Family violence is a major issue that affects the lives of many New Zealanders. It is particularly prevalent within Māori communities, and the experience of poverty in childhood can be a significant factor. Research has shown that the scale and nature of family violence in New Zealand are complex and multifaceted, with intergenerational cycles of violence often observed. The Ministry of Social Development, in collaboration with the Centre for Social Research and Evaluation, conducted a review and evaluation of knowledge on family violence in New Zealand. This review aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the issue and inform future policy and interventions.

The scope of family violence was defined broadly to include intimate partner violence, sexual violence, child abuse and neglect, elder abuse, and other forms of mistreatment within family and household settings. The review involved a systematic search of existing research and data sources, including government statistics, academic studies, and reports from human rights organizations. It also included qualitative data from Māori communities and indigenous perspectives.

Key findings from the review included:
- The prevalence of family violence is high in New Zealand, with rates of intimate partner violence and child abuse among the highest in the developed world.
- Māori women and children are disproportionately affected by family violence, with higher rates of severe violence and economic violence.
- The impact of family violence extends beyond the immediate victim, affecting multiple generations and resulting in long-term physical, emotional, and psychological harm.
- Interventions that address the underlying social, economic, and cultural factors contributing to family violence are essential to effective prevention and response strategies.

The review highlighted the need for a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to addressing family violence, involving collaboration between government agencies, community organizations, and Māori communities. It also underscored the importance of cultural competence and the need to respect and incorporate Māori knowledge and perspectives in policy and program development.

In conclusion, the review provided a robust foundation for understanding family violence in New Zealand and informed the development of evidence-based policies and programs aimed at preventing and responding to family violence. Further research and ongoing evaluation are crucial to sustaining progress and addressing emerging trends and challenges in this complex area.

Knowledge in the criminal law includes constructive knowledge.