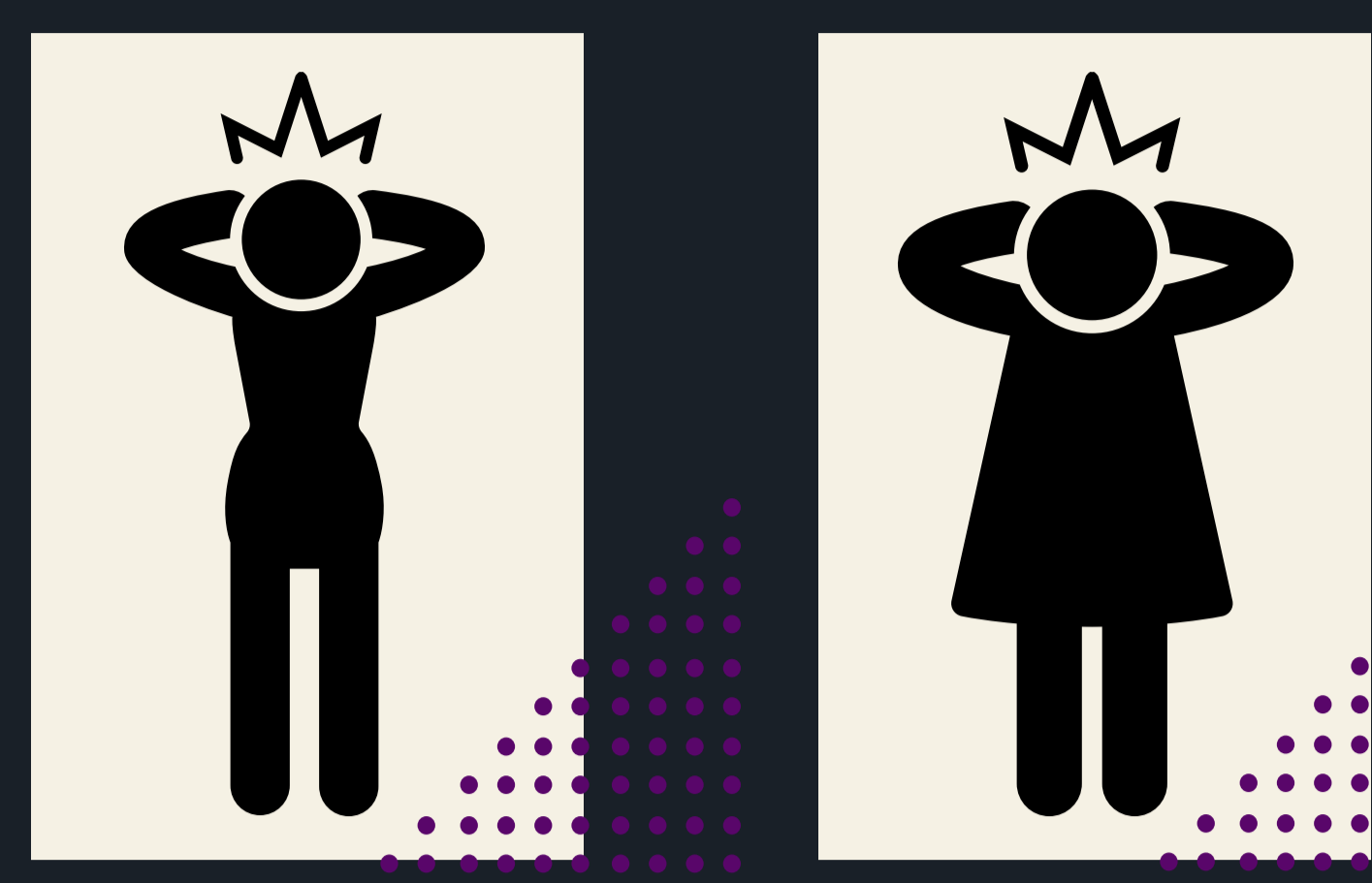


TONGA FAMILY PROTECTION LEGAL AID CENTRE



TIMELINE...

2013



FAMILY PROTECTION ACT 2013 PASSED

Ensures the safety and protection of all persons, including children, who experience or witness violence.

Domestic violence is defined as any

physical, sexual or mental abuse that occurs within a domestic or family setting

2017



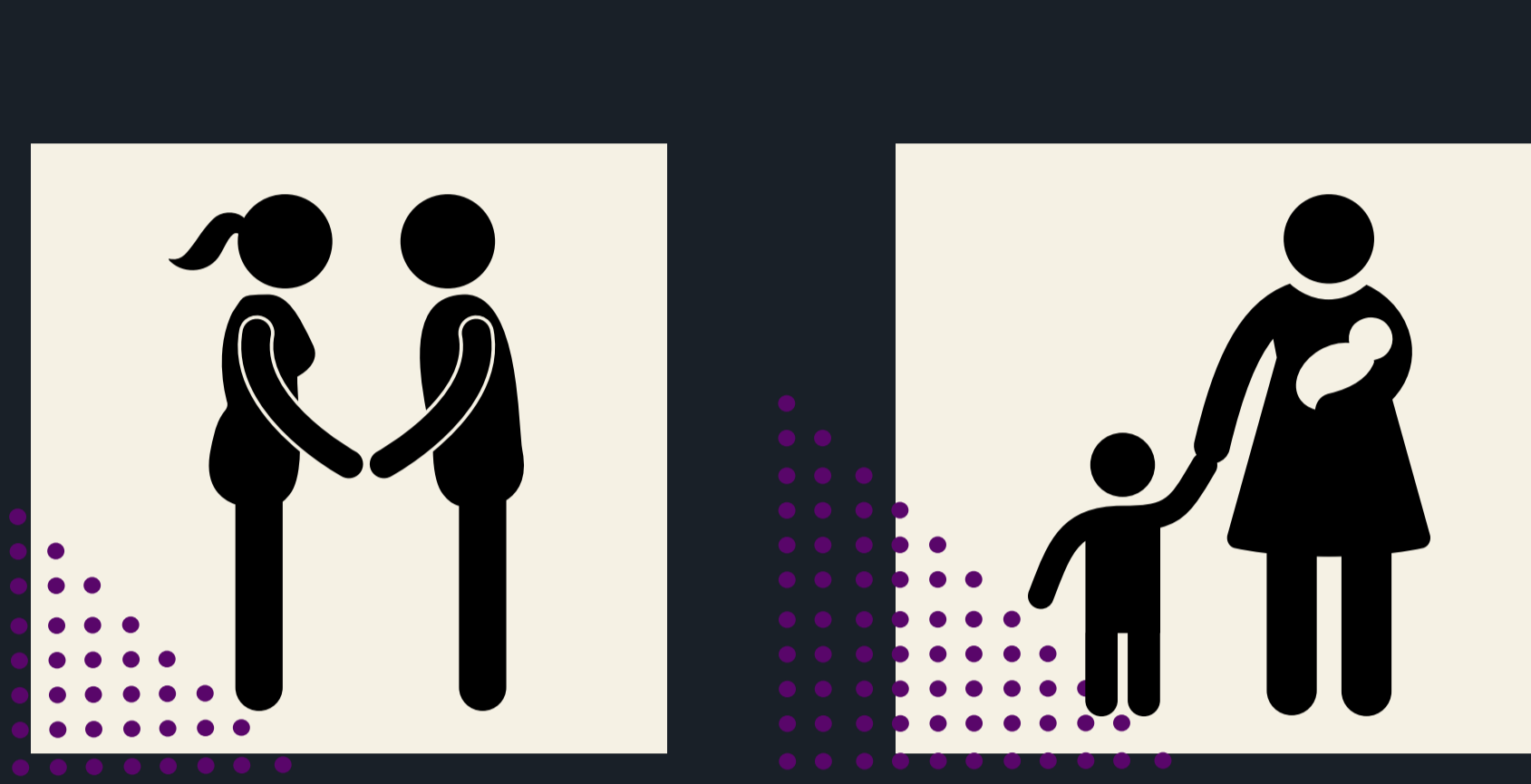
SCOPING DISCUSSIONS CARRIED OUT

Survivors of domestic violence lack:

- access to courts
- financial means to access the justice system

especially those not living on Tongatapu.

2018



CENTRE OPENS TO THE PUBLIC ON 12 MARCH

FREE services provided to 4 islands:

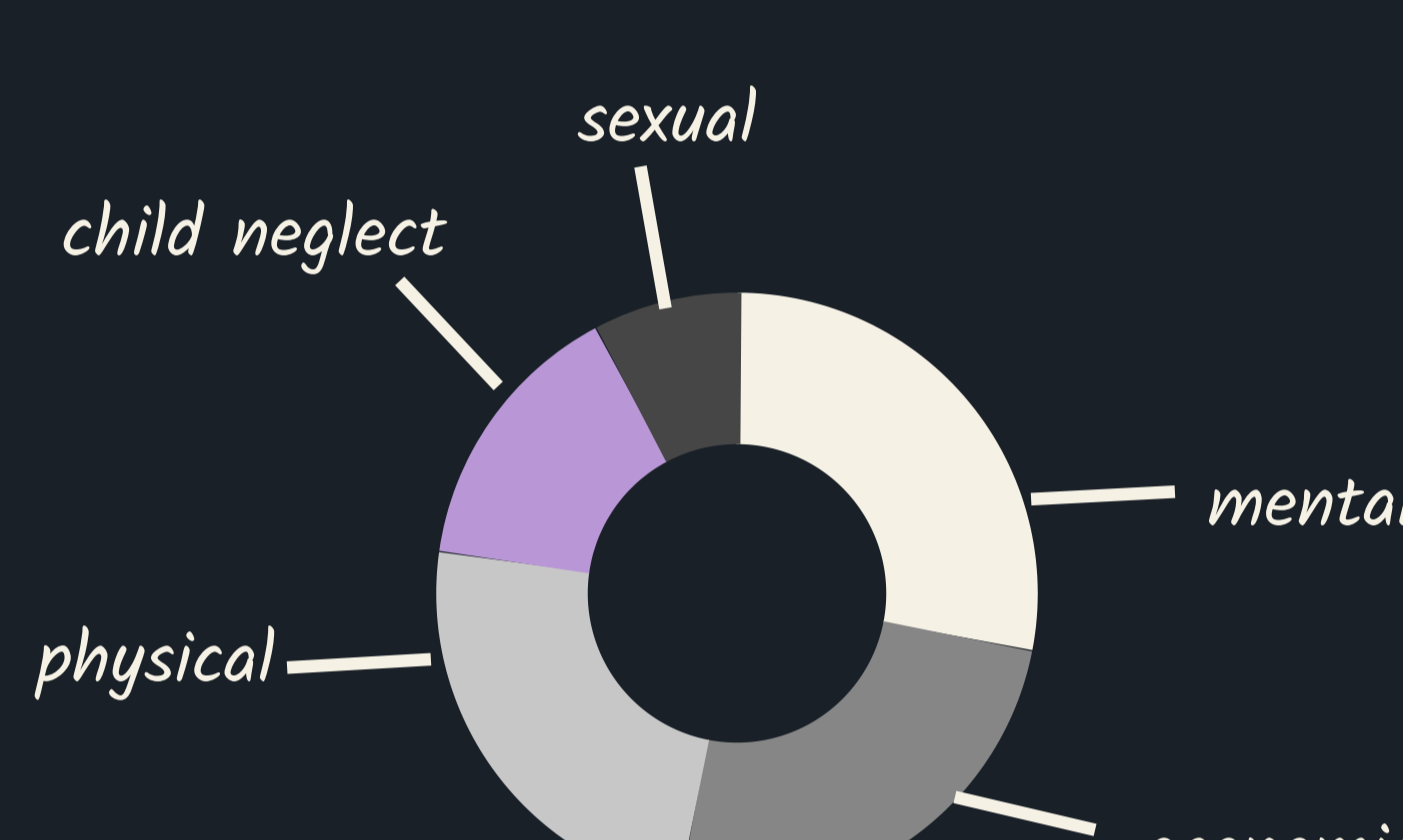
- Tongatapu
- Vava'u
- 'Eua
- Ha'apai

RESULTS IN FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION...



268 people received free legal assistance

Highest proportion of clients were married women living on Tongatapu



Multiple forms of abuse reported

and clients may have experienced many different forms of abuse at one time



59% of cases to court

129 applications filed seeking Emergency or Temporary Protection Orders



102 Protection orders granted

commonly on the grounds of physical, mental or sexual abuse



60 referrals made from the Centre

to other service providers such as the Police for high risk cases



Community outreach to 1500+ people

through SMS texting, television and radio campaigns, and public presentations

STAFF AT THE CENTRE

"Having this resource available empowers survivors to seek help, it provides somewhere to turn to"

Centre Manager
Fitilagi Fa'anunu



Fitilagi Fa'anunu

Taufu'i Naufahu

Vika Akau'ola

Star Pau'u

Fatafehi Uata

Naomi Fakauka

NEXT STEPS...

Following a successful pilot year of operation, funded by the Australian and Swedish governments, the Tongan government will continue in its role as custodian of the Centre and fund its operations.

"We are grateful to the donors and to RRRT for their invaluable assistance in the pilot phase. Success is also due to the dedicated staff of the Centre and their professional service".

"RRRT is honoured to have collaborated with the Kingdom of Tonga and the TFPLAC to ensure that survivors of domestic violence have access to justice".



Chief Executive Officer
Tongan Ministry of Justice
Temeleti M. A. Pahulu



Director, SPC Regional Rights Resource Team
Miles Young



Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique