



Bulletin at a glance

- **Review of remuneration rates for court-appointed counsel**
- **Legal aid grants for paternity and PPPR Act applications**
- **Updating your areas of practice**
- **Oranga Tamariki escalation list**
- **Voice of child specialists – Auckland, Manawatu and Whanganui**

Review of remuneration rates for court-appointed counsel

The FLS executive has been working hard on this issue. On Friday, [a letter](#) was sent to Minister of Justice, Andrew Little asking for his urgent consideration to increase the remuneration rate of all court-appointed counsel to a minimum of \$190 plus GST as a standard rate and \$220 plus GST for urgent and/or complex cases. We have also asked that the rates are linked to either increases in the crown solicitor rates for criminal prosecutions or the Consumer Price Index so that reviews and adjustments are undertaken at regular intervals, for example, every three years. We will keep members updated on a response once that has been received.

Legal aid grants for paternity and PPPR Act applications

Members have raised concerns regarding the difficulties in obtaining legal aid in PPPR Act applications for appointment of a welfare guardian and property manager on the grounds that the matters are not complex or there is no dispute and also in paternity matters, particularly DNA testing on the grounds that there is no dispute therefore legal aid is not justified for those who would otherwise be eligible for legal aid. We have discussed both issues with Legal Aid Services in a meeting held late last year and have now formally written to Legal Aid Services setting out the nature of those issues and asking that consideration be given to amending the LAS policy and criteria for both these

matters. Click [here](#) for the letter on paternity and [here](#) for the letter in respect of PPPR Act applications. Thank you to all the members who have raised these issues with us and provided detail of those matters. Again, we will keep members updated on a response once that has been received.

Updating your areas of practice

We want to ensure that the areas of practice for all FLS members on the FLS website are as up to date as possible. There are two directories. The directory on the public part of the website is used by members of the public to locate a family lawyer to assist them. The directory on the members' areas of the website, is available for members only and includes not only areas of practice but also other roles, for example, court-appointed counsel roles and whether or not a member can act as an instructing solicitor. We ask that you take two minutes to complete [this short survey](#) so that our admin team can update your database record.

Oranga Tamariki escalation list

Just a reminder to members that if issues in relation to Oranga Tamariki need to be escalated, this can occur through the legal managers:

Area

Northland
Auckland
Bay of Plenty/Waikato/Taranaki
East Coast/HB/Manawatu-Whanganui
Wellington/Upper South Island
Central/Lower South Island
National office
Chief Legal Officer

Legal Manager

Louise.Murdoch@ot.govt.nz
Anthony.dickson@ot.govt.nz
Tasi.malu@ot.govt.nz
Monique.Ciochetto@ot.govt.nz
Sonya.Stevens@ot.govt.nz
Philip.Royal@ot.govt.nz
Lucy.Pritchard@ot.govt.nz
Erin.judge@ot.govt.nz

Voice of child specialists – Auckland, Manawatu and Whanganui

In August last year, FairWay invited expressions of interest from family lawyers with lawyer for child accreditation to provide Voice of Child Specialist (VOCS) services in FDR mediations. Fairway are pleased with the expressions of interest received from family lawyers. There is a still a need to appoint more VOCS particularly in Auckland, Manawatu and Whanganui. The rate of remuneration is \$150.00 per hour (plus GST) and it is

anticipated that most appointments will be between 3 to 5 hours. If you are approved as a VOCS FairWay will provide a free webinar on working as a VOCS with families and FDR mediators, our Voice of Child policy and what is expected of you. Click [here](#) if you wish to register an expression of interest to provide this service in Auckland, Manawatu or Whanganui. Once an expression of interest is received, FairWay will contact you to discuss the role. If you have any questions, please contact Keri Morris on 04 918 4917 or at keri.morris@fairwayresolution.com.

Kirsty Swadling

FLS Chair