

BUDGET

2021

Summary of investment in
Votes: Courts and Justice

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Summary of Budget 2021 in Votes: Courts and Justice

Budget 2021 invests \$348.545m over the next 5 years in justice and court initiatives that will improve access to justice and enhance wellbeing.

Preventing family violence and sexual violence

\$17.1m over 5 years

\$17.1m will support building partnerships and collaboration to transform the family violence and sexual violence system, including effective Māori-Crown relationships.

\$1.3m over 5 years

This investment will support a strategic, coordinated approach to data and insights to enable family violence and sexual violence system change. How government contracts research will be reviewed, to ensure research is addressing gaps in knowledge. This initiative will help ensure government has an agreed understanding of how to eliminate family violence and sexual violence.

Better data and insights will underpin better decisions and directions for the whole system, meaning the right resources and support can be delivered to the right people at the right time in the right way.

Whakaoronga te mana tangata – uplifting the mana of offenders, victims and whānau

\$13.7m over 5 years

This initiative aims to reduce the imprisonment and reoffending rates for Māori by providing a kaitiaki-type service, modelled on the Kaikohe Matariki Court.

Three new courts will be designed and delivered in partnership with local iwi. Participants in the court process, including offenders, victims and whānau, will have access to tailored services to address their social, health and wellbeing needs.

Whakaoronga te mana tangata aligns with the District Court vision, Te Ao Mārama, to implement approaches to justice that improve outcomes for all court participants.

Implementing the family justice reforms

\$15.081 over 5 years

This initiative enables new roles to be created in the Family Court (\$15m over 4 years) to reduce the amount of time judges spend on straightforward and administrative matters in the Family Court, to enable faster resolution of cases.

The roles, provisionally titled Family Court Associates, will support Family Court judges across the country, as recommended by the Independent Panel examining the 2014 family justice reforms, in [Te Korowai Ture a-Whānau](#).

Legal aid

\$235.161m over 5 years

This investment meets immediate cost pressures for legal aid.

Legal aid is an important part of New Zealand's justice system. It helps people to resolve legal problems that may go to court and makes sure that people are not denied justice because they can't afford a lawyer.

National Scheduling Team

\$5.7m over 5 years

This funding will continue the National Scheduling Team's work, to improve how events are scheduled and managed in the District Court, to help the court run as efficiently as possible. The team's work includes:

- leading strategic thinking for scheduling
- establishing national scheduling standards
- providing support to improve scheduling capability and adherence to standards.

Māori Land Court Special Aid Fund

\$2.5m over 5 years

This investment will help ensure that specialist professional services ordered by Te Kooti Whenua Māori (the Māori Land Court) can continue to be funded through the Māori Land Court Special Aid Fund. This, in turn, will help ensure that Te Kooti receives the advice it needs to make fair, balanced and well-informed decisions and those coming before the court can access justice to help them retain, develop and use their whenua as they see fit.

Election Access Fund

\$3.3m over 5 years

This funding will support the ongoing administration and management of the Election Access Fund. The fund works to remove or reduce barriers for an individual with a disability to stand as a candidate in a general election or a by-election.

The immediate impact of the Fund is to facilitate the participation of people with disabilities standing as candidates in New Zealand parliamentary elections. This will, in turn, support broader civic engagement, and a more inclusive and representative Parliament.

Eliminating indefinite Compulsory Treatment Orders

\$7.7m over 5 years (commencing 2023/24)

This investment will enable mental health review hearings to be heard by the Family Court in a timely manner once the signalled amendments to the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992 are enacted. The proposed amendments will eliminate indefinite compulsory treatment orders, increasing the number of court hearings required.

Financial entitlement for victims

\$3.0m over 5 years

The Victim Assistance Scheme receives investment to meet the financial entitlements for victims of very serious crimes, such as homicide.

The scheme helps improve wellbeing outcomes for victims of serious crime by covering some of the costs related to the crime, the justice process, and recovery.

Interpreter services

\$6.1m over 5 years

Additional baseline funding for the interpreter service will support ongoing access to justice for court participants who would otherwise be unable to participate effectively in court and tribunal proceedings. The initiative will help meet the increasing demand for face-to-face interpreters and help to secure availability of interpreters.

Tenancy Tribunal

\$4.8m over 5 years

This investment will assist the Tenancy Tribunal to manage the workload created by the Residential Tenancies Amendment Act 2000. The Act increased the scope of matters able to be heard by the Tenancy Tribunal, which is expected to increase the volume of applications to the Tribunal.

Crown response to abuse in care inquiry

\$0.98m in 2021/22

This funding ensures the Crown can continue to engage with the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in Care in a timely, collaborative and coordinated manner.

Addressing the effect of depreciation on property

\$31.795m over 5 years

This investment will help support ongoing infrastructure maintenance and the renewal of court buildings, ensuring facilities are safe for court users, staff and the judiciary. This is important for maintaining the operation of the courts and confidence in the justice system.

For more, go to
www.justice.govt.nz

Ministry of Justice
Te Tāhū o te Ture

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