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AIMING HIGH

In this issue, our Chief Executive focuses on some of the Ministry's recent achievements, Justice Minister Andrew Little reflects on what motivates him in pushing for change in the justice sector, and we feature the opening of the 15th Rangatahi Court.



Responding to change

ANDREW BRIDGMAN • SECRETARY FOR JUSTICE AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE



The pace of activities at the Ministry of Justice is noticeably high at the moment, as the new government finds its rhythm and begins to implement its policies. From the Justice perspective, the big-ticket items that our teams have been focusing on include the 30% reduction in the prison population over 15 years, advising on a Criminal Case Review Commission, advising on a review of the 2014 Family Court reforms, supporting the establishment of the new Crown/Maori Relations portfolio and supporting the development of the Electoral Integrity Bill.

We've also enjoyed some special events since the beginning of the year. Some of the milestones include:

- the reopening of the historic 116-year-old Dunedin Law Courts after a \$20 million strengthening and refurbishment (see story on back page)
- there has been a ceremonial sitting and a public open day at the Auckland High Court marking 150 years of operation
- the Police have moved into the Christchurch Justice and Emergency Services precinct which is now fully occupied
- and a 15th Rangatahi Court has been opened by the judiciary in Whangarei (see story page 3).

A change of government brings major change for the public service. It's imperative to earn and maintain trust and confidence so that the government's priorities can be effectively implemented with the support of the public service.

I'm pleased with the way the sector has responded to the change and thank all of you who have been involved in helping support the transition.



Tony Fisher, Director Māori Strategy for the Ministry of Justice, addresses the audience at the opening of the Rangatahi Court Whangarei.

CROWN/ MĀORI RELATIONS PORTFOLIO LAUNCHED

A 3-month process to hear the thoughts and ideas of New Zealanders on the health of the Crown/Māori relationship was launched in March.

'This is an exciting and important piece of work for the Ministry to be leading,' says Ministry of Justice Chief Executive Andrew Bridgman.

'Our new Crown/Māori Relations team did an excellent job at Waitangi this year and are leading a number of projects for the Minister for Crown/Māori Relations, Hon Kelvin Davis. They're now focused on leading a public process to help set the scope and priorities of this new portfolio, based on the initial ideas signed off by Cabinet [in March].'

The team is part of the new Crown/Māori Relations Roopū which also includes the Office of Treaty Settlements and the Post-Settlement Commitments Unit. The Deputy Secretary in charge of the roopū is Lil Anderson. Roopū is the Māori word for group or organisation.

Lil says in the next 3 months, all New Zealanders will have a chance to consider opportunities for the Crown/Māori relationship and to help shape the focus and priorities. 'We're taking a roadshow



around the country. There are hui happening in 14 places that are open to the public to come and discuss the issues. We're also offering people the chance to send their feedback to us online.

'It's always a privilege to be involved at the start of any new project and the Ministry can be proud of the role we're playing in leading this national conversation. As Ministry people we can all get involved as individuals and can help spread the word among our friends, families and communities about this unique opportunity.' To find out more, go to justice.govt.nz/crown-maori

NEW RANGATAHI COURT

A new Rangatahi Court, Te Kōti Rangatahi Ki Whāngarei, was launched last month. Rangatahi Courts are a judicial initiative that work within the existing Youth Court framework.

They use a marae-based, Māori-specific environment to help young Māori and their whānau engage with the justice system in culturally appropriate ways.



Justice Minister Andrew Little speaks at Terenga Paraoa Marae in Whangarei where the 15th Rangatahi Court is based.

Rangatahi Courts offer an alternative indigenous solution to address offending by young Māori and non-Māori by involving natural communities in the youth justice process.

Based at Terenga Paraoa Marae in Whangarei, the new court is the 15th Rangatahi Court. The first Rangatahi court was established by Youth Court Judge Hemi Taumaunu in Gisborne and has gained support from iwi leaders throughout the country.

At the opening, Justice Minister Andrew Little said 'The Rangatahi Court will deliver greater access to justice for young Māori by including the support of the immediate whānau, kuia and kaumātua. With their support, young Māori can take responsibility, while standing here at the Terenga Paraoa Marae in front of their whānau, and work at how they can put things right.'

The success of Rangatahi Courts is built on the commitment and participation of the local marae community, kaumātua, Iwi and hapū.

Secretary for Justice and Chief Executive Andrew Bridgman spoke at the event which was attended by about 200 people including government ministers Kelvin Davis, Aupito Sio and Peeni Henare.

Message from our Minister

ANDREW LITTLE • MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND COURTS



This morning as I sat down to write this column, I took a quick glance at my horoscope.

Laying aside the part about shuffling into the friend zone (I had to google that), it instructed me to 'Be the passionate firestarter instead of the silent supporter... It's vital you take the time to know for certain your parameters of right and wrong.'

Although I'm a little unsure about the arsonist undertones of the message, the overall implications struck a chord. Having been a lawyer, a union leader, and an MP, I've worked within the justice system my entire professional career. And I'm certain that now more than ever, we need transformative change not silent support.

Over the last 30 years, we've seen a shift in our justice system; one that's predicated on crime, punishment, and targets. A justice system that has lost sight of what's humane and effective for offenders, victims, and the public isn't a system I want to lead, and not a system New Zealanders deserve.

I was heartened to attend the launch of the Borrin Foundation last week. The Foundation was set up at the bequest of the late Judge Ian Borrin and seeks

to make a difference to the lives of New Zealanders through the law.

At the launch, David Goddard QC reflected on the need for far-reaching change in the criminal justice system and in family law. Public confidence in the criminal system and family law has been eroded and a managerial approach has failed. We can do better, and we will do better.

I'm committed to enacting an ambitious, values-driven agenda that puts fairness back at the heart of the justice system. I will provide more detail in future columns, but this is an assurance that the 3 pillars of the Sixth Labour Government — equality, fairness, and kindness — will motivate everything I do in the Justice portfolio. It was Martin Luther King Jr. who said 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.'

This passionate firestarter will ensure the system is equitable and accessible at all times, and focused on delivering the policy promises of this coalition government.

'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.'

Spotlight Dunedin

The team from Dunedin Courts in front of the refurbished Law Courts building. The Dunedin team are just some of the people that make the Ministry of Justice a great place to work!



NEW SURVEY FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

A new crime survey, the NZ Crime and Victim Survey (NZCVS), started on March 5. 'This is a large-scale annual national survey with face-to-face interviews with 8000 people over the age of 15. It will take 7 months to complete,' says project team member and Principal Advisor Sector, Michael Slyuzberg.

'The survey will produce a great range and depth of information which will be highly current and relevant. We want to know what the impact of crime has had on their lives in the last 12 months and we want to know about reported and non-reported offences. People's information will be entirely confidential.'

The data will be analysed and the results published towards the end of the year. The result will be used by the Ministry of Justice, Statistics NZ, Ministry of Social Development, Te Puni Kokiri, Police, Department of Corrections, Oranga Tamariki, and the Ministry for Women.

'We have overcrowded prisons,' Michael says, 'with a very high rate of imprisonment by international standards. The information provided by the survey

will make an important contribution towards achieving the Government's goal of a humane and effective justice system.'

NZCVS replaces the New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey which was held around every 3 years with results taking 2-3 years to publish. ■



Photo: Emma Brown, Tianying Chu and Michael Slyuzberg from the Research and Evaluation Unit, Sector Group.

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING LAWS EXTENDED TO THE PUBLIC

This year, thousands of New Zealanders will be affected by new anti-money laundering laws. Lawyers, accountants and real estate agents and their clients will need to meet the requirements of the new legislation.

Some money laundering and terrorist financing is currently going undetected in New Zealand. As well as domestic criminals, New Zealand can be targeted by international criminal networks as a global weak link. Weak anti-money laundering measures undermine our financial and justice systems.

Over a 10-year period, it's estimated the new laws will disrupt \$1.7 billion of illegal drugs and fraud crime and up to \$5 billion in broader criminal activity.

The Government passed the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Act in 2009. It has been in force since 2013 and applies to banks, casinos and financial service providers.

From 1 July 2018, it will be progressively extended to lawyers, conveyancers, new trusts and company service providers, accountants, real estate agents, the New Zealand Racing Board and high-value goods dealers.

These businesses will have to assess the risk they face from money launderers, or people who finance terrorism, identify potentially suspicious activity and advise the Police.

Justice Minister Andrew Little says, 'People with criminal intentions value anonymity and are looking for ways to distance themselves from their activities while still enjoying the proceeds of their crimes. 'Evidence suggests that using gatekeepers like lawyers and accountants is a way for criminals to create a false perception of legitimately acquired wealth.'

As part of their due diligence process, businesses must get and verify key information from prospective and existing clients and provide regular anti-money laundering reports to government agencies.

The main implications for members of the public who are customers or clients of these businesses will be the need to have their identity confirmed.



WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT FAMILY VIOLENCE

Preventing family violence is one of our greatest opportunities for improving the safety and wellbeing of New Zealand’s children and families. Family violence investigations take up 41% of frontline police time and, of those in prison due to violent offences, 66% are due to family violence. Family violence is a significant contributor to mental illness, poverty, housing and addiction problems.

The Ministry of Justice has a significant programme of work underway to improve our response to family violence, including implementing the Family and Whānau Violence Legislation Bill.

Minister of Justice Andrew Little will be seeking to progress the Bill as House priorities allow. The legislation introduces new criminal offences: strangulation, assault on a family member, and coercion to marry. It also lays the foundations for improvements in the system: greater information sharing, ensuring safety is the paramount consideration in decision-making, improving risk assessments, and expanding the powers of police and judges.

As well as preparing for the technical changes in the Bill, we’re investing in the capability of our people to improve our responses to colleagues and court users affected by violence. We’re building our understanding of the nature and signs of family violence so we’re able to take action when we see them.

With support from national charity SHINE, all Ministry of Justice managers and teams are receiving information about family violence and where to go for help. In the next few months, we’ll co-design, with our frontline staff, additional training for people working in courts and call centres to equip them with the skills to respond to customers affected by family violence and sexual violence.

The new law, and continual improvements in how we all work together, present a significant opportunity to make progress on family violence.



BETTER FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAMMES

People who commit family violence will be better supported to change their behaviour and break the cycle of offending, thanks to changes planned for later this year.

The Ministry has recently worked with the Department of Corrections to streamline our contracts for providers of non-violence programmes. The changes will mean perpetrators of family violence will be more likely to complete programmes and less likely to reoffend.

New Zealand has one of the highest reported rates of family violence in the developed world. Reducing family and sexual violence is one of our key initiatives and better aligning provider contracts are part of cross-sector work in this area.

Changes include enabling family violence programmes for low- to medium-risk perpetrators to be slightly shorter, which is expected to improve completion rates. Also, service specifications will be more flexible, so providers can tailor programmes to specific groups.

Alongside the Department of Corrections, we held roadshows for potential providers around the country in late 2017 to explain the changes to the family violence sector, answer their questions and encourage new providers — especially Māori providers — to tender.

Providers were very positive. They’re pleased to see us aligning with corrections and welcome the upcoming changes to programmes and contracts — Jo-ann Vivian, Senior Advisor, Provider and Community Services, Operations and Service Delivery.

‘This move will provide increased flexibility and streamlined processes for both providers and clients,’ says Paul Shamy, Chief Executive of service provider Stopping Violence Services (Christchurch) Incorporated.

The roadshow also introduced changes the Ministry has made to the free safety programmes available to adult and child victims of family violence. The improvements will simplify contracts and reporting for providers, freeing up more time for the important work with our clients.

Providers are being invited to tender to deliver for the improved safety and non-violence programmes, with new contracts commencing 1 July, 2018.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

People from around the Ministry of Justice joined the global celebration of women on International Women’s Day on 8 March,

International Women’s Day is a global day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

The day also encourages us to reflect on what still needs to be done to achieve gender equality and take action. The theme for the day was #PressforProgress, which reflects the Ministry’s Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, which includes addressing the Ministry’s gender pay gap.

People from across our courts and offices celebrated International Women’s Day with purple outfits and purple cupcakes, themed activities, quizzes and a breakfast with a live-link to a function at Parliament.

Our Women’s Network encouraged its members and others around the Ministry to take selfies with their commitment to progress gender equality — including our Chief Executive, Andrew Bridgman. The Women’s Network also organised 3 ‘speed-mentoring’ events with our senior leaders to support our women to achieve their professional goals.

The Ministry’s employee-led Women’s Network has more than 600 members across our courts and offices. The network advocates for the interests of women at the Ministry and supports them to achieve their personal and professional goals.

Photos clockwise from top: Ministry of Justice Chief Executive, Andrew Bridgman; the teams from Judicial and Business Services, Auckland District Court (next photo) Māori Land Court Whāngarei (next photo) and ICT Products and Services Design; speed mentoring with some of the Ministry’s senior leadership team.



DUNEDIN LAW COURTS OFFICIALLY REOPEN

The \$20 million project to strengthen and refurbish the Dunedin Law Courts has been completed, with the Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, officially reopening the courthouse in a ceremony in January.

The Prime Minister, Chief Justice Dame Sian Elias, and Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull all spoke at the event, noting the passion and support of many to see this magnificent building back in action after a nearly seven-year closure.

Following the morning's re-opening event, a procession including judges, the Mayor and the city's legal profession marched from the Dunedin Town Hall to the Court, where they stopped to have a photo taken. Similar photos were taken after the building was initially opened in 1902 and then again after other upgrades in 1979 and 2003.

A special sitting of the High Court was then held to mark the reopening presided over by Chief Justice, Rt Hon Dame Sian Elias.

The Ministry began the extensive strengthening and refurbishment project, which was completed by local Dunedin company ABL, in December 2016. More than 475 cubic metres of concrete and 66 tonnes of reinforced steel were used throughout the project, and restoring the 66 leadlight windows alone took a year of painstaking work.

'While the building has been carefully strengthened, and refurbished, it now beats with a new and strong heart,' said the Prime Minister during the ceremony.

Around 50 kilometres of modern data cabling now runs through the building and modern audio-visual equipment has been installed in the courtrooms.

"This has been a significant project and involved a lot of people and I'd like to thank everyone involved in restoring this grand old lady," says Ministry of Justice Chief Executive Andrew Bridgman.



Photos from top: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern at the reopening ceremony; the Prime Minister holds a tea towel featuring Dunedin band The Clean which she put in the time capsule; a special sitting was held in the refurbished interior of the Law Courts building.

The Law Courts building by the numbers:

around **50** kms of data cabling

more than **475** cubic metres of concrete

66 tonnes of reinforced steel

restoration of **66** leadlight windows