

## Special June 2016

*Legal Aid News* is your official regular communication from Legal Aid Services on all matters related to legal aid. *Legal Aid News* is generally published in the last week of every month.

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#### Views sought on proposed changes to legal aid provider contract

The Ministry of Justice is consulting on [Contract for Services and to Practice Standards for legal aid providers](#).

Legal Aid Services General Manager Jacquelyn Shannon says with the current contracts due to expire on 30 November 2016 we are proposing a number of minor and technical changes to the provider contract and the standards.

“We particularly want to improve and streamline the contract to help providers better understand their rights and obligations,” Jacquelyn says.

“The proposed changes help clarify the different functions of the Legal Services Commissioner and the Secretary for Justice.

“They also include cross-references to provisions of the Legal Services Act 2011 and other relevant documents, and some new minor obligations for providers that reflect good professional practice.”

The Ministry is seeking feedback from the legal profession by 25 July 2016.

“We plan to publish a consultation summary report by September 2016 and expect to be able to provide a new contract to all active legal aid providers in mid-October,” says Jacquelyn. “That way the new contracts can be in place by 1 December 2016.”

The consultation document is available on the [Ministry of Justice website](#).

#### Queries?

If you have queries about any article in this newsletter, please contact [legalaidnews@justice.govt.nz](mailto:legalaidnews@justice.govt.nz).