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Gwenda Kendrew, Operations Manager

Gwenda joined Aviva in July 2017 in a senior leadership role. She provides oversight, leadership and resource to the large team of practitioners offering support to those who are managing a family violence situation or overcoming sexual violence. These services include our Sexual Assault team, Family Support Workers, Youth Team, ReachOut service for men, Microfinance Loans Team, Peer Support team, and our Children's and Women's Groups. Gwenda ensures that the services provided are professional and excellent in every way, whilst being offered with empathy, support and resources as appropriate. As a member of the Senior Management team Gwenda supports Aviva to provide its core business within the family violence sector in Canterbury, and within New Zealand.

Gwenda brings to the agency a long history of managing social service agencies, predominately within the faith-based sector (particularly Salvation Army and Anglican social services. This work has run alongside the completion of her Bachelor of Social Work in Bi-Cultural Practice, which she completed in 2012. This study enabled Gwenda to put into practice the theories and models she found to be relevant, alongside those which she had for years practiced under.

In recent years Gwenda also worked within the Wills and Bequests Department of The Salvation Army. She also undertook some frontline management within a partnership of The Salvation Army and Ministry of Corrections, working within the prison system alongside reintegration teams for long-term, high risk, high profile offenders.

Networking and speaking engagements have become a passion for Gwenda, as they give her an opportunity to promote the services and supports given by the social service sector.