

# Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua ki Kirikiriroa – Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment (AODT) Court – Hamilton

**Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua ki Kirikiriroa, the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment (AODT) Court based at Hamilton District Court, provides a treatment pathway for offenders whose criminal behaviour is driven by their alcohol and other drug substance use disorder.**

## Background

The AODT Court is overseen by the judiciary and brings together iwi, government agencies, health service providers and the local community to help Court participants whose offending is driven by alcohol and other drug substance use disorders.

Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua was first established in Auckland and Waitākere as a pilot in 2012. In December 2019, the then Minister of Justice announced his intention to make the two pilot courts permanent and establish a third court in Waikato. In 2021, the Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua ki Kirikiriroa was established at the Hamilton District Court.

The AODT Court is designed to be consistent with international best practice, and to supervise offenders whose offending is driven by AOD issues. The Court provides judicial oversight of participants' engagement in treatment programmes and rehabilitation support services.

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.

## Operation

The AODT Courts operate on a pre-sentence model, where defendants who plead guilty to their offences and meet other criteria can be referred to the programme to address alcohol and drug substance use disorders driving their offending. Defendants accepted into the AODT Court are referred to as participants.

Upon acceptance into the AODT Court, participants are assigned a clinical case manager who will work with the participant to develop a comprehensive treatment pathway plan based on their individual needs. The plan will include residential treatment and/or community-based programme options. It is a condition of bail that participants comply with all requirements of the AODT Court and their treatment plan.

The clinical case manager also co-ordinates specialist alcohol and drug treatment and other services for participants, retains an overview of the treatment plan or changing circumstances, and reports back to the AODT Court on participant progress.

Participants are supported by a peer support worker. Peer support workers play a pivotal role in the AODT Court by mentoring participants while they work through the programme. Drawing on their own lived experience with alcohol and drug recovery, peer support can help participants navigate the challenges that can come with achieving recovery from alcohol and drug dependency.

Treatment service providers, including clinical case managers and peer support workers, are contracted by the Ministry of Health.

At Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua ki Kirikiriroa, a whānau support worker also provides support and assistance to the families and whānau of AODT Court participants.

## Referral to the AODT Court

- Potential participants for the AODT Court are identified by their defence counsel, the presiding District Court judge, Police prosecutor or other parties involved in the proceedings. Sometimes defendants already know about the AODT Court themselves and ask for a referral.
- If the defendant appears to be a suitable candidate for the Court, the judge may direct that the matter be adjourned to allow a more detailed alcohol and other drug assessment.

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## What happens on the day at Court?

AODT Court sitting days are held in two sessions: The pre-Court meeting and open Court.

- The AODT Court team hold pre-Court meetings to monitor participant progress, consider reports and information, including any challenges, and treatment plans about the participants appearing on that sitting day. AODT Court participants don't attend this session.
- The open Court session is where the participants appear before the judge for monitoring. The AODT Court team are also present. Friends and whānau are encouraged to attend.

### Determination hearing

- The AODT Court judge will make the final decision on whether someone is eligible for the programme. The judge will consider information and assessments collated by parties involved. They also have input from the team, including the Police prosecution, defence counsel and case managers. This information will first be discussed at the AODT Court pre-Court meeting.
- If all criteria for the AODT Court are met, the defendant may be offered the chance to participate in the AODT Court. The judge must make sure the offender is willing to undertake the programme and understands the commitment required.

### The three-phase AODT Court programme

- **Phase 1** – Participants settle into the Court's programme and start their recovery journey. They do

this by engaging in alcohol and other drug treatment, either residential treatment (live-in) or a community-based programme.

- **Phase 2** – Participants continue their treatment plan and receive support as they rebuild their lives by attending other programmes depending on their needs (such as counselling, stopping violence, parenting, road safety, literacy). They're held to account for their offending by attending restorative justice (where agreed to by victims) and undertaking voluntary community service mahi.
- **Phase 3** – Participants complete their treatment plan and develop an ongoing maintenance plan with their case manager. Participants begin reintegrating into the community by finding suitable mahi or study, accommodation and positive activities that will support them in their life after leaving the AODT Court programme.

Throughout all phases of the Court programme, participants also attend recovery meetings and undergo random drug testing.

### Graduation and Sentencing

- Participants who complete all the requirements of the programme graduate the Court and are sentenced. The extent and nature of their participation in the AODT Court programme are considered at their final sentencing.
- Participants who successfully complete the programme are recognised as AODT Court graduates and take part in a ceremony to celebrate their success, which their family and whānau and other supporters are invited to attend.

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## Karakia - Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua ki Kirikiriroa

### Opening

E te atua nou  
te tīmatanga o ngā mea katoa,  
Arohaina mai mātou  
e tutuki nei i ngā mahi,  
mō tēnei rā  
Āmine.

To the creator,  
you are the beginning  
of all things seen and unseen  
Keep us in your caring embrace,  
as we pursue our daily work  
We agree.

### Closing

Kia tau te rangimārie  
Ki tēnei Whare Whakapiki Wairua  
Kia piki te kaha  
Kia piki te ora  
Kia piki te māramatanga  
Haumi e, hui e, taiki e!

Let there be peace  
in this house that uplifts the spirit  
Uplifting in strength  
Uplifting in wisdom  
Uplifting in wellbeing  
Gather, unite, it is done!

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## Waiata - Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua ki Kirikiriroa

Kia tū tika – whakapono – te aroha  
Te Atua- hei oranga – te tangata  
Kia kaha – kia toa – manawanui  
Te whare whakapiki wairua  
Kia kaha – kia māia – manawanui  
Te whare whakapiki wairua  
Tāu ana.

Stand upright in truth in love  
'Tis God restoring mankind  
Be strong – be courageous – stout-hearted  
in this house that uplifts the spirit.  
Be strong – be brave – stout-hearted  
in this house that uplifts the spirit  
'Tis settled.