

Community Law **Waikato**

Te Tari Ture ā-Hapori o Waikato

Part of the National Community Law Movement



ANNUAL REPORT

2021/2022

Our mission is to provide free legal help to
those who cannot otherwise access it.



Community Law **Waikato**

Te Tari Ture ā-Hapori o Waikato

Part of the National Community Law Movement



Kia ora

We draw support from a wide range of stakeholders including community funders, official agencies, fellow community law centres, community agencies / NGOs, service providers, fellow lawyers, law students, the general legal profession and members of the public.

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



Ehara tōku toa i te toa takitahi
He toa takitini tōku toa.

My strength is not due to me alone, but due to the strength of many



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Chairperson's report

Tēnā koutou katoa. Welcome to the annual report of Community Law Waikato.

He waka eke noa. A waka which we are all in with no exception.

At a time when many New Zealanders seem to be feeling a greater sense of social division, those of us involved in the kaupapa of Community Law reaffirm our commitment to travelling on a common journey and working to create a community where no-one will be left behind.

Over the last year the mahi of the Law Centre has continued despite periods where services had to be delivered from home or over the phone. Like the rest of Aotearoa we have gradually worked out a 'new normal' as we've adapted to the continuing and ongoing challenges of COVID-19.

The core business of Community Law is the provision of free legal help to those in the Waikato who would otherwise not have access to this. Every year an average of up to 8000 people benefit from our service, the majority of whom are unemployed or working part-time.

**Sue
Thompson**

**-Chairperson,
Community Law
Waikato Board of
Trustees**

"We continue to appreciate the support and friendship of our supporters, volunteers and community funders. Without you we would not be able to make this journey."

“

Chairperson's report cont...

Our team (solicitors, welfare advocates, legal assistants, administrative staff, case workers and volunteers) offers general legal aid and education and specific advice in the area of elder abuse and alcoholic licensing procedures. Just how much that help is appreciated is clear from the voices of our clients. At times it's life-changing.

Last year we reported on the work our team was doing supporting Afghan nationals seeking to come to Aotearoa. This report contains the High Court judgement which ruled that Immigration New Zealand was wrong to stop processing visa applications and wrong not to make exceptions on humanitarian grounds. This was a great result which has brought renewed hope to many families.

As a Board we express our heartfelt thanks to Juanita Bennett (General Manager) and Angela Smith (Legal Services Manager) who continue to provide the Law Centre with exceptional leadership. We are also grateful to Brian Dobbs who retires after many years on our Board. All of our Trustees give their time and expertise willingly and generously.

We continue to appreciate the support and friendship of our supporters, volunteers and community funders. Without you we would not be able to make this journey.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Dr Susan Thompson
Chairperson, Trust Board

Community Law Waikato -Te Tari Ture ā-Hapori o Waikato is a member of a national body called Community Law Centres ō Aotearoa (CLCA). The National body represents the interests of the movement with a broad range of activity including publication of law related resources and information, driving law reform, finding funding sources and coordinating National events. CLCA works alongside the movement's Māori Caucus called Ngā Kaiāwhina Māori Hapori o te Ture.

Kaupapa

Vision, mission, values

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



Vision

Access to justice - A fair and inclusive community



Mission

To provide people in our communities with expert advice, representation, education, and information they would not otherwise have access to and in doing so, to address underlying issues of injustice and exclusion while working for real change.



Values

Humanity
Equity
Integrity
Respect



Kaupapa

The Community Law Waikato -Te Tari Ture ā-Hapori o Waikato team use a hauora approach to provide holistic solutions.

We acknowledge that whānau need a wide range of support which is why our centre works with many organisations throughout the Waikato including Tikanga based community organisations. We work diligently to strengthen networks, collaboration and partnerships.

*Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini.
Success is not the work of an individual, but the work of many.*

“The community law kaupapa speaks to the heart of why we got into this line of service, and we really enjoy being able to not only assist but engage with the wider community under the umbrella of community law.”

Legal Education

Legal education is a large part of our kaupapa and our service. We share practical knowledge through qualified professionals including lawyers and experts in other fields.

We aim to build confidence, provide knowledge on legal rights and responsibilities, and support people to make informed decisions in their everyday lives. We believe education enables us all to participate in and contribute to inclusive and healthy communities.

**Legal Education
continued...**

Law for Rangatahi

Our "Law and You" programme is aimed at providing young people with information on basic legal rights and responsibilities.

The objective is to empower and aid youth with transitioning into adulthood. It is also a useful resource for parents and those who work with young people.

Some of the topics covered are "Your Job Your Future", "Renting Your Own Place", "Licencing, Cars & Driving", "Money Wise", and "Technology Users".

This brief workshop is presented at high schools and alternative education providers throughout the Waikato. We often deliver a one-off seminar in assemblies but also cater for consecutive sessions such as "Gateway" or "Life skills" programs.

Most recently we have delivered the programme to a group at Melville High School with a focus on Employment, Cyber security, Tenancy, Criminal law and how Parliament work through the process of passing an Act into Law.



“

I have been able to support so many staff and whānau that I work with, to navigate systems that usually have enormous barriers and a lack of information availability, because of your intention to inform us. Please keep up your awesome mahi. You are absolutely necessary.

”

In 2021/2022 we held a 'Learn about your legal rights' webinar series with the following topics:

EMPLOYMENT - Health & Safety

FAMILY - Oranga Tamariki

IMMIGRATION LAW

CONSUMER GUARANTEES ACT

HEALTH & DISABILITY RIGHTS

MENTAL HEALTH ACT

TE KOOTI RANGATAHI

DEBT & INSOLVENCY

EDUCATION LAW

PPPR, EPOA, wills & estates

CRIMINAL LAW - including sentencing

FAMILY LAW - separation, divorce., etc.

FAMILY - Domestic Violence Act

MAORI LAND

EMPLOYMENT - Min. rights

CRIMINAL CASES REVIEW COMMISSION

PRIVACY LAW

FAMILY LAW recognising family harm

CREDIT CONTRACTS

EMPLOYMENT - redundancy & remedies

FAMILY LAW - care of children

TENANCY LAW

EMPLOYMENT - early dispute resolution

PROPERTY - lending money, and gifting

Client Voices

whakahoki kōrero

Well, what an excellent presentation this morning! I valued the fundamentals being presented in lay person terms – and thus, giving good guidance as to best working with clients with debt issues and pursuing to overcome the presenting issues.



For me, this has been the best presentation to date. It was really informative and the presenters were great, loved it. I feel far more knowledgeable about the subject.



The training is both incredibly relevant to our work and also very well done. It is wonderful to have such easy access to valuable training like this, and to being able to offer it to our new staff is an extra bonus for us and them; particularly as there are few avenues to gain this knowledge elsewhere.



I found the Webinar very informative. The content was conveyed by the speakers in a way that was equally easy to understand. It was an incredibly valuable webinar, and the speakers were fabulous, so thank you.



Being able to replay the Zoom is very helpful. The information is very informative, especially other avenues to seek more support



Very informative, especially other avenues to seek more support ... I have gained confidence to go into the Māori land office.



Thankyou for all your help and support during the Year. Without you our job at the Citizens Advice would be so much harder.



Ara ki te Manatika - Access to Justice

Access to justice is fundamental to the well-being of any society. Not only does having access to justice ensure people can participate fully in society, it also prevents the downward spiral that happens when things go wrong in people's lives.

Access to justice is not just about an individual's access to courts or legal representation. At a broad level access to justice describes the fundamental right everyone has to seek and obtain a remedy via formal or informal institutions of justice.

There is much international evidence linking improved access to justice to what is now being recognised in Aotearoa/New Zealand as being improved wellbeing, reducing the downstream social and economic costs to communities and Government, and more importantly, social and economic wellbeing among whānau.

Much of our immediate results are tangible outcomes, for example settling a legal dispute or reinstating a welfare entitlement. The flow on effect further down the track (the broader social impact and wellbeing) is something which is more difficult to capture however nonetheless a certain outcome for many.

In 2020 community law centres nationwide, including Community Law Waikato implemented a new database that will allowed us to better capture statistics, prioritise need and progress law reform.

- Increasing equity and inclusion
- Reduce poverty
- Reduce crime rates
- Protected from domestic violence
- Resilient individuals
- Empowered and confident whānau
- Increasing knowledge
- Give power to change
- Driving sustainable systematic change

Client Voices

whakahoki kōrero

"I cannot express how grateful I am for your help, I really appreciate it and am so happy... I'm happy and will carry on with life now thank you heaps. Arohanui"



"Thank you for your assistance ... Without the work and influence you have, I would have given up probably. This has made a big difference to me, so well done and again thank you"



"Thank you Community Law Waikato and thank you to the lawyer who helped me. I could not have gotten through my case without your strong support and help. I will be forever grateful to you!"



"I'm so grateful for lawyers like yourselves because I'd be lost without an oar if I hadn't called you that day. I don't have the knowledge or strength to deal with my issue"



"Thank you for helping us. The process was very easy. Your service was very helpful. We could not have done it without your help. The communication was great."



"Outstanding professional who gave us a clear outline of the pathway. The extra help we received was valuable."



"What a commendable job...Me and my whole family are forever in your debt. We are grateful for everything. Thank you, you guys are life changers"



What we do

PROFESSIONAL
LEGAL ADVICE AND
REPRESENTATION

LEGAL INFORMATION
AND EDUCATION

ADVOCATING FOR
POSITIVE LEGAL AND
SOCIAL CHANGE

COMMUNITY
SUPPORT

7945+
hours
spent on legal
matters
2021/2022

Community Law Waikato -Te Tari Ture ā-Hapori o Waikato is a charitable trust that has been in operation since 1995 and is at the front line of providing access to justice throughout Aotearoa. There are 24 Community Law Centres throughout New Zealand.

Our vision is fair and just communities, with the core function to provide legal services free of charge to those who cannot otherwise access such services in the Waikato region.

Our core services are aimed at benefiting people who are most vulnerable in our community.

People are regularly disadvantaged due to language barriers, poor literacy, fear, poverty, race, gender, and disability.

In addition to our core legal service, we also deliver free law-related education Waikato-wide, and we participate in law reform both at a local level and in collaboration with other Community Law Centres at a National level (to give our people a voice and drive systemic change).

Areas of law

We regularly cover, but are not limited to, the following areas of law:

ACC

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

CONSUMER

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

MINOR CRIMINAL & TRAFFIC

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

DEBT ISSUES

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

DISPUTES TRIBUNAL

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

EMPLOYMENT LAW

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

HUMAN RIGHTS

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

IMMIGRATION

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

INSURANCE

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD DISPUTES (INCLUDING FENCING)

E.g. Fencing notices and disputes, trees, nuisance, damage, noise, and disputes.

TENANCY

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

WORK AND INCOME NZ

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

ACC

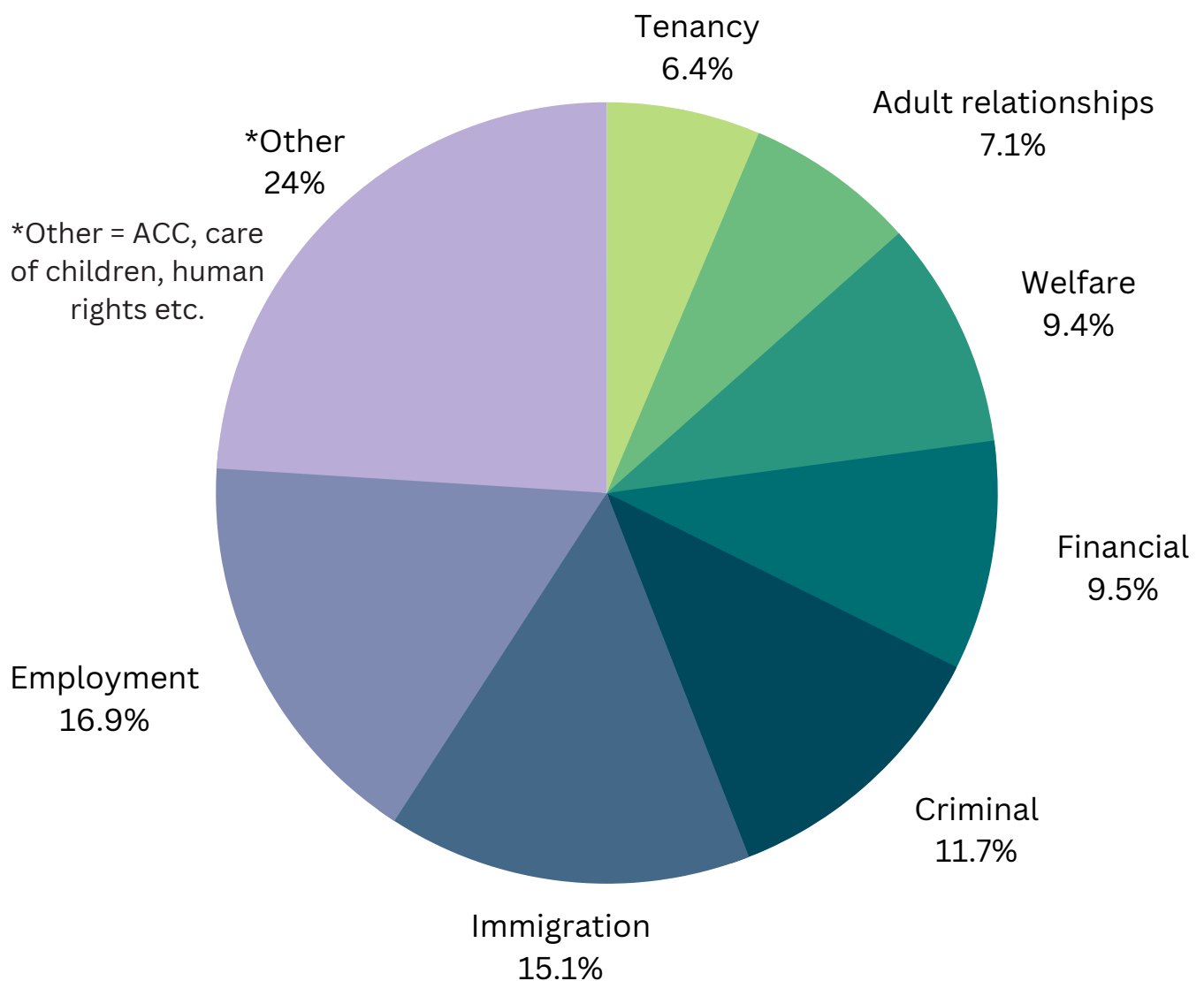
E.g. Entitlements, investigations, disputes, and review hearings.

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.

People in communities across the motu continue to grapple with the significant health, social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. These impacts have been particularly felt by people who already face disadvantage and systemic injustice, as the pandemic has compounded entrenched inequality and discrimination.

Number of legal matters 2021/2022



Our impact 2021/2022

Community Law Waikato -
Te Tari Ture ā-Hāpori o
Waikato provided services
to

36

different ethnic groups
in 2021/2022

ONLY 29% of our
clients were
employed full-time



Our service covers the fourth 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, up to 8,000 individuals benefit from our service every year and around 70% of those who receive our services are unemployed or work part-time. We triage up to 60 phone calls per day. Our reception team provide information, referrals, and schedule appointments. We cover around 200 legal appointments per month.

Our law-related education covers a wide variety of topics delivered in Waikato. It includes our special youth programme currently offered to schools, alternative education providers and other youth groups.

Our impact 2021/2022

15

99%

of all cases were
successfully
resolved

Legal education

3687

people reached
by our
law related
education
sessions

90%

of legal education
participants would
recommend our
sessions

58%

of the people who
accessed our services in
2021/2022 were women

28%

of the people who
accessed our services
were on a benefit

1580

New Clients in
2021/2022

1580

New clients
2021/2022

53%

of the people who
accessed our services in
2021/2022 received
support from MSD

PEOPLE REACHED

3687



Legal Education

1880



Casework

1615



Legal information

High Court win! Afghan Nationals vs Minister of Immigration

Community Law Waikato

In August 2021, Community Law Waikato undertook a judicial review and took the New Zealand Government to court in a landmark case to seek a ruling on behalf of more than 70 Afghans who applied for residence visas before last year's lockdown.

Community Law Waikato lawyers Angela Smith and Ellen Hockey represented a wider group of 70 clients in fear for their lives in Afghanistan arguing to have their New Zealand residence visas promptly determined by Immigration NZ.

As a result, the New Zealand High Court has ruled that Immigration New Zealand (INZ) was wrong to stop processing visa applications because of Covid-19 border restrictions and wrong to not make an exception on humanitarian grounds. This applied to all the Afghan Nationals represented in this case who were waiting to be reunited with family in the Waikato. It also applied to many other applicants who had lodged visas prior to the border restrictions.

The ruling says that the rules in place at the time the applications were made must stand and that applying new ones, such as restrictions on who could come into the country because of Covid-19 border restriction, falls outside the law.

Ms Smith, who is in touch with the applicants' family sponsors in New Zealand, says "our clients are incredibly relieved to hear the Court's decision. Family members here are distraught at the danger their families face in Afghanistan under Taliban rule. Every day they hear tragic stories and worry their families will not survive. It was hard to fathom Immigration could stop processing residency applications and decline for humanitarian reasons even in the face of a humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. This decision has renewed our clients' hopes of a safe reunification in New Zealand."

The Judicial Review would not have been possible without the amazing support of barristers Wendy Aldred and Monique Van Alphen Fyfe of Stout Street Chambers who ran the case. Community Law Waikato was also assisted by pro bono support from Simpson Grierson and Community Law Centres o Aotearoa law reform co-ordinator Megan Williams who has immigration expertise.

Afghan Nationals vs Minister of Immigration cont ...



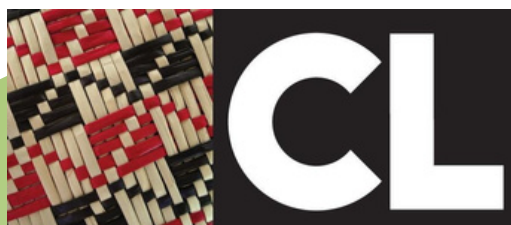
Photo:
Celebrating.
Community Law Waikato lawyers,
Angela Smith and Ellen Hockey with
Wendy Aldred of Stout Street
Chambers and Megan Williams of
CLCA

Community Law Centre Aotearoa

In the press release (Nov, 21) Head of Community Law Centres Aotearoa Sue Moroney says: "We won! INZ have been instructed to consider and determine the visa applications promptly. The next step is for INZ to comply with the judgment and process the visas. Those granted visa [holders] can then get assistance from [the] Government to come to New Zealand."

"While we are disappointed that we have had to fight this injustice in the High Court, we are pleased with the outcome and now expect Immigration NZ to respond with urgency to the plight of those fearing for their lives who have a legitimate pathway to New Zealand," said Community Law Centres O Aotearoa CEO, Sue Moroney.

"Community Law clients were represented in court by Wendy Aldred and Monique Van Alphen Fyfe of Stout Street Chambers. The team was assisted by Community Law Waikato lawyers, Angela Smith and Ellen Hockey and received pro-bono support from other barristers who were keen to help, as well as law firm Simpson Grierson. This was a great combined effort to achieve justice for these vulnerable clients with family in New Zealand."



Justice Francis Cooke

In the judgment released in November 2021, Justice Francis Cooke said that decisions of INZ not to complete the processing and grant of Refugee Family Support Category residency visas because of the “closure” of the border have been unlawful. INZ had wrongly assumed that if they were granted visas, the applicants would not be permitted to enter New Zealand.

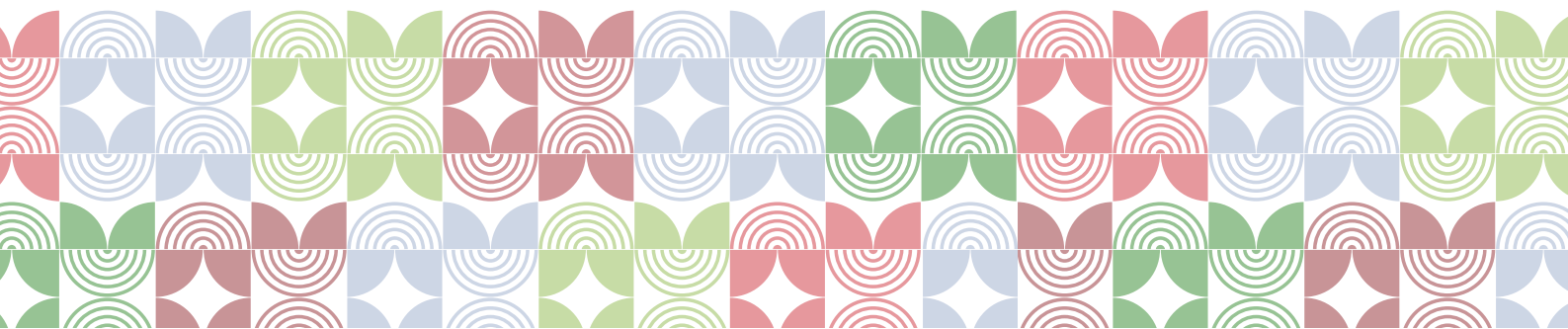
He also ruled that Community Law’s clients were wrongly denied Critical Purpose Visitor Visas because of a misinterpretation of the humanitarian exception contained in the Immigration Instructions for that type of visa.

The Judge directed INZ to progress the applicants’ residence applications without further delay and to assess applications for Critical Purpose Visitors Visas again applying the correct approach to the humanitarian grounds, as determined by the Court. He also said that to the extent the immigration instructions allowed INZ to take into account the later border restrictions, they were inconsistent with the Immigration Act and invalid.

In deciding residence applications, Justice Cooke said INZ was required under immigration legislation to apply the border entry rules that applied at the time the residence applications were made, not at the time that permission to enter was sought. The Judge said that to the extent the immigration instructions allowed INZ to take into account the later border restrictions, they were inconsistent with the Act and invalid. Therefore the COVID-19 restrictions would not apply to the applications for entry.

As well as applying for residence visas, the applicants also applied for “Critical Purpose Visitors Visas” which were a special category of temporary visas created to provide an exception to the COVID-19-related border restrictions. INZ had decided that none of the applicants had established humanitarian reasons for being granted a CPVV.

Justice Cooke said that INZ had wrongly taken the approach that the humanitarian circumstances needed to have arisen in New Zealand, but the exceptions were not limited in this way and “clearly applied to the circumstances raised by the applicants.” Further, INZ had failed to address key aspects of the applicants’ connections with New Zealand: “the fact that the peril is faced at least in part because of the applicants’ families’ assistance to New Zealand forces in Afghanistan, and that they were in the process of being granted residency when the borders were closed.” - Community Law Centres Aotearoa, Press Release, Nov 21.



Emergency Housing Standards Urgent

Community Law Centres have supported clients all over Aotearoa who have been placed into unsafe emergency housing and others who have been treated unfairly by providers. Community Law Centres across the country have reported a noticeable increase in unfair and short-notice evictions leading CLCA to spend two years convincing MSD to create standards that contain rights for emergency housing tenants.

Head of Community Law Centres Aotearoa Sue Moroney says: “Handing over millions of dollars of taxpayer funding to private providers without any requirement for a decent level of service and basic human rights to be adhered to is unacceptable. Families need to be protected when they are at their most vulnerable.”



“The Ministry of Social Development has a duty to ensure its clients are protected by basic rights. It also has a duty towards taxpayers” - Sue Moroney.



Community Law Centre (CLC) Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (AHRP)

Community Law Waikato -Te Tari Ture ā-Hapori o Waikato is working with the Health Promotion Agency since the project began in 2018 to help members of the community object to alcohol licence applications in their area.

We have been supporting the community with:

- How to object to an application
- Education around objections
- Writing objections, and submissions
- What evidence to provide
- What to expect at a hearing
- What makes a successful application

The AHRP aims to empower more deprived communities to better participate in local alcohol licensing procedures introduced under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. This project is funded by Te Hīringa Hauora/Health Promotion Agency. To date, Community law has successfully opposed liquor licences in Waharoa, Te Awamutu, and Hamilton.

The project provides a means for community objectors to have legal representation at the District Licensing Committee and appeal hearings. This is necessary to overcome the 'David and Goliath' situation, where community objectors are willing to object, but cannot afford legal representation. Meanwhile, alcohol licence applicants are often national chains and can afford legal representation, including specialist lawyers.

Our team

Our team is made up of experienced and accomplished staff lawyers, administrators, advocates, case workers, legal assistants, trainees, and volunteers - all of who share a passion for social justice and sacrifice their precious time and energy to support our kaupapa.

We acknowledge the contribution of the team members who resigned during the year; *Billie Dell, Ben Hoffman, Mark Fyers, Sarah Fraser, Caitlin Harrison, Janna Robertson, Jasmine Mulhmann, Rebecca Senar, James Carter, Dayna Dunstan, Johan Niemand, Jessica Gilby-Todd, and Naomi Lee.*

We welcome the new members who have joined our team in the last year; Dana Salmon and Toni Crause.

Our volunteers

Our volunteer team has thousands of hours of collective experience in a wide variety of legal areas, and come to us from small and large law firms. They are sole practitioners, law firm partners, other lawyers, and law students; they have doctorates, master's, honours, and bachelor's degrees. They all hold practising certificates and the legal help they provide is quality assured through Community Law's strong legal supervision standards.

We are incredibly grateful to have so many community-minded and experienced lawyers volunteer to support the movement.

7128

Hours were
donated by our
volunteers in
2021/2022



Our Governance

Our Board of trustees hold a wealth of knowledge and experience that includes business, finance, legal and community expertise.



Dr. Susan Thompson

CHAIRPERSON -

MA (History), BTheol (Theology), PhD (Theology)

Susan joined the Board of Community Law Waikato - Te Tari Ture ā-Hapori o Waikato, in 2013. Born in Christchurch, she trained as a Methodist minister in Auckland, was ordained in 1994 and has lived in Hamilton since 2002. Susan completed doctoral studies at the University of Auckland in 2002 and has a continuing interest in New Zealand history. Susan is an advocate for the acceptance and equality of LGBTQ people in church and society. She is active in the Waikato Interfaith Council and has just started learning Te Reo Maori. She is currently working as Superintendent of the Waikato-Waiariki Methodist Synod.



David McEwan

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON & TREASURER

Dave joined the Board in 1999 and serves as the Board Treasurer and Deputy Chairperson. Dave brings a wealth of experience from his background in the RNZAF and as an accountant in the private sector.



Brian Dobbs

TRUSTEE

Brian has been a Trustee since 2004. He has corporate and leadership experience several industries and specialises in governance, finance, audit and risk analysis. He is Chairman of a number of Boards that govern medium to large companies and trusts, some of which are charitable.



Cheryl Green

TRUSTEE

LLB

Cheryl has been a Trustee since 2013 and graduated from the University of Waikato in 1993 with a Law Degree (LLB) and is currently a Referee of the Disputes Tribunal in Hamilton. She was previously the Director of Clinical Legal Education and Competitions at the University of Waikato.



David Allan
TRUSTEE
LLB

David is a barrister, admitted to the bar in 1995 and has served as Trustee on the Board since 2017. His legal areas of interest include criminal, mental health, intellectual disability, and parole. David has a particular interest in improving the interview method of lawyers across the whole criminal justice system.



Ethan Jerome-Leota
TRUSTEE
LLB

Ethan is a solicitor, admitted to the Bar in 2018 and joined the Board in April 2021. Ethan is one of the Waikato-Tainui representative Trustees. His legal areas of interest include Treaty Settlements, Environmental law and Intellectual Property. Ethan has a particular interest in strengthening the relationship between CLW and Waikato-Tainui. More importantly, he is passionate about access to justice for all and supporting the education seminars facilitated by CLW.

Ethan wants to make a positive impact on future generations.



“Mahia te mahi, hei painga mo te iwi – Do the work for the betterment of the people”, Princess Te Puea Herangi.



Jadene Kana
TRUSTEE
CA

Jaydene is a Chartered Accountant with extensive public and private sector commercial and leadership experience, through her roles based in New Zealand and overseas. who has served in a variety of iwi, not-for-profit, public sector and private sector governance and leadership roles. Born in Hamilton Kirikiriroa, her career has taken her around New Zealand and the world, including eight years with the United Nations in Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, and the United States.

Jaydene is one of the Waikato-Tainui representative Trustees and joined the Board in 2021. Jaydene has a particular interest in strengthening the relationship between CLW and Waikato-Tainui, with a focus on access to justice for those in need, especially Maaori.

Our staff

Our staff lawyers have come from law firms, or the courts, or from government agencies. They now work in Community Law because it's a chance to make a meaningful difference in the lives of real people.

The expertise and professionalism of our lawyers mean that while our services are free, they're of equal or better quality than the legal help you need to pay for.

“To be fully successful in the law, one does not have to be brilliant or exceptionally gifted. The most effective work in the world is done by ordinary people who put forth extraordinary effort. This is true of lawyers. Our strengths are magnified with experience and inspiration .

- President James E. Faust (J. Reuben Clark Law Society)



Staff highlights

Congratulations

Leah Dangen is a welfare advocate at Community Law Waikato and our newest Barrister and Solicitor. Leah was admitted to the bar in September 2022. Congratulations Leah!

(Leah is pictured with her moving counsel, Angela Smith, our Legal Services Manager).



Top LLB Honors

We are proud to employ this superstar, Madison Russell who was awarded the gold medal for the top LLB Honours student from Te Piringa Faculty of Law!

Madison received the award on Wednesday 20 July at the Waikato Bay of Plenty Law Society.

Pictured (L-R) are Jesse Savage, Vice President of the branch council, Madison Russell, and Dr Trevor Daya-Winterbottom, Deputy Dean of Te Piringa



Staff profiles

24

Juanita started her journey with Community Law in 2005 as a volunteer at the Waikato centre.

Soon after completing her LLB/BMS she joined the centre as a solicitor, followed in 2010 by her current role as General Manager.

Juanita was appointed to the Community Law Centres o Aotearoa board (CLCA) in 2021. Juanita is passionate about the law and particularly advocating for those who cannot do it themselves or access legal help.

Juanita Bennett

General
Manager
LLB/BMS

Angela has been working for Community Law Waikato since 2008.

Angela has experience in a variety of legal areas and enjoys the broad range of law on offer at Community Law Waikato, in particular working with refugee clients and refugee reunification applications.

Angela finds the work very rewarding which has kept her here for over a decade.

Angela Smith

Legal Services
Manager
LLB

Justin has worked diligently for Community Law Waikato - Te Tari Ture ā-Hapori o Waikato since 2012.

Alongside Justin's law degree he has completed a Master's degree in Philosophy.

Justin has a particular interest in court work, employment and ACC law. Justin strives to achieve the best outcomes for his clients.

Solicitor
MPhil/LLB (Hons)

Justin Young

Harriet joined Community Law Waikato as a solicitor in 2019.

Harriet started her career as a junior barrister in Auckland where she gained seven years' experience in a wide range of criminal litigation work. She then practiced on her own account for a couple of years in Hamilton.

Harriet studied law and economics at the University of Otago.

Harriet Youn

Solicitor
LLB/BCom

Ellen joined the team at Community Law Waikato in December 2019.

Ellen graduated from the University of Waikato in 2019 and was admitted to the bar in August 2020.

Ellen has experience working in various legal areas, with her interests being in Immigration and Employment Law.

Ellen is passionate about refugee family reunification and has loved working at CLC for the last three years

Ellen Hockey

Solicitor
LLB

Claudia joined the team at Community Law Waikato in September 2021.

Claudia graduated from the University of Auckland where she majored in Politics and was admitted to the bar in late 2020.

Before joining Community Law Claudia worked as a Family Court Registrar. She enjoys any area of law that involves advocating for the rights of individuals.

Claudia Russell

Solicitor
LLB/BA

Jadin joined the team at Community Law Waikato in August 2021.

Jadin graduated from the University of Waikato and was admitted to the bar in 2018. Jadin has worked in commercial and civil litigation for three years and has worked on resolving a range of disputes, including employment and family disputes.

As well as a law degree Jadin holds a degree in Biochemistry.

Jadin Hooper

Solicitor
BSc/LLB (Hons)

Madison joined Community Law Waikato in August 2021.

Madison completed a conjoint degree in Law and Political Science from Waikato University.

Madison has worked primarily in immigrations law since joining the Community Law team.

Madison is passionate about improving access to justice.

Solicitor
BA/LLB(Hons)

Madison Russell

Leah is of Ngā Puhi descent and joined the team at Community Law Waikato in November 2021.

Leah majored in International Relations and Criminology at Wellington's Victoria University. Leah has worked in historical Human Rights abuses for three years as a law clerk and in administration.

Leah has also worked with the Waitangi Tribunal.

Advocate
BA/LLB

Leah Dangen

Dana joined Community Law Waikato in January 2022 as a volunteer case worker. Dana became part of the administration team in July 2022 and is now working in reception.

Dana is studying towards a conjoint degree in Law and Business at the University of Waikato. Dana came to the Waikato from the Bay of Plenty where she grew up.

Graduating in 2024, Dana enjoys family law and wills and estates.

Dana Salmon

Receptionist

Toni joined Community Law Waikato in January 2021 as a volunteer case worker.

Toni moved onto reception, and was promoted to Legal Assistant after graduating a Bachelor of Laws.

Toni was born in South Africa and moved to New Zealand in the late 1990's

Toni Crause

Legal
Assistant

It's not all work



Quality and professionalism are key. We foster personal and professional development through constant up-skilling, including work experience opportunities for students.

One of the social highlights is the annual team building day. We close the office and go out into the world adventuring. Team building day this year involved heading to Mount Maunganui for go-karting and lawn bowls!

Go-karting was exciting and revealed who in our team has the most competitive nature. Energised after the go-karting the team headed to Bowls Mt Maunganui for a game and lunch, and then ended the day with team-building exercises on the beach-front.

We are proud of our diverse and dynamic team. The passion for making positive change in the lives of others is what drives us. We know the strength of a happy and inclusive workforce helps us achieve the best outcomes for our clients and the communities in which we serve.

Financial Support

Special Fund

Community Law Waikato - Te Tari Ture ā-Hapori o 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) and 60% is legislated to fund community legal services.

The public source of funding is unfortunately not enough to sustain community legal services. The government (Justice budget) tops up the funding (which fluctuates depending on where the special fund is sitting).

Philanthropic Funding

In addition to the Special Fund and our contracts various Government Ministries, we are reliant on the generosity of philanthropic funders to meet the shortfall and support our growth and individual projects.

Our Philanthropic funding in 2021/2022 came from the following sources:



Lottery Grants Board



FUNDS FOR YOUR
COMMUNITY



**Trust
Waikato**
TE PUNA O WAIKATO



**Community Organisation
Grants Scheme**

*We wish to acknowledge and thank our auditors – Owen McLeod & Co,
Chartered Accountants & Auditors. www.owenmcleod.co.nz*

Acknowledgements

*He waka eke noa
We are all in this together*

Community Law Waikato - Te Tari Ture ā-Hapori o Waikato, receives financial and other support many pou, without whom we could not provide this essential service. We wish to acknowledge these contributions.

These pou include our own Board of Trustees, law students from the University of Waikato, local legal practitioners who volunteer their time, experts who deliver our education, local iwi, community funders, government agencies, fellow Community Law Centres throughout Aotearoa, community organisations / service providers, and you folk living in our community. This tautoko has come in many shapes and forms including time, experience, expertise, grants and donations, discounts, donated equipment...it all contributes enormously to our mahi.

We genuinely value the whanaungtanga that has been developed through working together to support whānau in our community. There are so many and too many to name individually. Combined it enables us to deliver our mission and contribute to a fair, inclusive, and just society.

Community Law Waikato wishes to acknowledge the contribution of all the local and national organisations who support Community Law Waikato in our mahi. Without financial support to our organisation none of the activities in this report would have been possible.

*Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari te toa takitini
Success is not the work of one but the work of many*

We thank you for your
ongoing support of our
movement



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