

May 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.

In this issue ...

[Mileage rate changing to \\$0.72 per kilometre](#)

[Increasing access to Justice](#)

[Form 1a – Application for Criminal Legal Aid – Police Prosecution](#)

[New caller ID function to identify calls from Legal Aid Services](#)

[Queries](#)

Mileage rate changing to \$0.72 per kilometre

We are updating our mileage rate to \$0.72 per kilometre to match the [IRD rate](#). The new rate will apply to all invoices received from 4 July 2016.

There will be a new installer to download for the Word template invoice forms, which will be available from 4 July 2016.

In the meantime, claims can continue to be made at the rate of \$0.77 per kilometre.

Increasing access to Justice

Low income New Zealanders will be able to more easily access advice from legal aid lawyers, thanks to the Budget, announced on 26 May. It provides for an extra \$17.2 million to be spent on increasing eligibility for civil and family legal aid over the next four years.

It is estimated that by increasing the eligibility an additional 2,700 New Zealanders will receive legal aid each year by 2018/19.

Regulation 5 of the Legal Services Regulations 2011 sets the maximum levels of income used to determine an applicant's financial eligibility for civil legal aid. On 4 July 2016, Regulation 5 of will be amended to include increases to the maximum levels of gross annual income.

The increases will be implemented gradually over three years, to ensure an appropriate balance of improving access to justice and maintaining affordability.

The maximum levels will be increased as follows:

If the applicant....	Then the maximum level of gross annual income is			
	Current	From 4 July 2016	From 3 July 2017	From 2 July 2018 (and out years)
Is single	\$22,366	\$22,846	\$23,326	\$23,820
Has <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a spouse/partner or 1 dependent child 	\$35,420	\$36,180	\$36,940	\$37,722
Has <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a spouse/partner and 1 dependent child or 2 dependent children 	\$50,934	\$52,027	\$53,119	\$54,245
Has <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a spouse/partner and 2 dependent children or 3 dependent children 	\$57,880	\$59,122	\$60,363	\$61,642
Has <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a partner/spouse and 3 dependent children or 4 dependent children 	\$64,678	\$66,065	\$67,453	\$68,882
Has <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a spouse/partner and 4 dependent children or 5 dependent children 	\$72,302	\$73,853	\$75,404	\$77,002
Has <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a spouse/partner and more than 4 dependent children or more than 5 dependent children 	\$72,302 as for 5 dependent children) PLUS \$6,689 for each additional child	\$73,853 (as for 5 dependent children) PLUS \$6,832 for each additional child	\$75,404 (as for 5 dependent children) PLUS \$6,976 for each additional child	\$77,002 (as for 5 dependent children) PLUS \$7,124 for each additional child

The changes will apply to all financial assessments undertaken on or after 4 July 2016.

For more information see [media release from Associate Justice Minister Simon Bridges](#)

Form 1a – Application for Criminal Legal Aid – Police Prosecution

Based on feedback received from duty lawyers, we have removed the blank page, improved the perforated edge and increased the margin size on Form 1a Application for criminal legal aid - Police Prosecution. This change will allow you to tear off all pages together.

New caller ID function to identify calls from Legal Aid Services

We are pleased to announce that you will now be able to identify a call from Legal Aid Services. We acknowledge that it has been difficult for you not knowing when a call was from Legal Aid Services. To address this, we have new functionality added to our phones that allows our numbers to appear when we call you.

To allow the caller ID to appear, we are required to dial a code before we dial your phone number. As we transition to the new system, there may instances where the code is not entered and we appear as a private number.

There are five possible numbers that could appear:

- 09 351 4000
- 07 837 2000
- 04 466 2600
- 04 466 4480
- 03 367 6530

We suggest saving these numbers under one contact on your phone.

Please do not return a call to these numbers as it will not connect to Legal Aid Services. To contact us, please continue to use the existing numbers as on our correspondence or call 0800 2 LEGAL AID (0800 253 425).

Queries?

If you have queries about any article in this newsletter, please contact legalaidnews@justice.govt.nz.

New Zealand Government