

29 April 2021

Tēnā koutou

Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment (AODT) Courts in Auckland and Waitākere

An opportunity is available for defence lawyers who are passionate about therapeutic approaches to justice and want to be part of the criminal justice system transformation in Aotearoa.

About the AODT Courts

Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua (the house that uplifts the spirit) is the name gifted to the Auckland and Waitākere AODT Courts.

The AODT Court aims to break the cycle of offending by treating the causes of that offending. It provides an alternative to imprisonment for people whose offending is driven by alcohol and/or drug substance use disorders.

The goals of the AODT Court are to:

- reduce reoffending
- reduce rates of imprisonment
- reduce alcohol and other drug consumption and dependency
- positively impact health and wellbeing
- be cost-effective.

More information can be found online: districtcourts.govt.nz/criminal-court/criminal-jurisdiction/specialist-criminal-courts/alcohol-and-other-drug-treatment-court.

New legal aid lawyers are needed

Following recent consultation, Auckland and Waitākere District Courts will operate a new legal services model from 1 July 2021.

Under this model, lawyers working in the AODT Courts must have at least criminal PAL 1 and duty lawyer approval. Lawyers will be rostered for 12-18 months and will work in teams of four (one team leader and three defence lawyers).

Each lawyer will represent approx. 15 clients and will be required to attend court for a full day each week. The day starts at 8.30am with a pre-court meeting and finishes when all scheduled participants have appeared before the judge.

Expressions of interest

The Ministry is asking for expressions of interest from anyone who meets the following criteria:

- has duty lawyer approval, and a current criminal PAL 1 approval or above
- supports the therapeutic goals of AODT Courts
- champions the increasing use of te reo and tikanga Māori
- understands and agrees to the workload and time commitment involved.

To submit your expression of interest, please read the attached information and send your completed application form to legalaidprovider@justice.govt.nz by **5:00pm, Friday 14 May 2021**.

It is anticipated that the new rostered approach will begin on 1 July 2021, and transition onto that roster will be in stages. Please therefore advise your availability over the next 12 months.

Next steps

Once expressions of interest are received, rosters will be compiled and communicated by the **31 May 2021**.

More information

If you have any questions or want more information about the content of this letter, please contact legalaidprovider@justice.govt.nz.

If you are not currently approved as a legal aid provider, you can begin the application process here: justice.govt.nz/about/lawyers-and-service-providers/legal-aid-lawyers/become-a-legal-aid-lawyer.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Louise Ainsley
Manager Legal Aid Providers

Attachments

- application form
- detailed role criteria

Application to work in Auckland or Waitākere AODT Court

Contact details

Name on practising certificate	
Legal aid provider number	

Preferred role

Defence lawyer Auckland	
Defence lawyer Waitākere	

Declaration

I declare:

- I have read and understood the expectations and requirements of the role
- I accept the Secretary may request further information from, and make any relevant enquiries of, third parties for the purpose of considering this application
- I must disclose to the Ministry any information that might affect my continuing ability to meet the eligibility criteria set out in the Legal Services (Quality Assurance) Regulations 2011
- I acknowledge and agree to the terms and conditions of my current Legal Aid Provider contract as prescribed by the Secretary (copies are available online: <https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/documents/publications/contract.pdf>).

Signature _____

Date dd / mm / yyyy

Role expectations for lawyers in the Auckland and Waitākere AODT Courts

Functions

- attend AODT Court as rostered (we recommend that you are located in the Auckland / Waitakere District Court catchment)
- attend additional AODT Court events and training as required by the judge
- reliably meet AODT Court deadlines for submitting information
- work effectively and collaboratively as a member of the AODT Court legal services team
- participate in any transition processes for file handover
- professionally and appropriately represent the interests and wishes of their client
- ensure their client's legal rights are protected
- advise clients of their legal rights and options in relation to treatment and sentencing
- actively represent their client in the AODT Court and make applications on their behalf
- monitor the client's progress between appearances
- contact the client as required and obtain clear informed instructions
- support the client's programme participation
- oversee provision of treatment or support services
- understand addiction issues
- meaningfully advise and support clients through treatment and graduation
- maintain a good working relationship with other AODT Court lawyers
- remain up to date with the AODT Court training
- attend any judge led AODT Court training days
- take direction from the AODT Court legal services team leader
- champion te reo Māori and tikanga
- uphold the kaupapa of the AODT Court

Experience

- current criminal PAL 1 approval or above
- current duty lawyer approval

Core skills

- clear and appropriate communication skills (oral and written)
- effective organisational and time management skills
- knowledge or experience of therapeutic approaches to justice

The following additional skills are recommended:

- previous work in another specialist court
- collaborating with court stakeholders and client whānau
- previous work with defendants who are dependent on alcohol or other drugs
- life or work experience with alcohol or other drug dependency and treatment
- ability to use and support use of te reo Māori
- knowledge of tikanga or previous work in te ao Māori