



Whaia te matauranga  
Ka ora ai tatou katoa

*Pursue knowledge so we  
can all be well*

#### **FREE LEGAL ADVICE**

##### **Walk in Legal Clinics**

1A Trading Place, Henderson

Mon - Thurs

9.30am - 11am

No appt necessary

Northcote CAB, Ernie Mays

Street, Northcote

Mondays 10am - 1pm

#### **FREE INFO LINE**

0800 529 463

Mon - Thurs

1.30pm - 3.30pm

A lawyer's dog, running around town unleashed, heads for a butcher shop and steals a roast.

The butcher goes to the lawyer's office and asks "If a dog running around steals a roast from my store, could I demand payment from the owner?"

The lawyer replies "of course"

"Then you owe me \$12, it was your dog that stole my roast"

The lawyer writes the butcher a cheque for \$12 and the butcher leaves.

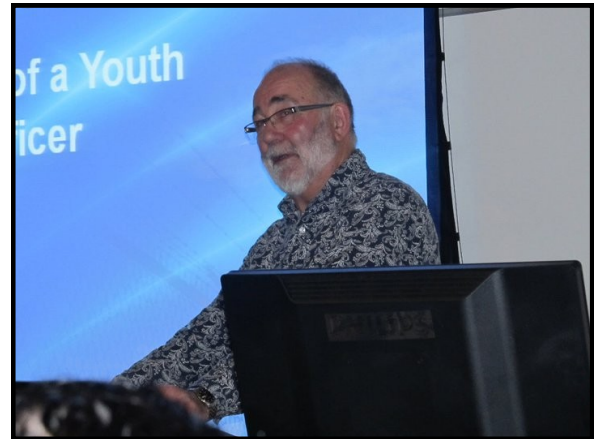
Three days later, the butcher finds an invoice from the lawyer demanding \$150 for a consultation fee!

## **YOUTH JUSTICE FORUM A SUCCESS!**

In July, we held a Youth Justice Forum which explored from every angle the ways in which we can help our troubled youth in New Zealand.

New Zealand has a checkered past in how we deal with youth offenders. It has been argued convincingly by Judge Becroft and Kim Workman that some of the approaches we have taken in the past have only contributed toward making our youth offenders better adult criminals.

**Inspector Gary Davey** gave us a valuable insight into the sea change that has occurred in Waitakere Policing. The days of 'zero-tolerance', lock-em-all-up policing are now gone, having proven ineffective in the long term. **Bobby Newson** reminded us that there are more effective ways of administering justice for our young, reflecting culture and community. **Faye Pouesi** explained the neglect and ill treatment that our young



Kim Workman addresses the Youth Justice Forum

women can go through in the justice system. We need to change our approach to these offenders.

**Garth McVicar** and **Kim Workman** also spoke about how we need to make our justice system victims focused, with Kim adding statistics on how 'zero-tolerance' policing fails our youth. Kim advocated a more personal approach, taking into account the offender's personal characteristics. He also reminded us that youth offenders are indeed young, with a young person's outlook on risk and danger. We should be aware of that.

Finally, **Niwa McAllister** gave a brave and emotional account of his experiences in the youth justice system. He advocated for strong community group response to give our youth the support they need to get their lives on track.

We are now facilitating a working group that can work toward real solutions. We want to make a difference in the lives of the young people in our community.

**For the full report and how you can help, please visit [www.waitakerelaw.org.nz](http://www.waitakerelaw.org.nz)**

## **UPCOMING IMPORTANT EVENT**

The WCLS, ADL and Youthlaw present: **'MMP? What Are You Voting For?'**

Taitamariki Hall, Takapuna

Thurs 13 October 4-6pm

Unitec Henderson Room 510-B007

Thurs 20 October 4-6pm

with **Stephen Winter** (Auckland University), **Phil Twyford MP** (Labour), **Andrew Williams** (NZ First), **David Clendon MP** (Green Party), **Sue Bradford** (Mana), **David Seymour** (ACT)

To register: [shane@waitakerelaw.org.nz](mailto:shane@waitakerelaw.org.nz)  
Get in fast, places are limited.

# GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST!

Can you believe that in this day and age in New Zealand we are still allowing people to get away with locking their fellow citizens into oppressive credit contracts for expensive clothing from a truck?

We are still hearing reports, particularly from the Ranui/Swanson area, that clothing trucks have still been preying on the vulnerable.

Do you want to know how to run one of these businesses? It's easy!

1. Buy some clothing and goods at rock-bottom prices from your local retailer.
2. Hire a big truck and drive it around poor neighbourhoods. Mark up the goods over 100% of their value.
3. Target beneficiaries, the mentally ill and people with bad credit, especially around Christmas.
4. Don't give people proper disclosure.
5. Lock them into a credit contract with

really high interest.

I say again, can you believe this?

Because it's all happening. If you don't believe me, check out the special report commissioned by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs back in 2008. It is time to finally regulate this industry, to avoid crippling and unfair debt for our citizens.

**Shane Henderson, Staff**

In an ideal world, there would be a 'law bible' stating every legal solution to every possible legal issue there can be.

This is far from the case in the real world. There is nothing more frustrating than seeking a solution to a legal problem only to find that winning a particular case depends on trivial matters such as a procedural technicality, judges' feelings or how good their lawyer is at arguing a case.

Take the recent financial assistance package regarding the Weathertight Homes Tribunal in the Department of Building and Housing. In this area, homeowners are welcomed with open arms to forego their right to sue for compensation, and instead receive a contribution of 25% from the Government and another 25% from the local authority toward their leaky homes. With the uncertainty and volatility of the outcome in the Courtroom, it will not be surprising if many homeowners 'voluntarily' choose to forego their legal rights to sue. Such is the way of life. Pursuing a case in the Courtroom can sometimes be like a game of poker, and there is something fallacious about it all. The law should be about certainty, not ambiguity.

**Pam Quah, Law Student**

## HAVE YOUR SAY

We are putting together a response to the Green Paper on Child Welfare in NZ and we want your views.

How would you solve the problem of child abuse in this country?

Send to [shane@waitakerelaw.org.nz](mailto:shane@waitakerelaw.org.nz)

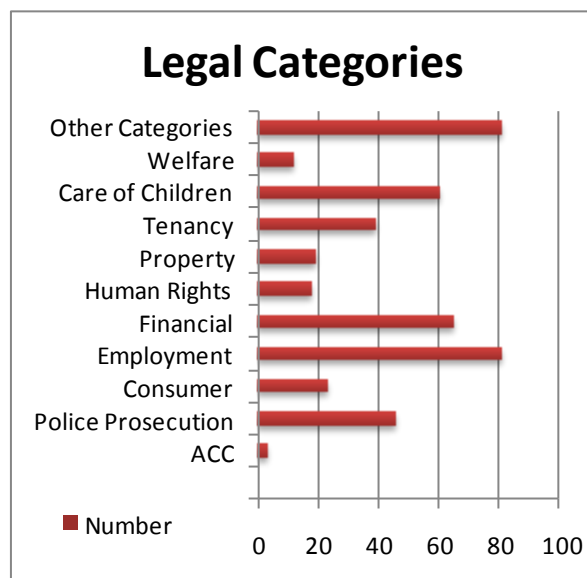
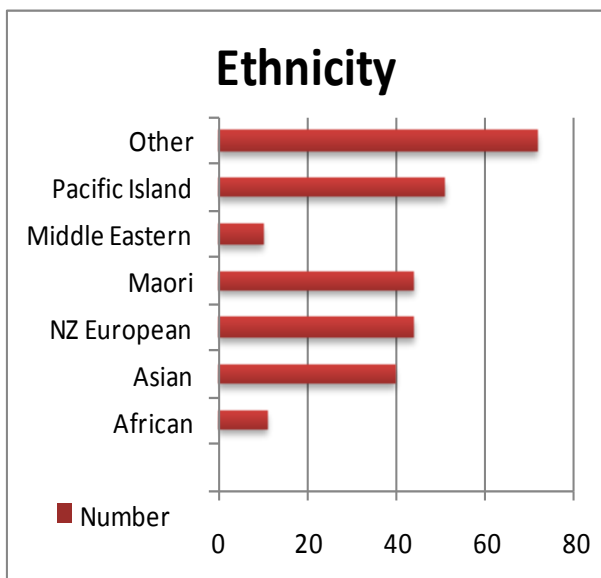
## WHO ARE WE SEEING THROUGH CLINIC?

Ethnic demographics have been varied, with almost equal numbers of Maori, Pakeha and Pacific Island peoples accessing our service. We also have had a large number of clients of Asian origin. This reflects the diversity of our area.

Individuals' circumstances saw a change in the demographics of individuals

accessing the service, as a range of people experienced redundancies and employment issues. This is a reflection of the high unemployment rates we are seeing across New Zealand. Financial issues are also troublingly high.

The dominant gender continues to be women who access our service.



# LAW REFORM IN YOUR COMMUNITY

## Housing New Zealand Policy Changes

Minister of Housing Phil Heatley has announced a number of changes to the Housing NZ policy.

There are two major changes. Firstly, renewable tenancies will be introduced. Tenancies will be reviewed every three years, or on changes of circumstance. Secondly, the C and D waiting lists will no longer be eligible for a state house. They will instead be moved into an options and advice service to facilitate getting into a private or community rental property.

The jury is out on the extent of the damage to the people on the list. At the time of writing, we have not been given sufficient amount of information to assess the changes. However, it must be said that we have a desperate housing situation in Auckland, and we are as yet unconvinced that these changes will do anything to help. The fact is, demand for state housing is far outstripping supply. The government have assured us that the elderly and ill will not be affected, so that's a start isn't it?

## Paula Bennett's Green Paper

The Ministry of Social Development have commissioned a paper to look at child abuse in NZ. It highlights a serious issue in NZ, one that has been long overlooked. We have a shockingly bad record when it comes to caring for our tamariki, and it hoped that the green paper is the beginning of a consultation process that will eventually combat these statistics.

The WCLS would urge you to have your say in this process, the paper can be found at [www.childrensactionplan.govt.nz](http://www.childrensactionplan.govt.nz)

## The Legal Aid Scheme

Some far-reaching changes are being made to the legal aid scheme in New Zealand. There are many issues around this area, which has a serious impact on every New Zealander being able to access justice.

Access to justice is a fundamental right in this country, and we fear that changes to the legal aid scheme will impact this right. The changes being proposed in

this particular bill is reintroducing a user charge (exempting certain cases eg domestic violence), and restricting access to legal aid for people above the means threshold. We will certainly be submitting on this bill on behalf of our service and the public and organizations that we consult. We would love to hear your views, contact [shane@waitakerelaw.org.nz](mailto:shane@waitakerelaw.org.nz) for more details and how you can help.

## Other Law Reform Opportunities

Go to our website at <http://www.waitakerelaw.org.nz/law-reform>

Finally, keep an eye out for public forums and meetings in the lead up to the election, it is a great opportunity to get out and think about what you're voting for. Most importantly, election day is the 26th of November, make sure you get out and vote!



Shane Henderson  
Law Reform and Education

## DID YOU KNOW?

There have been changes to the acceptable blood alcohol levels when driving in NZ. The blood alcohol level for under 20's is now zero. This is an example of increasingly harsh measures to combat drink driving.

The penalty for driving under the influence can vary. It usually involves a large fine and can result in imprisonment. It almost always involves a 6 month disqualification from driving.

It is important to be aware of these penalties as BBQ season gets closer. Remember Waitemata, drive safe!

## OUR PEOPLE

It is our great pleasure to introduce our newest lawyer on staff, Amelia Sirimanne. Amelia has been with us now since January and she has done some truly fantastic work. She is a graduate of Auckland University, having studied law and arts. Her interests include a strong connection to Japan, having lived and worked there for two years. She is very excited to be with the WCLS, making a difference in the community.



Amelia Sirimanne

Sigrid Shayer is currently on a leave of absence from the WCLS. She is a highly valued member of our staff who has worked on legal education and tenancy issues. She is an amazing community advocate and we look forward to her return in the near future!



Sigrid Shayer

# LEGAL EDUCATION AND LAW REFORM WORKSHOPS

## LEGAL EDUCATION IN YOUR AREA

### WAITAKERE

#### **Ranui Community Centre**

'Know Your Rights With The Police' - Sat 17th of Sep at 10am

'Dealing With WINZ' - Sat 15th of Oct at 10am

#### **McLaren Intermediate School**

'Child Abuse: What Do We Do?' - Wed 5th of Oct at 7pm

#### **Te Atatu Peninsula Community House**

'Discrimination & Harassment' - Fri 21st of Oct at 10am

#### **AceSpace Henderson**

'Dealing With WINZ' - Tue 25th of Oct at 10am

#### **Massey Community House**

'Tenancy Rights and Freedoms' - Fri 28 of Oct at 12pm

'Know Your Rights at Work' - Fri 4th of Nov at 12pm

'Access to Justice: Legal Aid' - Fri 11th of Nov at 12pm

#### **Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau**

'Know Your Rights at Work' - Thu 17th of Nov at 10am

### NORTH SHORE

#### **Onepoto Awhina in Northcote**

'Benefit Reforms' - Thu 1st of Sep at 10am

#### **Birkenhead Library**

'Consumer Rights' - Wed 7th of Sep at 10am

#### **Browns Bay Community Hall**

'Children & their Rights in the Law' - Thu 3rd of Nov at 10am

'Making Your Own Will' - Thu 1st of Dec at 6pm

#### **Birkdale Intermediate School**

'The Green Paper on Children' - Sat 19th of Nov at 10am

#### **Orewa Citizens Advice Bureau**

'Tenancy Rights and Freedoms' - Fri 25th of Nov at 11am



Plus more to be announced. We have a monthly newsletter with up to date information on all important events we get involved with. To book yourself in for any of these seminars or sign up for our education newsletter, contact: [shane@waitakerelaw.org.nz](mailto:shane@waitakerelaw.org.nz)

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Do you want to know what's going on in the Waitakere community? It's easy! Visit [www.communitywaitakere.org.nz](http://www.communitywaitakere.org.nz)

Donations of non-perishable food-stuffs are more than welcome. If you want to donate, there are some fantastic groups that help out our needy citizens:

**Ranui Baptist Church** 833 7815

**North Shore Community Ministries**  
441 2554

**Helensville/Parakai** 420 7725

**Birkdale/Beachhaven** 483 6989

## WHAT DO WE DO?

What We Offer:

### WALK IN LEGAL CLINICS

Monday to Thursday 9.30am-11am

1a Trading Place, Henderson

No appointment needed

Monday 10am-1pm

1st Floor, Norman King Building

opposite Northcote Library

Ernie Mays Street, Northcote

### FREE PHONE

0800 LAW INFO (0800 529 463)

Monday to Thursday 1.30pm-3.30pm

### LEGAL EDUCATION

We can tailor legal education classes to the needs of your organisation.

### COMMUNITY MEDIATION

A positive way to resolve conflicts. Ask our lawyers if this process will work for you.

### WE DON'T

Act for landlords or employers, or deal with business law, taxation law or handling sale and purchase agreements.

We can refer you to someone who can help.

Come and see us!

Phone: (09) 835 2130

Fax: (09) 835 2133

[www.waitakerelaw.org.nz](http://www.waitakerelaw.org.nz)

[info@waitakerelaw.org.nz](mailto:info@waitakerelaw.org.nz)