Violence within families has serious long-term social effects and a profound impact on the health of all concerned, even in those cases not resulting in death. Addressing family violence is an issue of great concern to all New Zealanders and is therefore of particular importance to the Health Quality & Safety Commission.

In 2013, the Family Violence Death Review Committee set up the last of its five regional death review panels. The Committee’s tier two regional death review process is now fully operational nationally. In addition, the committee continued to conduct regional death reviews – completing eight in-depth reviews in 2013. These reviews add to the rich body of qualitative information the Committee has been compiling about how the social sector responds to the most dangerous and chronic cases of family violence in Aotearoa New Zealand. The tier one database – which will store general information about every family violence death in Aotearoa New Zealand – has also been designed and will be built in 2014.