



Atawhai is led by a group of primary care providers from across the Bay of Plenty, including general practitioners, nurses, social workers and management. Through deliberative dialogue workshops we are sharing and learning what it is like to care for those using or experiencing family violence and what is needed to support safe and effective responses.

### **SUMMARY OF COLLECTIVE LEARNING**

**Reframing our 'response'.** Kōrero about family violence can be many shared moments in time, or wā, within a relationship, underpinned by tika (honesty), pono (truth), and aroha (empathy). Atawhai is realising we do not have to 'fix the problem' but be someone whānau can trust to walk alongside supporting opportunities for change. Care is taken so any kōrero is responsive to, and safe for, whānau.

**Clinical and community services can work better together.** Clinicians can struggle in knowing who to refer to and community services rely on referrals to provide help. Atawhai is growing meaningful connections between professionals to support family violence responsiveness. Collectively, accountability to whānau can be shared.

**Who you are matters.** Family violence is deeply rooted in societal trauma. Taking time to reflect on how your worldview influences your practice is critical. Understanding local history, whenua, whakapapa and the impacts of colonisation and racism can transform the way you practice.

**Taking care of ourselves too.** Knowing what to do, or how to help can be hard. We cannot stop what has happened or know what will happen next. It is important to take time to care for ourselves so we may be helpful to others. Atawhai is advocating for formal supervision and peer support to protect our health and wellbeing.

### **FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

**The Atawhai network.** Atawhai is generating an influential network of primary care professionals dedicated to preventing family violence. The network connects people, organisations, information, and tools to safely journey with whānau and families in their experience of family violence. Members will have confidence in knowing what to do and how to help, have access to trusted local referral services and be able to share challenges with like-minded people.

Join with us, nau mai haere mai!

W: [www.atawhaitia.co.nz](http://www.atawhaitia.co.nz)

E: [kiaora@atawhaitia.co.nz](mailto:kiaora@atawhaitia.co.nz)