



Legal Protections for Victims in Aotearoa New Zealand

Legal protections for victims are an essential element of safeguarding their rights. In this presentation, we will explore the legal framework in New Zealand, the different types of legal protections, and the challenges and gaps in the current system.

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The Legal Framework

Domestic Violence Act

The Domestic Violence Act provides legal protection for victims of domestic violence, focusing on the prevention and elimination of violence within families and intimate relationships.

Victims' Rights Act

This piece of legislation outlines the rights of victims throughout the criminal justice process, ensuring that they receive information and support at every stage.

Family Court Processes

The Family Court handles cases concerning protection orders and custody arrangements for children in cases of domestic violence and child abuse.

Support Services



Victim Support

Victim Support provides emotional support, information, and advocacy for victims of all types of crime, including domestic violence.



Women's Refuge

Women's Refuge provides a 24-hour crisis line, refuge accommodation, and support programmes for women and children experiencing domestic violence.



ACC

ACC provides financial compensation and rehabilitation support to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and other criminal offences.

Challenges and Gaps

1

Barriers to Reporting

Victims of domestic violence may face fear, stigma, or cultural or language barriers when reporting abuse or seeking help.

2

Access to Justice

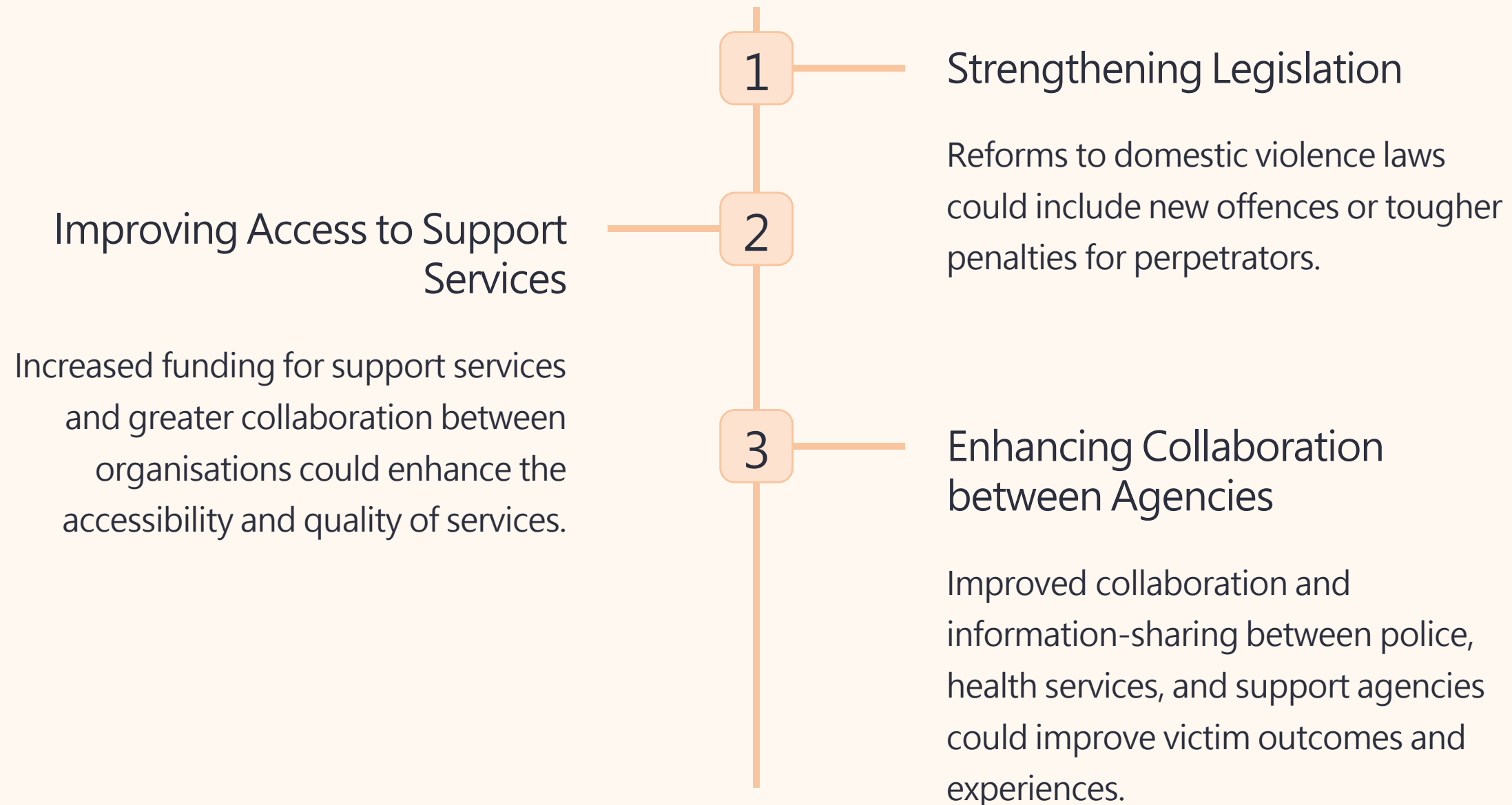
Some victims may struggle to navigate the legal system or face challenges in accessing legal aid or support services.

3

Limited Resources for Support Services

Support services may face funding or staffing shortages, making it challenging to meet the demand for their services.

Proposed Solutions and Reforms



Conclusion

Recap of Key Points

- The legal framework in New Zealand provides legal protections for victims of domestic violence and other crimes.
- Support services are available to assist victims in accessing information, advocacy, and financial compensation.
- Challenges to the current system include barriers to reporting, access to justice, and limited resources for support services.

Call to Action for Improving Legal Protections for Victims in New Zealand

By strengthening legislation, improving access to support services, and enhancing collaboration between agencies, New Zealand can become a leader in protecting the rights and wellbeing of victims.