

## August 2015

*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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### High Quality Legal Aid Services - Good Practice Themes from Audits

The report *High Quality Legal Aid Services* presents overall results from audits of legal aid lawyers undertaken between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015. The report is available for download on the [Ministry of Justice website](#).

Our report focuses on good practice themes identified in the 2014-15 audit reports with 'excellent' or 'very good' ratings. We chose to focus on the best results because we want to provide positive feedback to the legal profession that acknowledges and reinforces evidence-based good practice in the provision of legal aid services.

The six good practice themes are:

1. Best possible outcomes for clients and other justice system users
2. Meeting needs of clients and others
3. Quality legal advice and representation that accurately identifies issues
4. Clear and appropriate communication suited to the client
5. Value for money is proportionate and demonstrated
6. Sound office systems and record-keeping practices that support the lawyer's business

We have also published a [summary of the report](#).

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### **Form 1a Application for criminal legal aid – Police Prosecutions – Questions missing**

We have recently discovered a fault with some copies of the form 1a application for criminal legal aid – police prosecutions version 2/15.

A number of printed copies are missing the section on *Wages & Salary* – questions 23 to 26 – as a result of faulty collation at our printers. (An outdated page was used in part of the collation.) We have been unable to ascertain the number of forms which contain this fault, or to whom the forms were sent.

This fault exists only in some copies of the coloured form – the new black and white form is correct. Please take care when using the coloured form and check that the form you are using contains the missing questions.

If you locate any copies of the form with these questions missing, please destroy them. The correct version is available on our website or hardcopies can be ordered and delivered free of charge.

We apologise for any confusion arising from this error.

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### **Family Legal Advice Service (FLAS) Availability**

This is a reminder for Family Legal Advice Service (FLAS) providers that you are expected to be “reasonably available to provide this service” (FLAS Operational Policy p9).

If as a FLAS provider you are unavailable to assist clients for a period of 15 or more days, you must contact [legalaidprovider@justice.govt.nz](mailto:legalaidprovider@justice.govt.nz) in order to have your listing removed from the website for the duration of your unavailability. You will re-appear on the website once this period of unavailability is over.

For further information please consult the [Family Legal Advice Service Operational Policy](#).

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### **Have Your Say on Family Violence Law**

The Ministry of Justice is reviewing family violence law, including the Domestic Violence Act 1995, and links with other Acts, such as the Bail Act 2000, Crimes Act 1961, Sentencing Act 2002 and the Care of Children Act 2004.

The [consultation](#) is open until Friday, September 18. The link takes you to the consultation, which includes a video from Justice Minister Amy Adams, information about family violence, and the discussion document both in full and in summary.

Submissions are welcome on any aspect of family violence law.

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### **Judgement from the Supreme Court – T A Marteley**

A judgement from the Supreme Court on the civil appeal from T A Marteley was handed down on 21 August 2015. The appeal was unanimously upheld.

We are currently considering the implications of this judgement for legal aid. We will provide guidance to legal aid providers once this consideration is completed.

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## Queries?

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

New Zealand Government