

JUL  
2024 -  
DEC  
2025

# ANNUAL REPORT

**MAA WHERO, MAA PANGO KA OTI AI TE MAHI**

*With red and black the work will be complete*

Community Law **Waikato**

Te Tari Ture aa-Hapori o Waikato

Part of the National Community Law Movement





HAERE MAI

# TE PUURONGO A TE TIAMANA CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Teena koutou e ngaa rau o te kootuku. Welcome to the annual report of Community Law Waikato.

Whakapono taatou i roto i te hapori matatika, me te kotahitanga. *We believe in fair and inclusive communities.*

At a time when many people are struggling, the creation of a fair and just Aotearoa remains the Law Centre's vision and focus. It's more essential than ever to improve people's equal access to justice so our team works hard to reduce barriers and provide legal help to those who need it.

The last year has been a busy one. We provide general legal assistance and education in a wide variety of areas including criminal, tenancy, immigration, welfare, employment, Maaori land and financial matters. Our service covers the third largest region in Aotearoa and every year an average of 6899 people benefit from our work, 74% of whom are unemployed or working part-time.

Our staff are also involved in refugee legal aid work, supporting families participating in Family Court processes, empowering communities to engage in local alcohol licensing hearings and supporting elder abuse services. This work is done in partnership with a range of government departments and other community groups.

One priority for the Board has been the deepening of our partnership with iwi. In 2025 we created a new position in our team which has allowed us to take significant steps in the development of a kaupapa Maaori legal services strategy. We're excited by the work the Kaitakawaenga has done to build relationships with whaanau Maaori, strengthen staff capacity and seek ways to improve our services.

As a Board we're grateful to all our staff (lawyers, administrators, advocates, case workers, legal assistants and volunteers) for their dedicated work over the last twelve months. We express our deep gratitude to Juanita Bennett (General Manager) for her professional and inspiring leadership, he toka tuu moana ia. We also offer our thanks to Angela Smith (former Legal Services Manager) who left the Law Centre after seventeen years to practise on her own account. We wish her every success in this next stage of her career.

I'm also grateful to our Trustees who give their time and expertise willingly and generously. This year we welcomed Maria Henry as a Waikato-Tainui representative. We appreciate the support and friendship of our supporters, volunteers and community funders. Without you we would not be able to meet the challenges of our day. Teena koutou katoa.

Ngaa manaakitanga,  
Dr Susan Thompson, Chairperson, Trust Board

## EHARA TAKU TOA I TE TOA TAKITAHĪ, ENGARI KEE HE TOA TAKITINI

*My success should not be bestowed onto me alone, it was not individual success but the success of a collective*

We draw support from and collaborate with a range of stakeholders including the organisations that host our outreach services, community funders, fellow community law centres, community agencies / NGOs, the general public, and our team of employees and volunteers.

The support comes in many shapes and forms including time, donated equipment, grants and donations, discounts, partnerships - it all contributes enormously to our mahi.

Community Law Waikato is funded through a variety of streams with one of the main sources being a public fund. The Lawyers and Conveyancers Special Fund is derived from interest accrued in firms' Trust Accounts. Banks retain 40% of the interest (except those banks who donate another 20% to Community Law which aids enormously). The remaining 60% is legislated to fund community legal services.

Nationally, the monthly donations from BNZ, TSB, Westpac and ASB banks continued to be the second-largest source of funding for Community Law services between Jul 24 - Jun 2025. This funding added \$5,106,993 in free legal services to the community for the year.

## E KORE RAWA TE MIHI E MUTU KI A KOUTOU

*The gratitude to you will never end*

“  
*Tino ataahua, I'm grateful for your support & expertise e taku whaanaunga.*  
”

“  
*I would like to say thank from the bottom of my heart to all the staff.*  
”

“  
*Thankyou for all your efforts and support that you have given us through this long process.*  
”

# 03

## OUR KAUPAPA

Access to Justice is the shared kaupapa that binds the 24 community law centres across Aotearoa.

Access to justice is commonly associated with access to courts and lawyers. In fact, it is much broader than that. It incorporates everything people do to try resolve disputes...including accessing information and support to prevent, identify and resolve the disputes...it recognises that many people resolve disputes without going to court and sometimes without professional assistance.

Access to justice is a fundamental principle of the rule of law – we are all bound by the law and should benefit equally from it...It only makes sense that, in order to benefit from it or engage with the myriad of legal systems and processes, individuals should have access to law related help.

The law surrounds our everyday lives...housing, welfare, education, health, employment – just to name a few.

The law underpins the way in which society operates and in an ideal state promotes fairness, protections of human rights, economic security, and social cohesion. A state without access to justice renders the complete opposite.

Community Law adopts a people-centered approach. Most barriers to access exist due to individual circumstances such as financial means, location, education, disability, age, ethnicity, language, and fear. At the forefront of our daily operations and strategic direction towards a Fair and Just Aotearoa, is the constant mahi towards reducing barriers and providing legal help to those who need it.

## WHAKAPONO TATOU I ROTO I TE HAPORI MATATIKA, ME KOTAHITANGA

*We believe in fair and inclusive communities*

“  
*I was very impressed on every level. The service I received was excellent.*  
”

“  
*I appreciate and feel very grateful to have had such a highly skilled lawyer deal with my case.*  
”

“  
*CLW provided me with a service that I couldn't have afforded otherwise*  
”

# Community Law Waikato – Te Tari Ture aa-Hapori o Waikato

## Our Strategic Goals and Priorities

### A Fair and Just Aotearoa OUR VISION

#### IMPROVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

- Maintain quality legal services
- Understand access to justice
- Identify specific community need and service gaps
- Remove barriers to access
- Maintain a people centric model to ensure equitable access
- Expand services & deliver an appropriate mix
- Recognise the importance of law related information and education and improve this service

- Greater access to justice.
- Offer & deliver an expanded range of services.
- Informed communities.
- Positive systemic & intergenerational change.

#### HONOUR TE TIRITIO WAITANGI

- Foster an understanding and commitment at all levels within CLW
- Develop & implement kaupapa maori service strategy
- Focus on community need and co-design
- Build te Ao Maori and tikanga based practice throughout CLW.

- Kaupapa Maori services specific to law related community need.
- A dedicated team for Kaupapa Maori services.
- In integrated te Ao Maori and tikanga lens within our vision, mission and values.

### OUR COMMITMENTS

#### BUILD CAPACITY & CAPABILITY

- Protect fiscal stability & sustainability.
- Strengthen our foundations to support growth & resilience.
- Grow & nurture a diverse team.
- Lead & foster an organisational culture that aligns with our values throughout CLW.
- Look ahead with a succession plan to ensure sustainability.

- An expanded diverse team.
- Improved operational foundations to support change & growth.
- Values based organisational culture.
- Sustainability.

#### PROMOTE & ENGAGE

- Build & foster relationships that support strategic priorities
- Promote & build awareness about our kaupapa
- Seek and seize opportunities for partnerships & collaboration

- Better community awareness about CLW.
- Strong networks and partnerships.
- Successful collaboration with various stakeholders.

Access to Justice. We provide funded legal help to people in the Waikato who may otherwise not have access

### OUR MISSION / KAUPAPA



### WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

# 04

## OUR MAHI

We provide help with, but not limited to, the following areas of law:

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### ACC

E.g. Entitlements, lump sum payments, sensitive claims, impairment assessments, mediations and review hearings.

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### CONSUMER

E.g. Faulty items (incl. motor vehicles), contract disputes, repossessions, Fair Trading Act breaches/complaints

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### CRIMINAL & TRAFFIC

E.g. Driving offences, boy racer charges, disorderly behaviour and theft. Sentencing, Judge Alone Trial, & special applications

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### DEBT ISSUES

E.g. Creditor claims, credit contracts, insolvencies, and debt disputes.

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### DISPUTES TRIBUNAL

E.g. Assistance with application and response to applications if required.

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### EMPLOYMENT LAW

E.g. Pay issues, minimum entitlements, disputes, harassment & discrimination, personal grievances, and mediation.

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### HUMAN RIGHTS

E.g. Harrassment & discrimination, restraining orders, trespass orders, health & disability complaints.

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### IMMIGRATION

E.g. Refugee Family Support Category, 'over staying', visa applications, deportation, migrant exploitation, Immigration Protection Tribunal, and special circumstance applications.

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### INSURANCE

E.g. Claim disputes and Insurance and Financial Services Ombudsman complaints.

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### Maaori Land

E.g. Occupation, ownership, lease, Pataka Whenua, Trusts, Maaori Land Court, .

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### PPPR & EPOA

E.g. Setting up EPOA & PPPR, Abuse of power, disagreements, mental capacity

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### TENANCY

E.g. Flatmate disputes, rent disputes, tenancy agreements, early termination, tenancy breaches, evictions, repair orders, and Tenancy Tribunal hearings.

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### WORK AND INCOME NZ

E.g. Entitlements, investigations, benefit review hearings, Social Security Appeal Authority.

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### ACC

E.g. Entitlements, investigations, disputes, and review hearings.

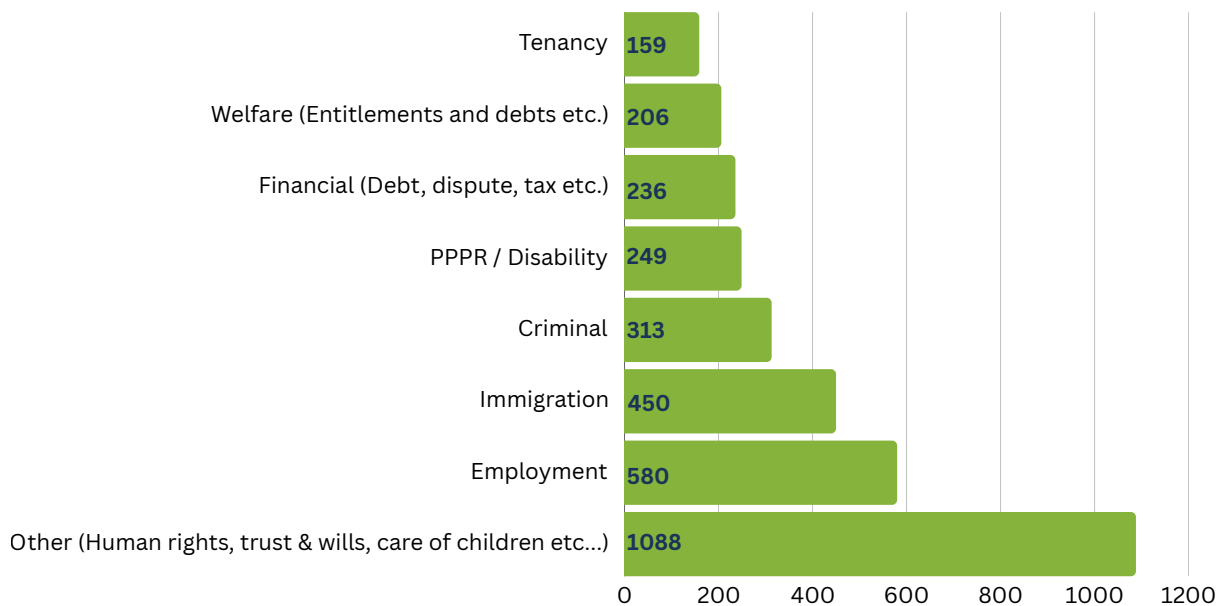
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### ADDITIONAL AREAS

E.g. Fines, Waka Kotahi (LTSA), affidavits, Local Government. We can offer initial advice in the areas of family law, and wills and power of attorney.

# OUR MAHI SUMMARY - JUL 2024 - DEC 2025

## Areas of law by numbers July 2024 - Dec 2025

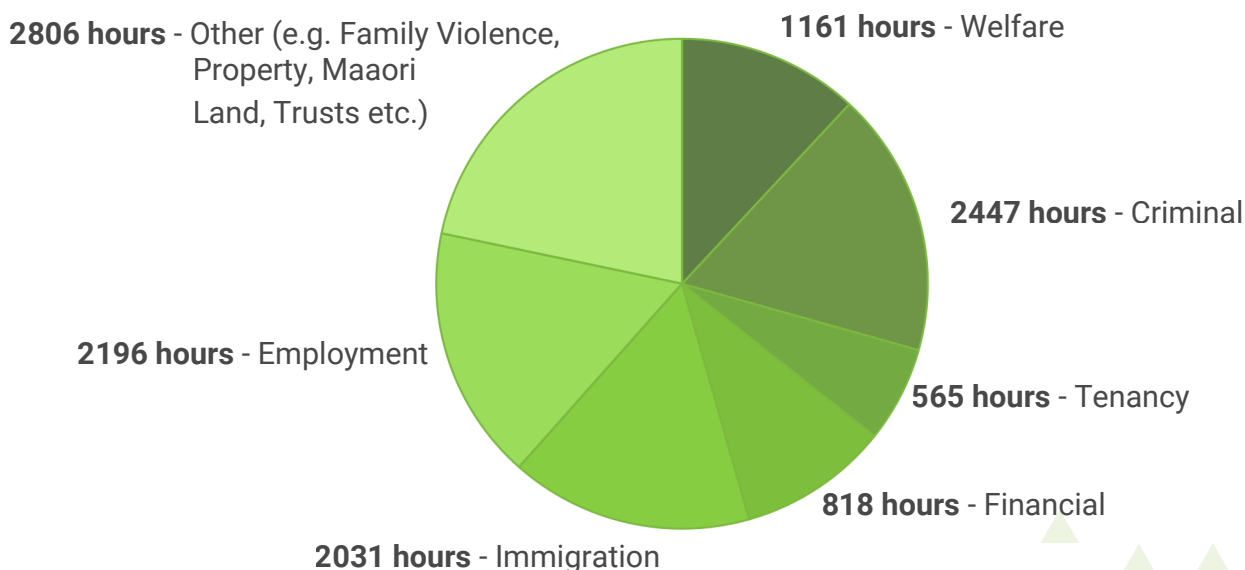


Our service covers the third largest region in New Zealand, with some of the most deprived areas and a high proportion of the region's population living in these pockets.

On average, 6,899 individuals benefit from our service every year, and 74% of those who receive our services are unemployed or work part-time.

Our reception team provide information, referrals, and schedule appointments.

## TIME SPENT ON LEGAL PROBLEMS



New Legal Matters



2,435

People received legal information



5,263

People reached



10,399



The majority of our clients receive income support



We provided legal services to

**131**

different ethnic groups in 2024 / 2025



2,025 people registered for our Law Related Education

*Thank you, it was super interesting and engaging.*

We spent **2,237**

Hours working on Criminal Law Related Matters

*I have recommended that my whanau attend these wananga.*

Hours spent coordinating + delivering Law Related Education

**114**

*Really enjoyed this session and gained a lot of knowledge.*

Law Related Education Sessions

**66**

## Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (AHRP)

Thanks to a successful nationwide initiative led by Community Law Centres and backed by Te Whatu Ora/Health New Zealand, everyday people across Aotearoa now have a stronger voice in local alcohol licensing decisions.

The recently concluded Alcohol Harm Reduction Project was created to tackle alcohol-related harm by empowering communities at the grassroots level. The goal was simple: to equip residents with the skills and confidence to effectively engage with the District Licensing Committee (DLC) process. Regardless of funding CLW will continue this great mahi and help our community to participate in local alcohol licensing hearings.

“  
*I feel that this workshop will enhance the wellbeing for our Whaanau.*  
”

“  
*This session really helped me understand what an EPOA roles & responsibilities are.*  
”

“  
*I felt comfortable having someone come onto our marae and share this amazing opportunity.*  
”

## Elder Abuse Response Service (EARS)

Between Jul 2024 & Dec 2025 Community Law Waikato continued to support the EARS agencies on the ground all around the motu with the often complex legalities around elder abuse. MSD funds an 0800 helpline. This support has been in place since 2018.

People aged 65 and over will make up approximately 18% of New Zealand's population. Elder abuse is a serious and growing issue that causes significant harm. As many as one in ten older people in New Zealand experience some form of elder abuse, much of which remains unrecognised or unreported.

### Top 5 Elder Abuse topics 2024 / 2025

Financial Abuse

Family Violence

Enduring Powers of Attorney

Wills and Trusts

Property

## Family Court Navigator Clinic

We are in partnership with the Family Court Kaiaarahi providing a community drop-in 'navigator' clinic at our meeting rooms here at CLW. The monthly clinic has been running since 2024 and is available either by appointment or drop in.

Our Family Court 'Navigator' Clinic provides whaanau access to a broad range of Family Court related information and assistance for example filling out applications, signing up to support programs, arranging Court appearances / interpretation etc. The service is removed from the Court house making it more readily available to whaanau who need it.

*Thank you for bringing my beautiful wife to my side.*

*Thank you for helping me and giving me another chance to start my life again.*

*Words can't describe how grateful we are for this wonderful news.*

## Refugee and protected person (asylum) claims

In line with its Kaupapa of bridging the justice gap, Community Law Waikato commenced refugee legal aid work in 2024. In the past decade, asylum claims numbers have increased significantly, from 328 claims in 2014-2015 to 2345 claims in the 2023-2024 year.

Our specialist legal aid lawyers, provide representation and advocacy to clients at both the Refugee Status Unit (RSU) and Immigration and Protection Tribunal (IPT) stages of their claims. Supporting them with advising on and lodging the claim, attending the interviews and Hearings with the claimant, and presenting written and oral submissions.

We have seen successful results at both levels, resulting in recognitions as both refugees and protected persons and permanent residence being granted.

## Immigration support

In the immigration space more generally, we have continued to see a high demand and need for advice, assistance, representation, and legal education across the full range of immigration matters.

Community Law Waikato provides this support to individuals and families on issues of Family Violence, Migrant Exploitation, Refugee family reunification, Unlawfulness, Partnership, Tribunal work including residence and deportation appeals and more. This mahi can span over months or a number of years before resolution. Our lawyers work hard throughout this journey, to support our clients to navigate these complex legal systems in a culturally appropriate and trauma informed way.

## Law Related Education (LRE)

Part of our kaupapa is empowering our communities through education, which directly supports the wellbeing of our whaanau. It was a massive year for the team—we delivered 66 Legal Education sessions in total between Jul 2024 - Dec 2025!

By offering online learning platforms alongside our face-to-face hui we've made sure vital legal knowledge reaches people no matter where they are.

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CORONIAL SERVICES

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EMPLOYMENT - Min. rights

---

TENANCY LAW

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CRIMINAL LAW - including sentencing

---

DEBT & INSOLVENCY

---

CREDIT CONTRACTS

---

PPPR & EPOA

---

FAMILY LAW - Relationship Property

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EDUCATION LAW

---

FAMILY COURT NAVIGATOR

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FAMILY LAW - separation, divorce., etc.

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EMPLOYMENT - redundancy & remedies

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WORK & INCOME - Entitlements

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CONSUMER GUARANTEES ACT

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Drink / Drunk / Drugged driving

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FAMILY LAW - care of children

---

MAAORI LAND

---

IMMIGRATION LAW

---

WILLS & ESTATES

---

WORK & INCOME - rights & responsibilities

---

FAMILY - Family Violence Act

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WORK & INCOME - Food Grants

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## Raranga toopuu

### IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR MAAORI

***Raranga (weaving) Toopuu (collective/united)". Raranga Toopuu is a metaphor for collaboration and unity. Just as strands are carefully woven to create a strong, functional, and beautiful pattern, each team member contributes their unique skills, perspectives, and energy to form a cohesive, resilient, and effective group.***

### Raranga Toopuu Strategy

Our Kaitakawaenga has been leading the development of a kaupapa Maaori legal services strategy focused on improving access to justice for Maaori within the Community Law Waikato (CLW) boundary which includes Waikato, Raukawa, Maniapoto and Hauraki iwi.

The strategy is grounded in a Tainui Waka perspective and guided by Kiingi Pootatau Te Wherowhero's tongikura: "Kotahi te koohao o te ngira e kuhuna ai te miro maa, te miro pango, te miro whereo." It focuses on three key priorities:

- Engagement and Enhancement
- Capability and Capacity
- Sustainability and Resilience

In developing the strategy, a key focus has been understanding what our centre does well, how we can enhance our services, and identifying any gaps for improvement. As a result, CLW has committed to a two-year internal foundation building process to strengthen Maaori access to justice.

This includes meaningful engagement with whaanau Maaori, building internal capability and capacity regarding Te Reo Maaori, tikanga Maaori and Te Tiriti o Waitangi, enabling whaanau-led service design, and evaluating our approach to improving access to justice for Maaori post-2027 based on whaanau Maaori feedback. External funding to support the implementation of the strategy was secured in December 2025.



## Outreach Clinics and Enduring Powers of Attorney

Outreach clinics enable our kaimahi to engage directly with whaanau by reducing barriers such as transport and cost through regular monthly appointments delivered in partnership with community and iwi organisations. We currently deliver two monthly outreach clinics in Kihikihi and Te Kuuiti through partnerships with Mangatoatoa Marae and Ngaati Maniapoto Marae PACT Trust. Discussions are ongoing with Raukawa Charitable Trust and the Hauraki Maori Trust Board to expand this mahi.

Enduring Powers of Attorney (EPOA) workshops are popular with our koroheke and ruuruhi and provide an opportunity to educate whaanau about EPOA, PPPR, and Wills. Workshops have been delivered in various locations, including Waahi Paa Marae and Paeroa in collaboration with the Hauraki Maori Trust Board, with plans to expand further in the new year.



## Building Meaningful Relationships With Maaori

Given the tribal significance of the Kiingitanga within the CLW boundary, it is important that our centre supports kaimahi to be present, learn, and build relationships at iwi and community events. This includes events such as Poukai, Koroneihana, marae kaupapa, and wider community gatherings, where we can network and share awareness of CLW mahi.

Building trust and confidence with whaanau Maaori is paramount, and CLW continues to seek opportunities to network and collaborate with iwi and Maaori organisations to improve access to justice for Maaori.

“  
*Your service is valuable to me and the community. Keep up the good mahi.*  
”

“  
*Such a great informative morning, and even more important than ever for our whanau.*  
”

“  
*Enjoyed the session / very informative / keep up the good work.*  
”

## Developing our Team Capability

We have committed to growing our knowledge, confidence, and consistency in Te Reo Maaori, tikanga Maaori, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi at both operational and governance levels. Our immediate focus is ensuring that all mahi in this space is carried out confidently and consistently in accordance with Waikato tikanga.

As part of this, we have introduced mihi whakatau for all new kaimahi and board members. This has included learning about mihi whakatau, developing individual pepeha, and applying tikanga values such as manaakitanga and kotahitanga across the centre.

Our Kaitakawaenga has also initiated monthly waananga to encourage learning, discussion, and recognition of significant Maaori kaupapa. These waananga have included Matariki and Te Paki o Matariki, Kiingitanga, Te Wiki o te Reo Maaori, and the Waikato land wars. In the coming year, we plan to introduce an annual cultural experience for kaimahi and board members, focused on learning Tainui Waka iwi tribal narratives.

“  
*Your service is valuable to me and the community. Keep up the good mahi.*  
”

“  
*Such a great informative morning, and even more important than ever for our whanau.*  
”

“  
*Enjoyed the session / very informative / keep up the good work.*  
”

## Our Path Forward

This important mahi remains a priority for our centre as we work to improve access to justice for Maaori, increase awareness of this kaupapa, strengthen our collective capability, and gradually grow the capacity of Maaori kaimahi at CLW. This work is building a strong foundation for the Raranga Toopuu strategy, both now and into the future.

Key initiatives include finalising an Action Plan to guide implementation over the next two years, expanding outreach clinics across the CLW boundary, and continuing to grow awareness of our mahi while building strong, meaningful relationships and partnerships with marae, hapuu, iwi and community organisations



# Community Law Movement Nationwide! 2024 / 2025

Hours of legal  
assistance  
provided



**135,369**

Total  
Matters  
Addressed



**59,454**

Clients  
Assisted



**50,427**

During the 2024 / 2025 year CLCA has been busy building solid relationships with government departments and key partners. These collaborations are essential for supporting Community Law Centers (CLCs) and the people who rely on them:

- **Ministry of Business Innovation & Employment (MBIE):** CLCA deliver three "deep dive" reports each year, focusing on the specific employment trends MBIE needs to see.
- **Te Whatu Ora:** This Alcohol Harm Reduction Project runs across five Community Law Centres. This initiative helps locals navigate the complexities of alcohol licensing applications, giving communities a real voice in their neighborhoods.
- **Ministry of Social Development (MSD):** The Elder Abuse Response Service provides legal advice and education to those working with seniors—is spearheaded by the Waikato CLC.
- **The Borrin Foundation:** CLCA continues to partner with the Borrin Foundation to offer annual fellowships and scholarships, ensuring dedicated staff have the support they need to further their legal careers.

“  
*Your dedication truly makes a difference. Please continue the great work.*  
”

“  
*What an incredible service Community Law offers.*  
”

“  
*Thank you for the excellent services you provide to our community and those in need.*  
”

## CLCA Kaupapa Maaori Legal Services

The first year of the Kaupapa Maaori Legal Services Pilot (KMLS) was a year of building, learning, and adapting. The KMLS team navigated transition, including the appointment of Petra as Tumu Maaori after the departure of the Tumu Whakahaere; as well Maddison and Hiria were appointed to support communication, coordination and connection across CLCs.

Across the year, pilot CLCs supported around 3,800 Maaori whaanau, dealt with over 4,200 matters, and logged close to 10,000 hours of legal work—significant increases on the previous year and a marker of growing confidence and trust. The first National Kaupapa Maaori Services Waananga was held at Horahora Marae in Rangiriri (7–8 August 2025). Since then the kaupapa has continued to grow—there are now 14 Community Law Centres delivering kaupapa Maaori legal services, strengthening access to justice for Maaori through tikanga, whanaungatanga, and shared purpose.

Law Related  
Education  
Sessions



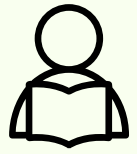
**1,247**

Number of  
staff  
Nationally



**300+**

Law Related  
Education  
participants



**30,227**

## Law Reform – a Voice for the Community

During 2024/25, CLCA continued to work alongside Community Law Centres to advocate for law and policy changes that affect our clients and their communities. The duo also support this work by maintaining a database of subject matter experts across the CLC network and convening regular online hui, where staff share common issues and learn from one another and from external specialists; attendance has continued to grow and the sessions are widely valued by practitioners.

Over the year, CLCA made submissions and provided input across a wide range of consultations and reforms, including privacy and biometrics, prosecution guidelines, tenancy law, court and tribunal processes (including remote participation), sentencing and criminal justice proposals, corrections and prison safety, social security and employment law changes, and major reviews and bills affecting health and disability, Oranga Tamariki, and human rights.

CLCA also supported ADL to work with a group of external lawyers on investigating and preparing a legal challenge to Whaikaha's March 2024 changes to funding and support for disabled people.

*"I'm so happy and relax with Lawyer. She's very professional and patient."*

*"Very nice and approachable, helpful, responsible and respectful."*

*"Great communication and clearly explained the process and what to expect."*

## Farewell to Sue Moroney

Sue Moroney ended her tenure as CEO of CLCA at the end of 2025 closing a chapter marked by expansion, partnership and a renewed focus on access to justice. Sue left the role to focus on her newly elected role as Hamilton City Councillor.

During Sue's time in the role, CLCA strengthened its law reform advocacy, established Te Ara Ture as a nationwide pro bono clearinghouse, and piloted Kaupapa Maaori Legal Services across 14 Community Law Centres. The organisation also secured a significant lift in pay equity across the network by negotiating Community Law's first Multi-Employer Collective Agreement.

In her farewell message, Sue thanked Community Law Centre kaimahi for the day-to-day work that underpins the Movement's progress, and encouraged continued support for incoming leader Gwen. Sue said she was proud of what was achieved and described it as "a rare privilege" to work alongside teams providing free legal support that advances social justice

## CLCA Annual Hui - Maangere 2024

The 2024 National Community Law movement Hui was held at Maangere Art Centre / Nga Tohu o Uenuku in early November. Around 120 employees and volunteers from the 24 CLC's throughout the motu attended to reflect, learn, share information, and collaborate on future plans.

During the Hui Angela and Ellen accepted the Te Maiaorere Ture Hapori Award for their outstanding work in supporting and advising Afghani clients to take a successful Judicial Review of the Government's decision to stop processing family reunification visas while borders were closed due to Covid.

Ngaa mihi to Maangere Community Law Centre and CLCA for organising the event.



## CLCA Annual Hui - Taitokerau 2025

In September 2025 the National Community Law movement headed to Taitokerau for our annual Hui. It was a fantastic turnout, with employees from all 24 CLCs across the motu coming together to reflect, share insights, and map out our future.

Beyond the formal sessions, there's something truly special about having the whole network in one room. These workshops offer a rare chance for lawyers from every corner of the country to connect, learn from one another, and grow together. It's this collective knowledge that helps us become even better advocates for the clients we support across Aotearoa.

A massive ngaa mihi to the Taitokerau Community Law Centre and CLCA for pulling everything together and hosting such a great event.

# TE ARA TURE - A BRIDGE TO LAW 2024 / 2025

Te Ara Ture exists to close the justice gap in Aotearoa by improving access to justice for disadvantaged and vulnerable people. Its core purpose is to act as a bridge between people who need legal assistance and lawyers willing to provide that help on a pro bono (free) basis.

In practice, Te Ara Ture functions as New Zealand's national pro bono clearinghouse, working closely with Community Law Centres and the legal profession to ensure limited pro bono resources are targeted where they are most needed.

Key elements of its purpose include:

- Connecting volunteer lawyers with kiwis who cannot afford legal representation and often fall outside eligibility for legal aid.
- Improving fairness and accessibility in the justice system, recognising that unmet legal needs can contribute to poverty, homelessness, family breakdown, and social exclusion.
- Promoting public-interest litigation and systemic change, where cases raise broader issues affecting democracy, rights, or government accountability.

More recently, Te Ara Ture also leads national collaboration on pro bono work, including the Framework for Collaborative Pro Bono in Aotearoa, which aims to scale up pro bono services and address ongoing gaps in legal aid nationwide.

700

Lawyers from 73 firms  
providing legal  
support

143

Individuals or  
organisations received pro-  
bono casework services

261

Requests for  
assistance received in  
2024 / 2025

166

166 pro-bono entities  
registered with  
Te Ata Ture

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari te  
toa takitini

*Success is not the work of one but the work of many*

“  
I felt so relieved  
after we spoke,  
like I'd been  
heard, not just  
listened to.  
”

“  
A lot of very  
important  
information  
shared and I am  
grateful -  
humble thanks!  
”

“  
Your kindness,  
patience, and  
dedication have  
meant more  
than I can ever  
put into words.  
”

## OUR KAIMAHI

05



Our team is made up of experienced and accomplished lawyers, administrators, advocates, case workers, legal assistants, and volunteers. All share a passion for social justice and dedicate their precious time and energy to support our Community Law Waikato kaupapa.

### *Ngaa mihi nui ki a koutou*

#### Our volunteers

Our volunteer team includes solicitors and law students who bring extensive experience and expertise across a wide variety of legal areas, as well as practical skill. Our volunteers offer their time to support our vision of access to justice, and we could not be more grateful.

Our volunteer lawyers offer their advice and expertise to give free legal advice, present legal education webinars or seminars. Often they volunteer their time after working a full day in their own legal firms. We are incredibly grateful to have so many community-minded and experienced lawyers volunteer to support the movement.

Our volunteer caseworkers are law students from the University of Waikato. The role of a caseworker involves interviewing clients and relaying the advice given by a solicitor back to the client. Caseworking is a valuable learning opportunity for the students, and we are thrilled that during their time volunteering with us they gain such rich legal experience.

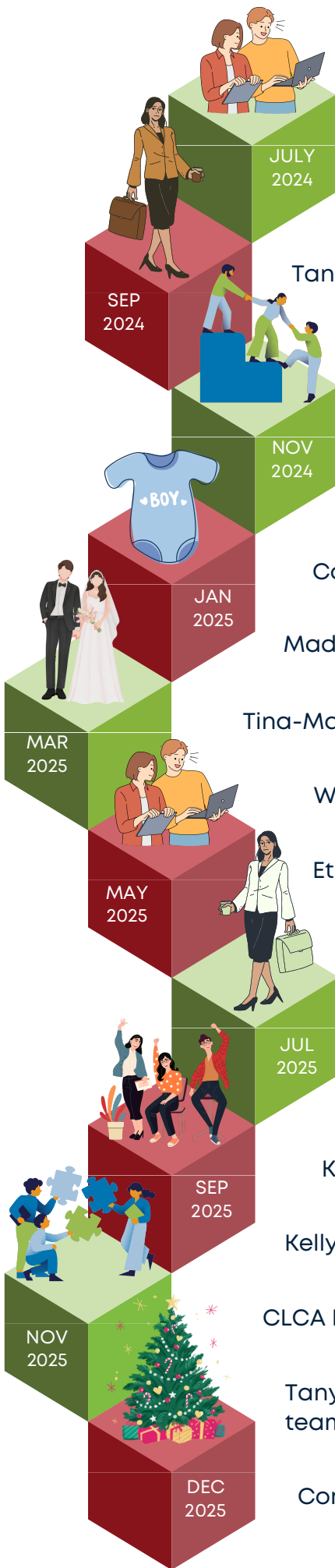
### *We are very grateful to you*

#### Our team

Every member of our team brings a set of unique talents, backgrounds, and experiences to the Centre. The things that make us unique as individuals make us richer as a team - The things that make us unique as individuals make us stronger as a team - a satisfied and motivated workforce helps us achieve the best outcomes for our clients and the communities in which we serve.

We live and work by our strong values; our combined values and differences help create a happy and inclusive workforce with a passion for making positive change in the lives of others.

# T E A M S N I P P E T S



We welcomed a new intake of Caseworkers  
 New Solicitor Marree joined the team  
 Tanya joined the Reception team  
 Annual team building event in Waiheke Island  
 CLCA National Hui in Manakau  
 Toni gave birth to a baby William!  
 Community Law Waikato Christmas Party!  
 Madison got married!  
 Tina-Maree joined our team as a Legal Assistant  
 We welcomed a new intake of Caseworkers  
 Ethan joined our team as Kaetakawaenga  
 Maringi joined our team as a new Solicitor  
 Marree gave birth to baby Te Aue!  
 Amanda joined our team as a Receptionist  
 Koebe joined our team as a Legal Assistant  
 Kelly joined our team as a Receptionist  
 CLCA National Hui in Whangareia  
 Tanya moved from the Reception team to the legal team as a Legal Assistant  
 Community Law Waikato Christmas Party!



Te Tari Ture aa-Hapori o Waikato  
Community Law Waikato  
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