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Putting Ecology to Use in the Community: An Analysis Needs Follow-Up by Planning and Action Part II: Planning

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ABSTRACT Domestic violence, an issue faced worldwide and throughout New Zealand, creates high profile cases that may be followed by media attention and collaborative community efforts. This article illustrates the relevance of planning to cope with this issue in the community of Masterton, New Zealand. Violence crosses boundaries of age, ethnicity, economic, and educational circumstance and consequently affects a large proportion of many communities. This article details a proposed intervention strategy to provide primary prevention via the use of focus or discussion groups and psychodrama. The intervention aims to reduce the potential harmful circumstances that exist in the community, and in the lives of individuals, before new incidents of domestic violence have a chance to eventuate. The desired outcomes of the intervention proposed herein are to raise awareness; to challenge related social norms, to question values and belief systems; to enhance collaborative work; to enhance informal resources; and to build a sense of community. This intervention is presented as just one step in the equation of addressing domestic violence, and is to be viewed as an opportunity that could contribute to the collaborative and effective intervention that already exists within this community.