



Chief Victims Advisor
to Government

Wednesday 27 June 2018

Letter to the Backbone Collective

Kia ora tatou members of the Backbone Collective, Kim McGregor toku ingoa. My name is Kim McGregor and I am the Chief Victims Advisor to Government. Prior to my appointment I spent over 30 years working with survivors of violence as a therapist, researcher and victims advocate. My current role and office are relatively new to government. I was appointed by the Minister of Justice in November 2015.

The aim of the Chief Victims Advisor role is to provide the Minister of Justice and Government with independent advice particularly on improving systems and services for victims. Because my focus is to provide advice to government at a systems level, in this role I am unable to advocate for individual cases. The Chief Victims Advisor position is part-time (about 2 days a week) however I have a small team in the Ministry of Justice of two government officials and a researcher.

I believe to provide accurate information to the Minister and to Government we need to hear from victims about their lived experiences in the criminal justice system. Groups such as the Backbone Collective provide a hugely important service by collating the experiences of its members and by communicating some of the difficulties and challenges you, its members, have faced. The Backbone Collective's reports help Ministers and Government understand some of the gaps and weaknesses in the current justice system, and help us all to think about ways we can improve, strengthen or change the system for the better. I would like to thank you, members of the Backbone Collective, for generously sharing the experiences you have lived through. Your words have the power to touch those who read them and create the possibility of positive change.

Ngā mihi Kim

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kim McGregor'.

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