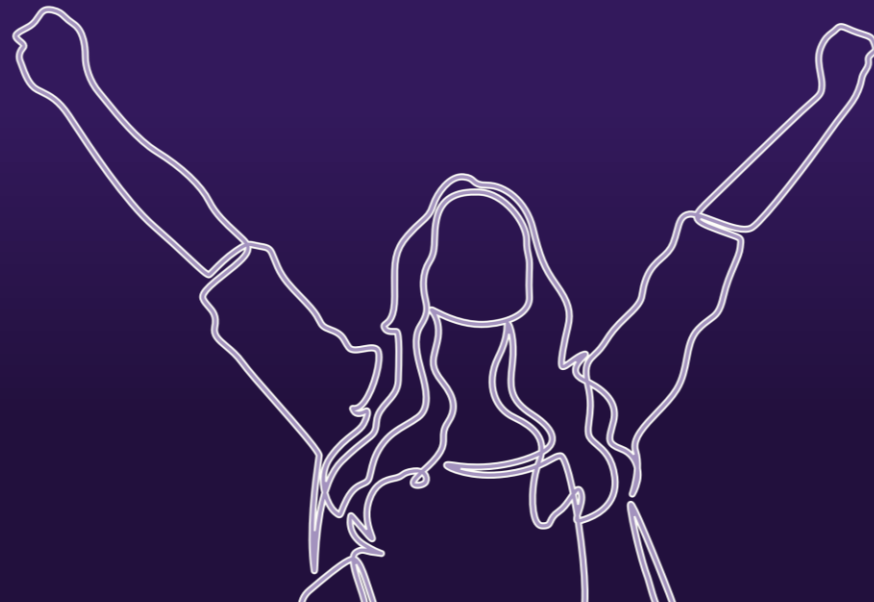


Re-thinking family violence risk: Seeing and responding

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Dr Sophie Beaumont



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Introduction

We see clients when the violence/risk is the worst it's been

Risk kōrero can be helpful or harmful

The more we focus on her story – the better our response to risk

Is an "assessment" of risk what's needed?





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Key points about IPV

1. ANY WOMAN MAY BE A VICTIM
2. USING VIOLENCE IS ALWAYS A CHOICE
3. IPV IS A (GENDERED) PATTERN OF BEHAVIOUR
4. VICTIMS ARE NEVER TO BLAME
5. VICTIMS ARE ALWAYS RESISTING/DOING SAFETY WORK
6. MOTHERS RESIST IN UNSEEN WAYS TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE
7. VICTIMS KNOW THEIR SAFETY & RISK BEST
8. LEAVING IS NOT ALWAYS SAFER - VIOLENCE CONTINUES AFTER RELATIONSHIPS END
9. YOU DON'T NEED THE "FULL PICTURE" TO BE ABLE TO HELP
10. HOW YOU RESPOND INFLUENCES WHAT KINDS OF SAFETY ARE POSSIBLE



What is 'risk'?

RISKS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE



RISKS FROM FAMILY VIOLENCE

The risk of strangulation happening again and stopping her breathing

The risk that she has a brain injury that needs treatment

	YES	NO
Have they ever choked or strangled you?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have they tracked where you are and what you're doing?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has this stalking gotten worse in the last month?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have they forced or pressured you to take out debt?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have they threatened to have your kids taken away?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

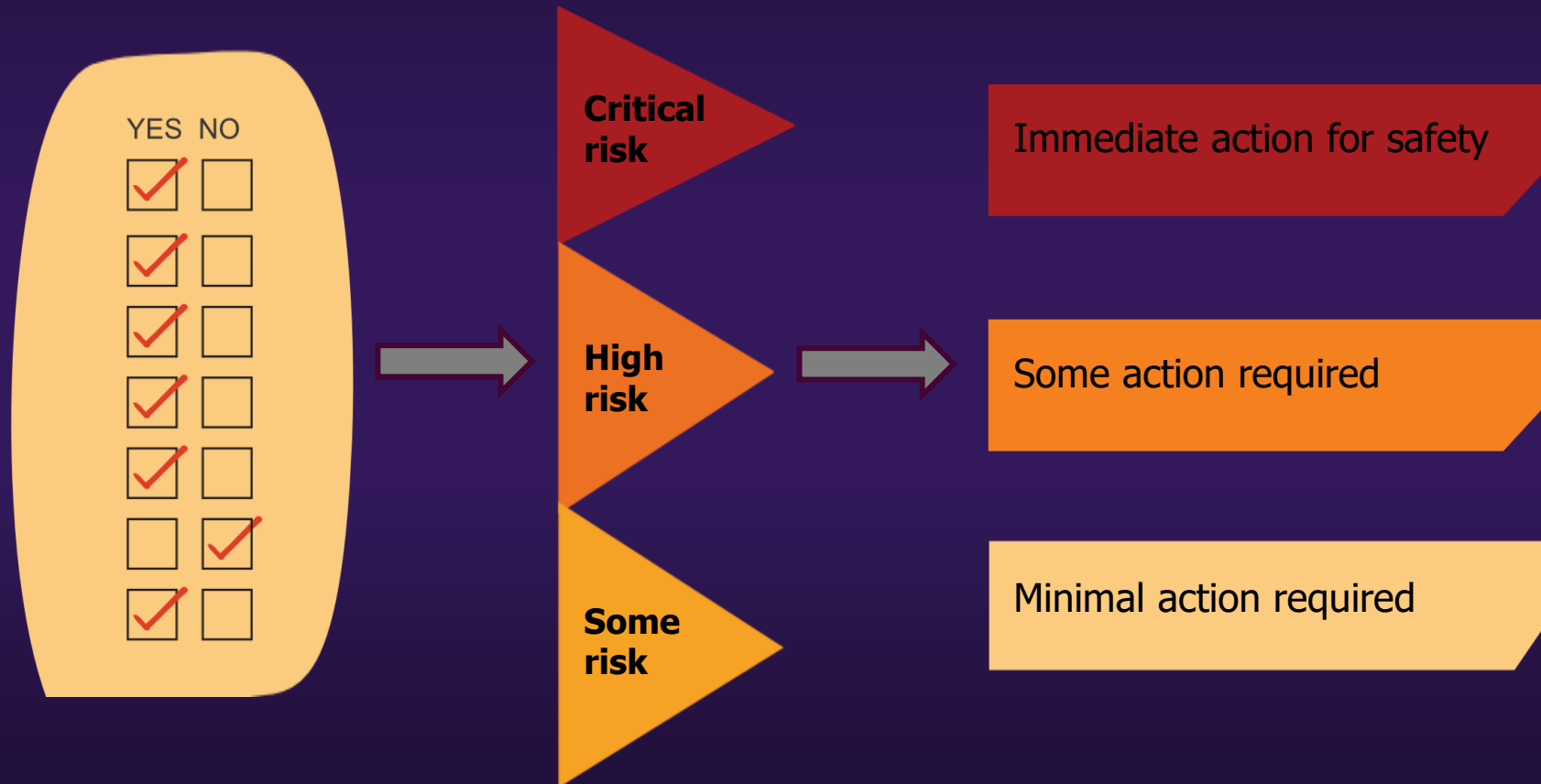
The risk of financial hardship and not being able to buy essentials

The risk that the abuse will continue to escalate and end in homicide

The risk that kids will be taken away from their safe parents



The standard assessment formula

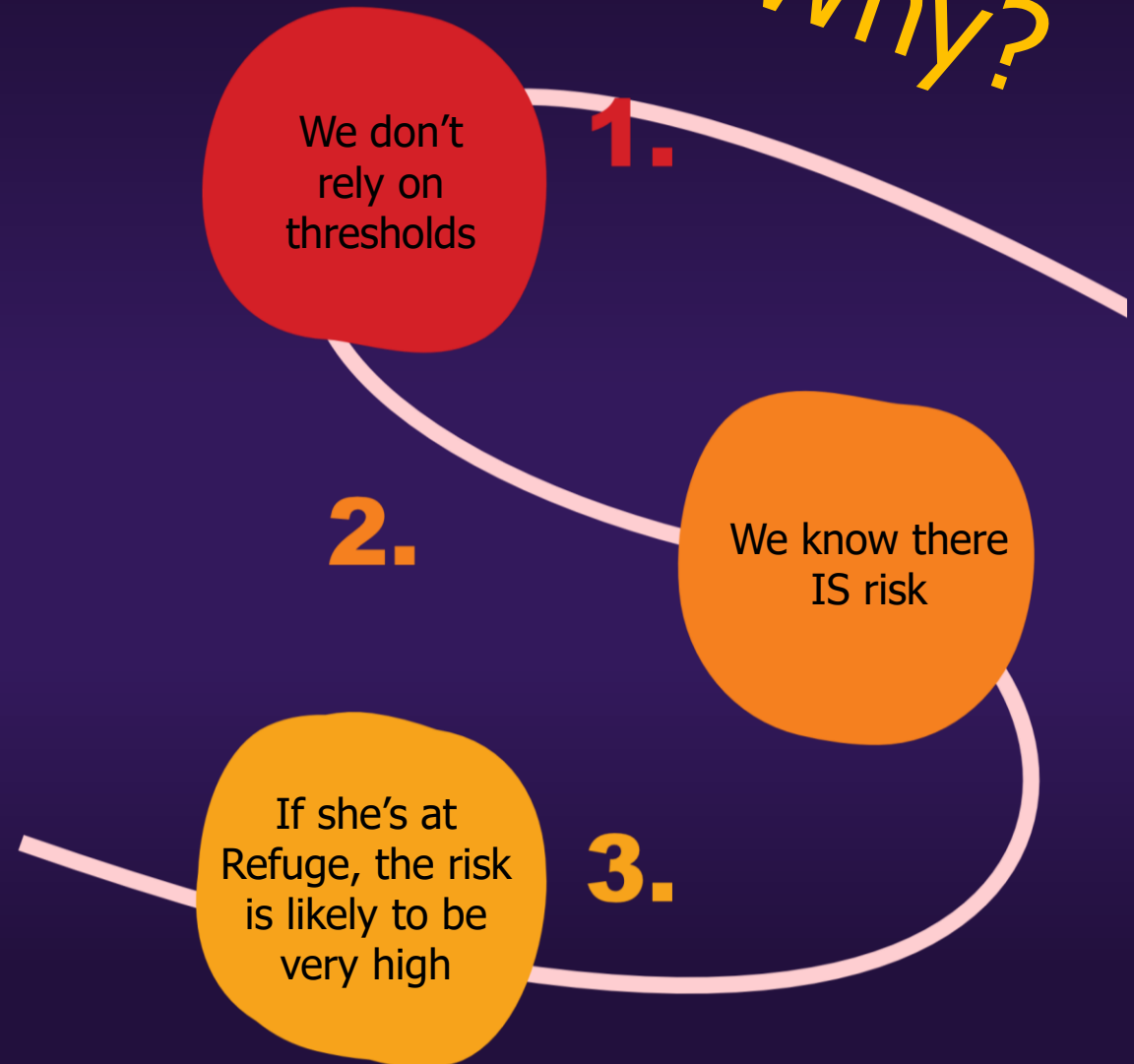




Not fit for **our** purpose



Why?





Figuring out what's fit-for-Refuge

A.

Analysed 5000 completed risk assessments

B.

Looked at 10% (500) of risk ratings (some, high, critical) and rationales

C.

Held panel discussions with experienced kaimahi and talked to clients about their experiences

D.

Scanned the research and practice landscape (internationally and in Aotearoa)



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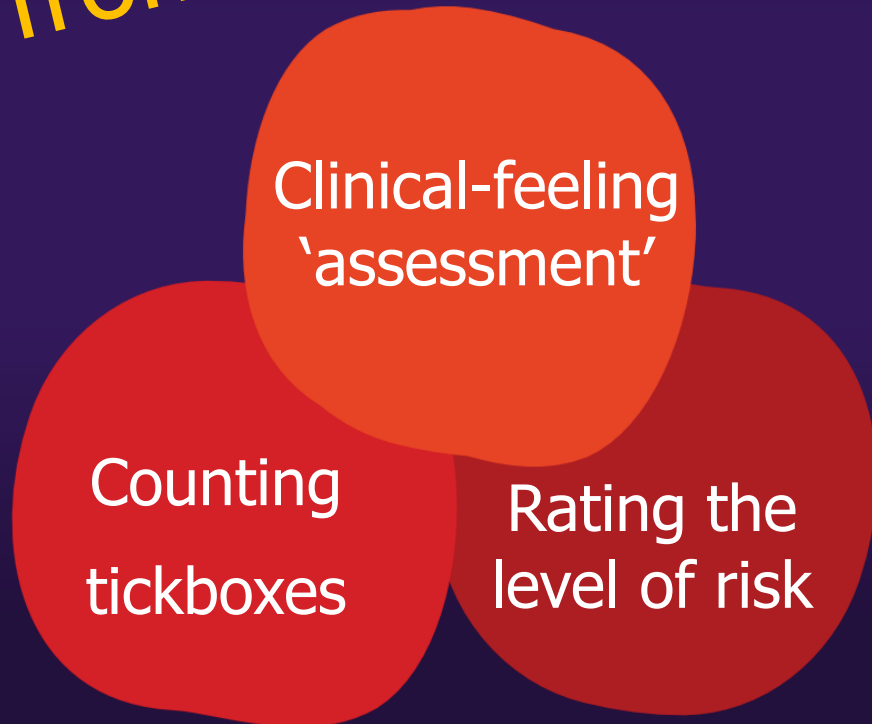
At Refuge,
risk information rather
than risk rating **enables**
safer family violence
responses





Fit-for-Refuge means:

*Moving away
from...*



*Moving
towards...*





'Nāhana Tūraru: The Risk to Her'

'Nāhana Tūraru - the risk to her'

This is the main risk form used to paint a picture of risk to the client at the beginning of our mahi with them. Nāhana Tūraru includes...

Recent experiences of violence and whether it is changing



Changes to her situation



New, different, or evolving risks

THE NEW TOOL

The new tool has two forms: The first is 'Nāhana Tūraru' meaning 'the risk to her.' The second is 'Nāhana Tūraru - review.'

A. An overview of the perpetrator's violence and any recent changes to it



B. The main risk the victim is facing right now



C. A checklist of the types of violence used



D. A list of any 'red flags' (indicators of future lethality/severe violence)



E. Links between the kinds of violence used and the kinds of risk, hardships, or challenges for the victim now

'Nāhana Tūraru - review'

This one is the short version, and can be used when a client changes services, or something new happens in their lives, or if they have been engaged with Refuge for a while.

It is short, to the point, and focuses only on what has changed and what it could mean for her safety.



1. Listening for risk

RISKS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE



RISKS FROM FAMILY VIOLENCE



RISKS OF SYSTEM RESPONSES



Other risks in their minds might be...

The risk they will run out of time and be late to pick up the kids

The risk that Refuge will notify child protection

The risk of someone judging them harshly or blaming them

The risk of written notes making them look bad



2. Writing it down

When we ask about risk from a tick-box question...

Hit with an open fist?

YES NO

This ONLY tells us that...

The perpetrator hit or once or more, sometime in her life

When we hear about risk from her kōrero...

“I’d know the slap was coming because it always does then. It’s like a warning, like back down or you’ll be in for it. It’s like the first thing he does if I’ve talked to anyone he doesn’t like for whatever reason.”

This tells us that...

The perpetrator often hit her as a way of isolating her by controlling who she could talk to and physically hurting her if she did not comply.

AND gives us the information we need to fill out risk paperwork...

Hit with an open fist?

YES NO



3. Acting on it

"Its about my story, so I saw what was written down and I'm okay with it"

We use it in...

Everything we do
WITH her (in the
moment)



Everything we do
FOR her (on her
behalf)



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“How is she safer and better off now, from her perspective?”



- A Judge acknowledging a perpetrator's risk to his children and prohibiting any unsupervised contact
- A university giving special consideration to a student who would otherwise have failed because of her partner's abuse
- A protection order being approved after the client's lawyer told her it wouldn't be
- ACC reviewing and approving a claim for cover relating to the impacts of family violence perpetrated years earlier
- IRD reversing a \$30K debt a client had because of her partner's economic abuse
- A Lawyer for Child giving a history of the perpetrator's violence in their report to the court
- A client's GP assessing and diagnosing her traumatic brain injury
- Whānau understanding what a victim was dealing with and stepping up to stop her partner using violence against her again
- A client seeing the black and white evidence of her partner's violence, showing her she wasn't crazy - the impacts were valid



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Any questions?

Ngā mihi nui

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