

KEY MESSAGES AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

PURPOSE

These posters aim to provide young men with positive messages about relationships and their roles and behaviour within them.

It's about mana uses a strengths-based approach, and provides positive, action based messages for young men rather than blaming or shaming and negative messages around possible male relationship violence.

Encouraging young men to question traditional male values - in particular that real men are always in control, have uncontrollable sex drives, deserve a certain entitlement or respect, and that women are objects – will protect against relationship violence. **It's about mana** prompts this questioning.

Discussions that show that most males do not use or condone violence towards women will make it harder for individuals who use violence to justify it as normal behaviour.

Most young men are responsible and happy. They are good friends and have loving, peaceful relationships. This is not always obvious from stories in the media.

It's about mana will help boys and young men to feel positive about themselves as males and to reinforce their positive, healthy behaviour.

Group discussions will also emphasise that healthy and positive behaviour is normal for most men, while harnessing the influence of peers on male's actions. This will further support positive and healthy behaviour.

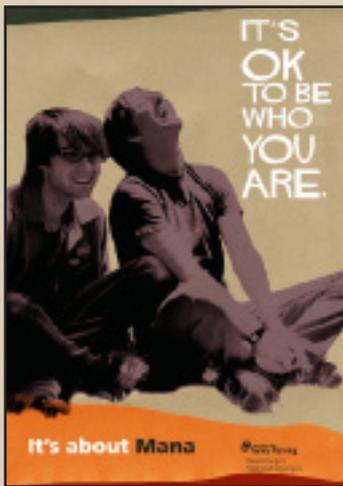
Young men need to hear that they have an important and valuable role to play in developing positive relationships and are equally responsible for the quality of a relationship.

Young men respond well to positive attitudes towards them. Adults can discuss relationships with young men positively, and with an expectation that they have strengths and abilities. Remember to acknowledge the good choices that young men make. Given space and support to develop a secure sense of their masculinity, and to choose to be stronger, healthier, positive young men, they will take up this challenge.

It's about Mana

 NEW ZEALAND
Family Planning

POSTER: IT'S OK TO BE WHO YOU ARE



Key Messages

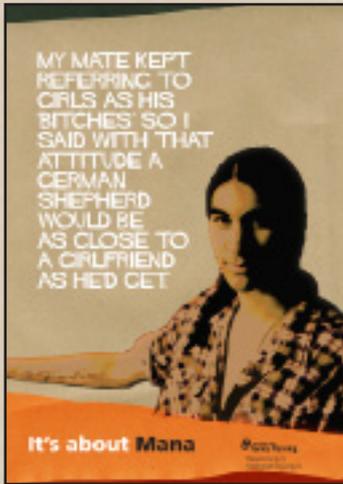
Teenage peer pressure tends to reinforce a limited range of acceptable behaviour, and young people can be constrained by stereotypical thinking. It's Ok to be who you are gives opportunities to challenge stereotypes and explore a wider range of masculine identities.

- Masculinity is a range of attributes. Role modeling difference to young men allows them to see males doing well while not having to conform to stereotypical behaviours.
- Masculinity is varied and can mean different things to different people. Allowing young men to feel comfortable with who they are is more important than expectations that they conform to a certain stereotype.
- Rugby, gumboots, farming, hunting, pride in oneself, fashion, conversation, showing love - New Zealand men can have it all – allow them!

Discussion Prompts

- What is the relationship between these two young men?
- What do you think their interests might be?
- What do you think the poster means?
- What stereotypes are there of men, and how do these control behaviour and limit men's expression of themselves?
- What sorts of things are you interested in? What sort of man do you think that makes you?
- What qualities do you admire in other men?
- What are two ways you could live up to the message in the poster?

POSTER: GERMAN SHEPHERD



Key Messages

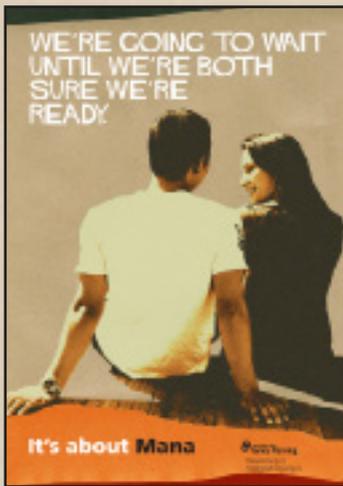
Create opportunities to critically explore the socialising messages young men receive and encourage them to deliberately decide what male identity, behaviour and roles they want to adopt for themselves.

- Don't talk to young men about respect, unless you are respectful yourself.
- Tell young men to expect their mates to be respectful to women, and that they should take them to task if they are not.
- He Wāhine He Taonga (Every woman is a treasure).
- Every woman should be treated with respect. Young men and their mates should believe it and act accordingly.

Discussion Prompts

- How realistic is this?
- Why do you think this young man refers to girls as bitches?
- What other ways do men show disrespect for girls and women?
- What's the point of this type of behaviour?
- Who is the young man trying to impress?
- Do you think this is impressive behaviour?
- Whose dignity is affected by this type of behaviour?
- What sort of man do you want to be known as?
- How can you achieve this and retain your mana?
- What are two ways you could live up to the message in the poster?

POSTER: WAIT UNTIL WE'RE BOTH READY



Key Messages

A lot of young men make really safe and positive decisions with their partners. Encourage them to talk with partners to make shared decisions.

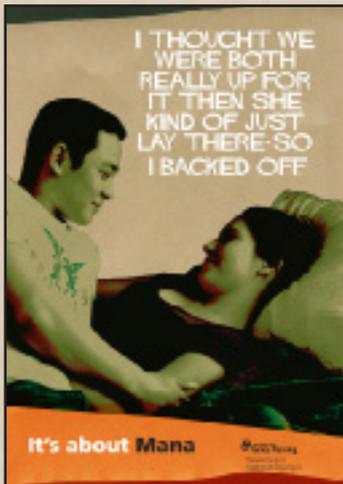
Work with young men to develop emotional awareness and vocabulary so they are better able to express themselves and understand others.

- Respectful partners jointly make decisions and get consent for what they do together.

Discussion Prompts

- What is the relationship between these two people?
- How do you think they might feel about each other?
- How could they express their feelings while they wait until they are both ready to have sex?
- What things might they be worried about?
- How could they prepare themselves to make sure they both feel safe and enjoy themselves?
- How would they know when they are ready to have sex?
- How could someone be sure that their partner was ready?
- What kind of relationships do you want to have?
- What do you want people to say and think about you when you're in intimate relationships?
- What are two ways you could live up to the message in the poster?

POSTER: I BACKED OFF



Key Messages

Work with young men to develop their awareness of body language.

- Have high expectations of young men in their relationships and encourage responsible, loving behaviour towards their partners.
- If a partner doesn't respond to touch – e.g. goes still and quiet rather than responding with the same level of intensity and passion - it could mean that s/he is not ready to be intimate or does not want further touch, so young men need to back off and check things out. Both partners have to consent (say yes) to any type of sexual touching.
- If a couple has been sexually intimate in some way, or an individual with another partner, it does not automatically mean they will want to be intimate again, or at that time.

Discussion Prompts

- What is the relationship between these two people?
- How do you think the young woman might be feeling?
- How do you think the young man might be feeling?
- How could someone be sure that their partner wants to have sex?
- What could each of the partners do next in this situation?
- Why might this young woman just be lying still?
- What impact can drugs and alcohol have in this sort of situation?
- What does "consent" mean?
- What does the law say about pushing someone into having sex or forcing them to do other sexual things?
- How can you clearly show someone that you are consenting to activities?
- How do you want to be treated when you're in an intimate relationship?
- What kind of partner do you want to be?
- What are two ways you could live up to the message in the poster?

POSTER: WE STEPPED IN



Key Messages

There is a clear link between strongly held ideas of traditional masculinity and a greater likelihood of that individual man using domestic violence against women.¹ Violent men hold different attitudes towards women than the majority of men who do not use violence.²

While there are many different roles that are now acceptable for men, aspects of the traditional male role – to exercise control, especially over women, to compete and to be tough – are still present and may be reinforced in particular teenage subcultures.³

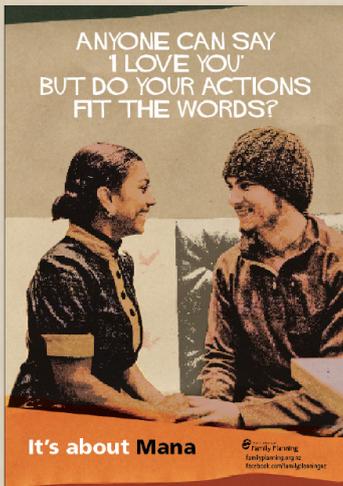
- Young men need to step up and be counted, and do what they know is right. Having high expectations for young men and expecting them to get other men to live up to that is difficult, but important work in creating change. Challenge them to step up and support them and encourage them to be ethical bystanders.⁴
- Masculinity is a range of things; role modeling ethical behaviours to other young men through their actions, allows men to see males doing well, while not having to conform to stereotypical behaviours.

Discussion Prompts

- What different forms could “stepping in” take?
- What could be the consequences of these different types of stepping in?
- How can someone step in whilst being respectful, non threatening and nonviolent?
- How can you protect yourself in this sort of situation?
- Would alcohol and drugs make a difference?
- What sorts of issues would you stand up for?
- Who would you stand up for, or step in for?
- What sort of men do you admire?
- What sort of man do you want to be and why?
- What are two ways you could live up to the message in the poster?

1. Towns, A. I Can Be Part of the Answer. 2009.
2. John Howard Society of Alberta. Batterers Treatment Program. 2001.
3. Towns, A. The Culture of Cool: getting in early to prevent domestic violence. 2008
4. Carmody, M. Sex and Ethics. Young people and ethical sex. 2009.

POSTER: ANYONE CAN SAY I LOVE YOU. BUT DO YOUR ACTIONS FIT THE WORDS?



Key Messages:

Actions speak louder than words.

Love is how you behave towards someone, not how you feel about them.

Just telling someone you love them is not enough. It is important that you show your love in positive and tangible ways. Showing love is a package deal; it is about our words as well as our actions.

Saying 'I love you' but then acting with indifference towards your partner in front of others is not demonstrating love.

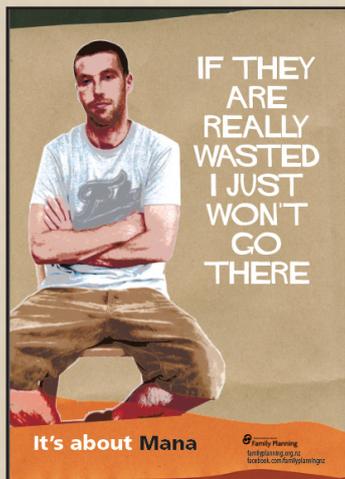
Love is a two way process. Both people have to care for each other. Positive relationships are about sharing and caring.

There are many different ways you can show someone you love them. It is as important to do lots of small actions often, as it is to do a big romantic gesture.

Discussion Points:

- What type of actions show people that you love them?
- How would you like someone to react if you did something loving for them?
- When should you tell someone that you love them? How would they know that this is true?
- What are the different types of love a person can experience in their lives, and how do they differ?
- Come up with one flamboyant way that you could publicly show someone that you love them.
- Define what 'Love' is:
 - Is it different for men?
 - Is it different for women?
- How should people behave when they are in love?
- Name two people from your life, non-fiction or history that love each other deeply. What is it about their relationship that makes you think their love is deep?
- If someone says they love you but their actions only reflect this in private, do you think they really love you? Why might they do this?
- If someone says they love you but their actions only reflect this in public, do you think they really love you? Why might they do this?
- What are some actions that would show someone was not living up to their words?

POSTER: IF THEY ARE REALLY WASTED, I JUST WON'T GO THERE



Key Messages:

Someone who is really wasted cannot consent (agree) to sexual activity. Having sex or doing sexual things with someone who is really out of it is never ok.

Without consent sexual activity would be considered sexual assault. This has serious legal consequences.

Being respectful towards someone who is out of it is really important. Wait for another time when they are not wasted before doing anything sexual with them.

Often when people are out of it they can be less inhibited and more sexual than they had planned on being. Do not take this as a sign that it is ok for you to be sexual with them. Think - would you want someone to do that to you if the roles were reversed?

Discussion Points:

- How wasted is too wasted?
- Is it ok to do sexual things with someone who is wasted? Why or why not?
- What is the right thing to do if you think the person is really wasted?
- What could you do to support a friend who is wasted and someone else looks like they could take advantage of them?
- Does it make a difference if you are going out with this person and have done sexual things with them in the past?