about [child sexual abuse and grooming](#). The second explores how [misinformation and prejudice](#) make child sexual abuse more likely, but acceptance can create safer spaces for tamariki and rangatahi.



FINALLY: SUBMISSIONS

This newsletter we have one submission to share, on the [Relationships and Sexuality Education Guidelines](#), drawing on our 2021 [healthy relationships education](#) research. To borrow the words of one of our participants:

“Education must tell us that there is no space where rainbow people/relationships don’t belong.” Focus group participant, November 2020

Check out all our submissions at [Rauemi/Resources](#) on our website.

If you have material you would like us to profile in our next newsletter, please get in touch with newsletter@kahukura.co.nz

Message from our co-chair: Oriana Brown

With everything happening in the world today, I wanted to share a poem my girlfriend wrote for us for Matariki, a reminder of what's truly important.

Mānawatia a Matariki.

Matariki rises, crisp and clear,

A time to mourn, a time to cheer.

We speak the names of those now gone,

Their memory in the stars lives on.

Around the table, kai is shared,

With hands held tight and hearts prepared.

We give our thanks, reflect, and reset

In silent hopes and no regret.

As candles glow, we gather here

Loud proud in love and queer

In gratitude and winter cheer

The Matariki stars appear

To mark the beginning of the Māori New Year.

If you have material you would like us to profile in our next newsletter, please get in touch with newsletter@kahukura.co.nz.

Ngā mihi mahana,

Oriana Brown and Maki Rodriguez, co-chairs of Hohou Te Rongo Kahukura.

Hohou Te Rongo Kahukura, www.kahukura.co.nz, Waikato, Aotearoa New Zealand

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