

# LEGAL AID NEWS

April 2017

*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 ...**

Update on changes to the administration of legal aid

Family and civil legal aid assignments

Queries?

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## **Update on changes to the administration of legal aid**

In the September 2016 *Legal Aid News* we advised that the Ministry was changing the way granting and debt management functions are administered. We are consolidating granting into two offices, in Takapuna and Wellington and have introduced optimised processes for both granting and debt management.

Our Manukau legal aid office will close on 12 May 2017 and all work managed in that office will be transferred to our Takapuna office. New family applications were transferred from 18 April and criminal applications from 24 April.

Contacts details for our Takapuna office are:

Email: [auckland.legalaid@justice.govt.nz](mailto:auckland.legalaid@justice.govt.nz)

Phone: (09) 488 5440 or 0800 253 425

Postal Address: BX10660

North Shore City

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## **Family and civil legal aid assignments**

We recently updated the assignment policy to clarify the circumstances in which a provider from outside the location where the proceedings will be held may be assigned in family and civil proceedings. As a result of feedback received, we have defined '*outside the location where the proceedings will be held*' to align with the definition of 'non-local' travel in the disbursements policy.

For this purpose, non-local travel is defined as travel involving a return trip from the provider's normal place of work to the travel destination where the return distance is greater than 50 kilometres or the return travel time is greater than one hour. You can read the updated policy at page 48 of the Grants Manual.

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## Queries?

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