Family, Victims, And Culture: Youth Justice In New Zealand

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The intention underlying New Zealand's youth justice system is to encourage the translation of cultural ideals into practice through the family group conference. The concept of restorative justice was in its infancy when New Zealand introduced Family Group Conferences as a way of responding to young offenders. The relationships between crime victims, offenders, and society are considered in a bi-cultural context, rather than being victim-focused or offender-family focused. The New Zealand youth justice system emerged as a new paradigm in the 21st century, where the young person accused of a criminal offence, their family, and the victim of the crime, are involved in a conference rather than being victim-focused or offender-family focused, as in the past.