



He aha te mea nui o te ao?
Maku e kii atu,
he tangata, he tangata, he
tangata

*What is the most precious
thing in this world? I tell
you this, it is people, it is
people, it is people*

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

Help with language

Waitākere Community Law Service now has access to Language Line through the Office of Ethnic Affairs. This enables second language speakers to access our legal services via the phone with interpreters who speak 40 different languages.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

If you are a tenant and your house burns down, you may be liable for the cost of the house, even if the fire was not your fault, and your landlord has insurance. If you get personal contents insurance, this can cover this cost.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Waitākere Community Law Service (WCLS) is a community law centre as defined by the Legal Services Act 2000. WCLS is one of 27 community law centres in New Zealand. We were established in 2005 to enhance the lives of people most in need and whose lives are impacted on by unresolved legal issues.

We focus our legal services towards promoting community well-being and increasing community capacity to address legal and other social problems. Our target groups are communities of interest who have been identified as having “unmet legal needs”. They are:

- People on very low incomes
- People on income support
- Maori and Pacific Peoples
- People under 25
- People with disabilities
- Mental health clients

- Refugees and migrants
- Single parents
- People over 65

We offer free legal and tenancy advice for people on low incomes for clients who reside in the Waitākere, Rodney or North Shore areas.

We operate 4 morning legal walk-in clinics at our Henderson office, 9.30am - 11am (Mon to Thurs) plus a weekly Monday clinic at

Northcote CAB, 10am - 1pm.

We operate a separate tenancy information and advocacy clinic every Wednesday 1.30pm - 3.30pm.

We also operate an 0800 law info line, Monday - Thursday between 1:30pm - 3:30pm, on 0800 529 463.

See over for details of all our services.



From l to r: Cziانا Reuben, lawyer; Anita Allan, lawyer; Paula Bold-Wilson, manager; Rebecca Vertongen, lawyer; Sigrid Shayer, tenancy advocacy service coordinator; Darryn Aitchison, senior lawyer.

REVIEW OF THE LEGAL AID SYSTEM

The government report produced following the recent Ministry of Justice’s review of the legal aid system, indicates there will be some significant changes for Community Law Centres (CLCs). Recommendations included:

- Greater standardisation of CLC services nationally
- Performance indicators to compare CLCs.
- The disestablishment of the Legal Services Agency and the bringing of all legal aid services and the work of CLCs within the Ministry of Justice.

There have been no firm policy decisions released to date by government. However there is likely to be:

- A greater emphasis on CLCs aligning themselves with other social sector stakeholders.
- A seeking of opportunities to build capacity to meet all needs around social exclusion - including legal needs being met by CLCs.

Our key risk is a de-politicising of our mandate.

Darryn Aitchison, Senior Lawyer

GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST!

YIPEE I'VE WON!!!! What an amazing feeling for both client and lawyer alike when a favourable judgment is awarded by the Court. Only for most this elation is short lived. It is progressively becoming a bitter sweet pill and swallowing it is at choking point!

Oh yes, the Court system and the leaflets associated with enforcement of Court Orders, e.g. Dispute Tribunal Orders and Employment Decisions explain the process of enforcement. Alas, they omit to disclose that the battle has only begun. The reality is that the law in its present form assists 'the losers' to 'win'.

Companies hide behind a corporate veil and there is no easy way to make them accountable. Whether to attend an Order for Examination to have their finances scrutinized by the Court is left to the Company Directors. They cannot be served with a Warrant for Arrest to force them to attend. The last resort for the applicant is to try to liquidate the company; of course this is beyond most people's capabilities, not least considering the cost of such an application. There is no

guarantee of success and even more infuriating, for many companies this is what they want, to have a failing company wound up and all debts wiped. Unsurprisingly, similar companies soon reappear on the Companies Register with different names but with the same lack of integrity!

Individuals also avoid their responsibilities under Orders by disappearing thereby leaving the applicant with no recourse. The enforcement process is, however, slightly better in that if the party does not abscond then the applicant begins a long arduous journey to recoup their award and provided their stamina holds out they may end up with their 'award' by installments. Any default by the payer tests the mental resolve of the applicant as to whether they can face another uphill skirmish to once again pursue enforcement proceedings.

The Value of a Judgment is in the ability to enforce it!!!! We can see that - we now need to bring this to the attention of the powers that be and precipitate legislative change!

Cziana Reuben, Lawyer

OUR SERVICES

Legal Information, advice and assistance. - this includes:

- Writing letters and phoning
- Drafting and witnessing official documents
- Negotiation and mediation

Community Mediation project where clients are offered free mediation services by a LEADR accredited mediator to resolve legal disputes.

Tenancy Information and Advocacy Service provides help with Tenancy Tribunal applications, advocacy on behalf of tenants, and tenancy law information and advice.

Legal Education

Legal education can be delivered to organisations and the public.

OUR STAFF

WCLS employs: 4 Lawyers (1f/t and 3 p/t), a Manager, p/t Projects Officer, an Office Coordinator, p/t Tenancy Advocacy Service Co-ordinator & a p/t Legal Education Coordinator.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Our statistics highlight the need for us to continue to investigate ways in which we can meet the unmet legal needs of young people and older adults in our community. Working collaboratively with agencies and community groups will be essential to meet this need.

Individuals' circumstances saw a change in the demographics of individuals accessing the service. as a range of people

experienced redundancies and employment issues.

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

Another significant factor highlighted in our statistics is the dramatic change in the number of Maori and Pacific peoples who have sought legal advice from the service.

BEWARE - PAYMENT FOR TENANCY TRIBUNAL APPLICATIONS CHANGED

The Department of Building and Housing at 295 Lincoln Road, Henderson, NO LONGER takes money or EFTPOS for applications to the Tenancy Tribunal. You will need to pay your \$20 fee at any Westpac before delivering or posting your application.

WHO WE SEE

