



Khylee Quince: Change-maker

Minister for Women Jan Tinetti gets to work

Conversations with boys

Khylee Quince: Change-maker

Mixing humour with straight-talking – a potent and characteristic mix – Khylee Quince, the first Māori Dean of Law, offered a blueprint for change-makers in her kōrero with Stacey Morrison last month.

The issues are clear: One in every 25 wāhine Māori have been to prison by age 35, compared to one in every 166 Pākehā women. For tāne Māori, the imprisonment rate is one in five. The upshot, says Khylee, is that prison is a sort of unknown “bogey place” for the Pākehā middle class, but for Māori, *“we all know about prison, we all know people in there, that have been in there, we’ve all visited, ...it’s just part of our reality.”*



Katherine McAlpine (Chairperson), Kiriataahua Pene (Rangatahi Coordinator), Stacey Morrison (MC) and Khylee Quince (speaker)

Keeping people out of prison “is really nothing to do with prison at all,” says Khylee. “Prisons, and racist and discriminatory criminal justice systems, are just a reflection of racist and discriminatory [and unequal] societies... The big prison – that my friend Tracey McIntosh talks about – is the lives of confinement that people live in the real community. Restricted lives which are like virtual prisons in terms of the choices and opportunities that people have to make.”

Khylee points out incarcerated women *“almost always have very long victimisation histories.”* And wāhine Māori suffer from ongoing colonisation and economic pressures: sole māmās caring for their children have particularly high rates of poverty. Khylee says prison is *“often the safest, warmest driest place”* for people. *“I had a guy last week tell me it was the first time he had a bed to himself, and had been fed three times a day.”* Appallingly, one of the pathways to prison for mothers is *“failure to protect liability”*: someone else has harmed a child, and *“the Crown and the Police have not been able to nail the actual wrong-doer so they charge the mother for ‘failure to protect’,”* says Khylee. The law is a relatively recent *“net-widener”* and *“one of the major reasons why wāhine Māori are in prison”*.

Khylee Quince: Change-maker continued

So Khylee's first answer to keeping people out of prison is: *"fix the society"* with adequate incomes, and sharing of resources and power. The second answer: *"judges just need to make different decisions, and not send offenders to prison, it's as simple as that."* Giving hope, in the last three years Khylee says there's been a reduction in incarceration of 15% which is *"massive"*.

Also giving hope: both Te Tiriti o Waitangi and tikanga Māori have just been announced as compulsory subjects for law students across the country, thanks to the advocacy of Khylee and others. The response from *"students and young people of all colours and from all backgrounds"* has been really positive: *"It's a generational thing. To be suspicious of things Māori is so passé"*.

Khylee is also chair of the NZ Drug Foundation, and serves on the parole board. Her life is not all about change though: she decided way back in her early teenage years she wanted to be a lawyer (as she's also [described elsewhere](#)), and she's been with her partner since she was 14. For Khylee, that long-term relationship has given her *"stability and tau – being settled at home."* Which leaves her with all the more change-making energy to lavish on our justice system, for the good of us all.

Lessons for change-makers

1. Going into an important hui?

Have a pre-hui to talk to your allies about strategy.

2. Dealing with heavy issues?

Khylee pioneered writing Section 27 reports, which inform sentencing judges about offenders' histories and contexts. The first few times prisoners revealed their histories of abuse to Khylee, afterwards she would cry in her car in the prison carpark. Now she uses karakia, and goes for a swim or a walk in nature *"I do the whakanoa thing."*

3. Wondering how to be a good non-Māori ally?

"Be present, keep talking to your friends and the people you come across. Racism isn't our problem to solve [as Māori, and] to be honest, people get sick of hearing us. ...Different voices are really important.... Being a good ally means taking some of the burden of responding to questions [such as] 'why is this important?'... Use your voice." ■



Forum attendees

Minister for Women Jan Tinetti gets to work

Te Wāhi Wāhine o Tāmaki Makaurau/ Auckland Women's Centre met with Minister for Women Jan Tinetti in May, and came away very impressed. It was clear Jan understands why a gendered analysis of family and sexual violence is important, and during the meeting, she listened to our concerns intently.



Jan is Pākehā, a breast cancer survivor, and an advocate of te reo. Prior to entering Parliament in 2017, she was the principal of a decile 1 school in Tauranga, and she says the whole idea of social justice and equity is “part of who I am”.

As well as holding the portfolio for Women, she is also Minister of Internal Affairs and Associate Minister of Education (Learning Support). In all three areas, she's working to progress gender equity: in Internal Affairs, she's progressing a bill allowing self-identification of gender on birth certificates, and in Education, she's promising more oversight of compulsory sexual consent education.

We look forward to seeing what Jan can achieve in this term in government – pleasingly, Minister Tinetti sits in Cabinet, unlike her predecessor Julie-Anne Genter. We hope her influence will help ensure Cabinet has an intersectional gender lens, and the National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence is based on the gendered analysis necessary to tackle the crisis effectively.

A glimmer of hope for work-life balance

There's a \$900,000 earnings gap between men and women over a lifetime, and this will be wider for wāhine Māori and Pacific women. Some of this gap occurs because women still undertake most of the child-rearing and housework. The Ministry of Women knows three major factors that would help improve gender equity at home and work: more flexible work hours, incentivising men to take paid parental leave, and increasing subsidies for childcare, as reported by [Michelle Duff \(Stuff\)](#).

What's more, Workplace Relations & Safety Minister Michael Wood says the Government may look at partner-specific parental leave this term, and Jan Tinetti has signalled that improved access to childcare will be in the national women's employment action plan, along with training and support for women in business and entrepreneurship. The plan, currently in development, is driven by the desire to avoid a repeat of last year's detrimental Covid-19 effect on women's employment.

Diversity across the Board(s)

What makes a good board? Jan Tinetti is blunt: “*More diverse boards make better decisions.*” While collectively Government-appointed boards and committees have reached gender equity (though ACC, Corrections, Transport and others are lagging behind) the decision-making bodies are still overwhelmingly Pākehā – which means that decisions are being made in mostly monocultural vacuums rather than being fully informed. Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner Dr Saunoamaali'i Karanina Sumeo is calling for ethnicity targets for state sector boards: “*moving women of colour up the ladder*” will ensure better decision-making for everyone. ■

Te Wāhi Wāhine o Tāmaki Makaurau
AUCKLAND WOMEN'S CENTRE

Kōrero with Dr Emma Espiner

Ngāti Tukorehe and Ngāti Porou

Award-winning writer and political commentator

RNZ podcast host "Getting Better" about Māori health equity

Wednesday 25 August, 7pm - 9pm

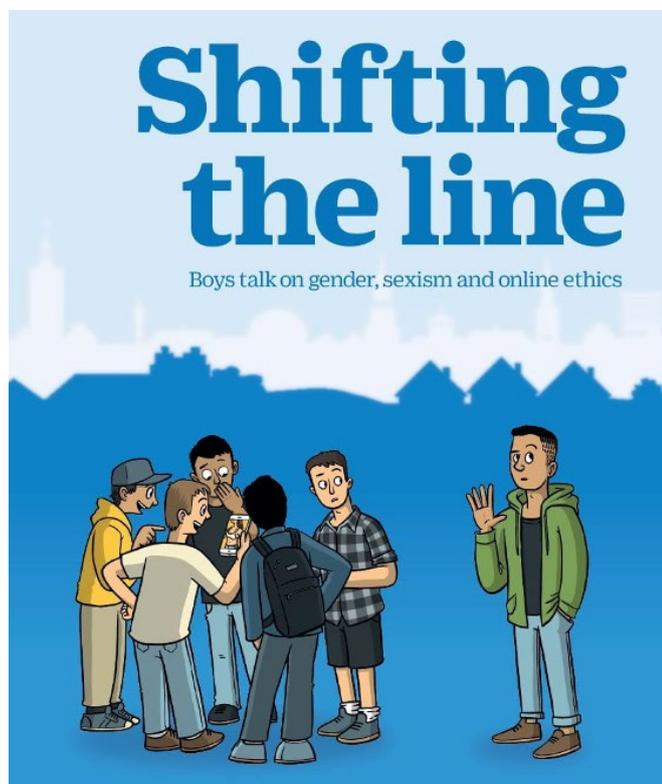
WITH STACEY MORRISON
Ngāi Tahu, Te Arawa award-winning broadcaster, author, Te Reo advocate

Western Springs Community Hall, 956 Great North Road. Bookings essential to awc.org.nz/emma
Donations between zero and \$30. All genders welcome, NZSL interpreters. Tea & coffee provided

Shifting the Line

Calling everyone who works with rangatahi and young people: the wonderful Professor Nicola Gavey and Jade Le Grice (who both talked at “the problem with porn” forum) and their team are creating resources for conversations with boys as a primary prevention of gendered violence.

Called “Shifting the Line”, the project is putting into practice the overwhelming research that “any solution to stopping violence, harassment and abuse against women and girls must address how our societies deal with gender, sexism and inequality”, by “turning to the essential role that men and boys have to play in contributing to the social change we need” and engaging them in workshops for collective peer group change.



Resources are forthcoming; in the meantime, you can read [their report](#), including their suggestion that “it would be better to inspire boys and young men to be ethical people rather than ‘good men’” but “paradoxically, it could seem, a first step in this direction requires noticing how gender structures the world and most people’s experiences and opportunities within it.” We’re excited – watch this space. ■

Get Knitting Intermediate

Barbara Woodham

This class is for people who already know basic knitting and want to learn various texture stitches; cables; knitting in the round; colour work including fair isle and intarsia.

Tuesdays 3 Aug - 21 Sept
6:00pm - 8:00pm

\$80-\$160



You will be required to knit at home between lessons and you will produce a cowl or hat that has been knitted in the round

Please enrol and pay by Fri 30 July
info@womensz.org.nz

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Centre Hours

Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Library Hours

Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Services

- Women’s Support: free support, info, advice and referral
- Community Education
- Community Events
- Counselling
- LGBTQ support
- Low Cost Massage
- Self Defence Classes
- Opportunities to talk and support feminism
- Diversity Forums
- Support Groups
- Support for High School Feminism

Designed by Toni Chase