

**Family violence risk and safety practice (essential)
(Micro-credential)**

Level 4, 10 credits

Micro-credential number (if known/NZQA to complete)

Reporting Code (if known/NZQA to complete)

Toitū te Waiora

**Community, Health, Education and Social Services Workforce
Development Council**

(MOE 6048)

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Listing

Title

Family violence risk and safety practice (essential)

Level and credits

Level 4

10 credits

Classification (NZSCED)

090599 > Studies in Human Society > Human Welfare Studies and Services > Human Welfare Studies and Services not elsewhere classified

Purpose

This micro-credential is for learners/ākonga who may encounter victim-survivors of family violence, their whānau, family, or people who use family violence in volunteering and people-facing community roles.

This micro-credential is informed by the 'essential level' capability published in the [Family Violence Risk and Safety Practice Framework \(RSPF\)](#). The framework aims to support workers to improve how they recognise and safely respond to risk and enable safety and wellbeing.

Outcome

Graduates of this micro-credential will be able to recognise signs, dynamics and risk of family violence, develop skills to provide an immediate response safely and support a referral to the appropriate service for the person.

Learners/ākonga will have knowledge of:

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi and colonisation.
- Societal norms, inequity, discrimination and stigma and barriers to safety and wellbeing.
- The dynamics of family violence.

Learners/ākonga will be skilled in:

- Recognising signs and risks associated with family violence.
- Responding to immediate and escalating family violence risk in a culturally appropriate way.

- Making safe, respectful, and appropriate warm referrals to the right service.
- Accurately recording responses to family violence risk.

Education pathway

Successful completion of this micro-credential can lead to enrolment in the Family violence risk and safety practice (Micro-credential) Level 5 (30 credits).

Successful completion of this micro-credential can lead to enrolment in further study or industry-recognised training in the health, wellbeing, social and community services programmes of study, including the New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing (Social and Community Services) (Level 4) [2992].

Cultural, community or employment pathway

Graduates may work or volunteer in people-facing roles in the community.

Assessment standards or skill standards

ID	Title	Level	Credit	Version
4xxxx	Recognise and respond to family violence risk and refer to appropriate services.	4	10	1

Review period

January 2028	Then at three-year intervals.
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Approval

Learning outcomes

On completion of this micro-credential learners/ākonga will be able to:

Learning outcomes include.

- Recognise signs, dynamics and risks associated with family violence.
- Demonstrate safe and culturally appropriate responses to family violence risk.
- Demonstrate safe, respectful, and culturally appropriate ways to refer and record responses

to family violence risk.

Need and acceptability

This micro-credential was developed during 2025 in collaboration with the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention and a group of subject matter experts in the family violence sector. It fills a gap as there are limited specialist family violence and sexual violence skills and knowledge micro-credentials listed on the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF). The need for development in this area was identified by the social services sector and during the Health and Wellbeing qualification review undertaken by Toitū te Waiora in 2024.

It contributes to [Te Aorerekura](#) The 25 year national strategy to eliminate family violence and sexual violence – Shift 3: Towards skilled, culturally competent, and sustainable workforces and aligns with Te Aorerekura [Action Plan 2025-2030](#) under *Strengthening Our Workforce* – Training frontline statutory workers and *Keeping People Safe* – supporting a consistent approach to understanding family violence risk.

This micro-credential is the foundation level for a structured qualification pathway. Learners must complete this micro-credential before or alongside the Family Violence Risk and Practice Micro-credential (Level 5) (30 credits).

Admission

There are no entry requirements for this micro-credential.

Providers must verify that international students enrolling in this micro-credential have the necessary English language proficiency to study at Level 4. Rules are outlined in section 22 and 'Appendix: Internationally Recognised English Proficiency Outcomes for International Students' in the [NZQA Programme Approval, Recognition, and Accreditation Rules 2022](#).

Credit recognition and transfer, recognition of prior learning

Providers seeking accreditation for delivery of this micro-credential will implement regulations, policies and processes described within an organisational quality management (QMS) system that will assist learners to have their relevant learning recognised and credited.

Provision for awarding credit will need to cover:

1. Cross-crediting (from another assessment standard, skill standard, micro-credential, or programme within the organisation).
2. Credit transfer (credit for outcomes already achieved by a student through formal study in relation to a qualification is recognised as credit for comparable outcomes in another qualification).
3. Recognition of prior learning (credit awarded for informal or uncertificated learning).

Length and Structure

Length

This micro-credential requires 100 hours of preparation, learning, and assessment.

Providers are expected to design a micro-credential that includes delivery mode/method and a breakdown of teaching and learning hours. This could offer learners self-directed options including:

- a) background reading and resources relating to family violence, b) a range of training scenarios, and
- c) online tests for self-testing competencies. There must be robust systems in place to ensure learners receive and complete learning materials prior to the start of the taught programme.

Self-directed learning is not appropriate after assessment has occurred.

Structure

This micro-credential has 1 component.

- Recognise, respond and refer to family violence risk.

See details in – Appendix 1 Component Descriptors

Assessment methods

Providers seeking accreditation for delivery of this micro-credential will implement regulations, policies and processes within their organisational quality management system (QMS) that will support assessment.

Provider assessment must meet the requirements of consent and moderation requirements of CMR 24 and the assessment requirements of the skill standard listed in this micro-credential.

NZQA's [Aromatawai and the Principles of Assessment should](#) be used in this micro-credential - assessment must be fair, valid, consistent, and appropriate given the stated learning outcomes.

Resubmissions, re-assessments, and appeals should be considered against the provider's QMS.

Please refer to Appendix 1 – Micro-credential Component Descriptor attached to this application for further information.

Pre-assessment moderation

Providers will need to submit skill standard based assessment materials for pre-assessment moderation before they are used, as specified in the current CMR document, and outlined on the Toitū te Waiora website.

Post-assessment moderation

Provider post-assessment moderation of skill standard assessments will use methods outlined on the Toitū te Waiora website.

Further information is available at www.toitutewaiora.nz.

Providers are expected to have policies in place as part of their quality management system (QMS) to carry out their own moderation of micro-credential delivery and assessment.

Completion

Skill standard 4xxx must be completed to be award this micro-credential.

Review process

Toitū te Waiora will engage with the family violence sector to review content and to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

Toitū te Waiora will ensure that:

- Micro-credential content, structure and assessment is current and reflects the needs of the family violence sector.
- Micro-credential outcomes for learners, and particularly for Tangata whenua and Pacific peoples, are equitable.

- The micro-credential is amended to reflect changes in the sector (e.g. new approaches to practice, theory, and practical application).
- Any changes made to the micro-credential add value for the sector and learners.
- Updates to the micro-credential will reflect any changes made to skill standard 4xxx.

The micro-credential will be formally reviewed by the Health and Community Industry Skills Board in 2028, and then at three-yearly intervals.

Appendix 1 - Component Descriptor

Component Title 1 – Recognise, respond and refer to family violence risk.

Level	4	Credits	10
Mode	Blended	Duration	100 hours
Learning outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this component, learners will be able to:</p> <p>Learning Outcome 1: Recognise signs, dynamics and risks associated with family violence.</p> <p>Learning Outcome 2: Demonstrate safe and culturally appropriate, responses to family violence risk.</p> <p>Learning Outcome 3: Demonstrate safe, respectful and culturally appropriate ways to refer and record responses to family violence and risk.</p>		
Topics	<p>Recognise family violence signs, dynamics and risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patterns and dynamics of family violence. • The range of abusive tactics. • Signs that indicate someone may be a victim-survivor of family violence. • Signs that indicate someone may be using violence. • Signs of family violence for tangata whenua and whānau Māori. • Signs of family violence for children and young people and marginalised communities. • Signs of immediate and escalating risk. <p>Safe and culturally appropriate responses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify own harmful attitudes and beliefs that lead to discrimination, stigma and harmful responses to family violence. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of colonisation and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Societal norms, inequity, discrimination and stigma that increase risk and create barriers to safety. Barriers to seeking help. Immediate and urgent actions needed to reduce risk and support safety for adult and child victim-survivors. Ways violence can be minimised. Responses that can collude with the violent behaviour. Safe responses to disclosure of sexual violence, knowledge of sexual violence services. Assistance for people who need interpreters or other communication supports, including how to identify when external expertise is needed (e.g., disability support, cultural advisors) and the process to access external expertise. <p>Warm referral and recording of information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing relevant information about risk, including information about child protection. Gaining consent to make a referral and/or share their information. When to share information without consent. Warm referrals, benefits, why early referrals are important, impacts and follow through responsibilities. Timely referrals to Police when immediate risk is identified, and/or specialist services, including kaupapa Māori, tauwi and child and young people specialist family violence services and specialist services supporting people from marginalised communities. Interim support: what can be done to support someone while they are waiting for specialist help. Recording relevant information: how to ensure it is professional and factual. Professional boundaries and supports knowing limits, accessing colleague/workplace support, identifying external family violence specialist support options.
Methods (optional)	Assessment can be undertaken in a simulated environment and can include either a written assessment (for example, a workbook or assignments based on case studies) and/or an oral assessment (for example role play, audio recording/video) using an assessment tool developed by the training provider.
Standard(s)	4xxx – <i>Recognise and respond to family violence risk and refer to appropriate services.</i> (Level 4)

(if
applicable)

(10 credits) (version 1)

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