

11 July 2023

Tēnā koutou

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

An opportunity is available for defence lawyers who wish to be considered for the AODT Court roster.

About the AODT Courts - Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua

The AODT Court is a therapeutic, solution-focused court that 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 and substance use disorders.

More information can be found online at justice.govt.nz/courts/criminal/specialist-courts/aodt-court-resources.

The AODT Roster

The Legal Services team consists of one team leader and four defence lawyers in each site. Lawyers working in the AODT Courts must have at least criminal PAL 1 Experience level 2 approval and duty lawyer approval.

Each lawyer will represent approximately 12 to 15 clients, and are expected to attend court for a full day every week. The day starts 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 current criminal PAL 1 Experience 2 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 application, please provide a statement outlining:

- what, if any, therapeutic experience you have (including outside the criminal justice system)
- any previous engagement with AODT Courts or other specialist courts
- how you champion te reo, tikanga Māori and your whakapapa
- your availability.

Please read the attached information and send your completed application form and statement to legalaidprovider@justice.govt.nz by **5pm, 18th July 2023**.

Next steps

An appointment panel will consider the expressions of interest received and the statements provided, as well as any relevant Ministry held information.

In the event that we receive overwhelming interest, applicants will be shortlisted to an interview stage. The interview panel may include a representative from the Ministry of Justice, a senior lawyer from the local criminal bar, the New Zealand Law Society and a representative from the community such as iwi kaumatua.

More information

Please note that successful applicants will be granted a legal aid approval specific to their AODT Court work (at all PAL levels). Expressions of interest will be treated as an application for the AODT Court approval.

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

Kamini McCarthy
Manager Legal Aid Grants

Attachments

- Application form
- Expectations for lawyers in the AODT Court

Application to join the TWWW/AODT Court legal services team

Contact details

Name on practising certificate	
Legal aid provider number	

Preferred location (please tick) (delete / add as required)

AODT Court Auckland	
AODT Court Waitākere	
AODT Court Hamilton	

Agreement

initial

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I will proactively support the therapeutic goals of the AODT Court• I will champion in a practical manner the use of te reo and tikanga Māori• I agree to commit to the expectations of the role• If assigned, I will read the AODT Court information resources and understand the court protocols prior to attendance• I have attached my personal statement	
--	--

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:
<https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/documents/publications/contract.pdf>.

Signature _____

Date dd / mm / yyyy

Role expectations for lawyers in Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua AODT Courts

Professional Experience and conduct

- Hold current PAL 1 Experience 2 and Duty Lawyer approvals to provide legal aid services
- Show the ability to professionally, and appropriately, represent and advocate the interests of the AODTC participants. This includes advising participants of their legal rights and options in relation to treatment and sentencing, and any other arising relevant legal issues within the specific context of the AODT Courts
- Provide notice of any current or previous formal complaints with the Ministry of Justice and/or NZLS.

Experience in therapeutic and/or non-adversarial courts

- Show previous experience, or demonstrate an appropriate understanding of the principles of therapeutic justice in Aotearoa New Zealand, notably in the specialised context of the AODTC
- It is preferable to also be able to demonstrate previous experience as a Youth Advocate, Lay Advocate or similar advocacy role in Court.

Commitments to the Court

- Place attendance at AODT Court as a first priority, recognising the full day time commitment to the court and attending as rostered
- Commit to completing the AODT Court induction programme if successful, as well as training days and other educational opportunities offered by the AODT Court, recognising the importance of keeping reasonably abreast of research applicable to the work of the court
- Perform the roles and responsibilities of counsel in the AODT Court, as set out in the AODT Operational Policy.

Cultural & Community Competency

- Demonstrate a commitment to champion te reo Māori and tikanga in a practical manner and uphold the kaupapa of the AODT Court
- Commit to upskilling personal competency in te reo Māori and tikanga (unless fluent)
- Provide examples of previous work or experience in te ao Māori
- Provide evidence of knowledge and experience of local cultural organisations.