



**YOUTHLAW  
AOTEAROA**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

2020/2021

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A fair and just Aotearoa where  
children and young people's rights  
are respected and their voices  
heard



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# CONTENTS

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04	Chairperson's report
06	General Manager's report
09	Congratulations to Robert Ludbrook ONZM
10	Legal advice services
12	Law related education
13	Youth participation
15	Te Tiriti o Waitangi
16	Volunteers
17	Law reform
20	Finances
21	Acknowledgements

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# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Tēnā koutou, Tēnā koutou, Tēnā koutou katoa.

In last year's report, I referred to the challenges created by Covid-19 that had been with us since March 2020. With those challenges continuing throughout this past financial year and beyond, the Board remains impressed with the way in which the YouthLaw whānau have kept performing at a high level while supporting each other through these tough times.

Long periods of working from home can make people feel isolated and detached from colleagues. Neil Shaw and the rest of the team have done a great job of keeping everyone in touch with each other to maintain a sense of community and belonging. The Board is very grateful for these efforts.

The exciting change that happened this year was the move to new premises in the Westfield Mall in Manukau. Fortunately, the move occurred at the end of June 2021, before the latest Covid-19 lockdown.

We were very grateful to Kaumatua Papa Toimai Katipa, Kuia Mere Komene and Tohunga Toitōi Katipa, who attended the official opening and blessed the new premises. It was a wonderful occasion, especially as Robert Ludbrook, the founder of YouthLaw, was able to attend and made a moving whaikōrero.

Hopefully, the relationship between YouthLaw and Tainui will grow and strengthen over the years ahead. The Board is committed to YouthLaw continuing our journey as a Te Tiriti based organisation including creating opportunities for whānau and Board members to improve their knowledge of Tikanga and their understanding of Te Reo.

Tainui offer opportunities to learn the history of the Manukau Rohe and of the Tainui iwi. When the public health environment allows, I encourage whānau and Board members to take up these opportunities.

The new premises are more accessible to the public than our previous offices and offer the exciting prospect of more direct face-to-face interactions with clients. At the same time, they are safer and more convenient to access for staff and visitors.

The Board is grateful to Neil and Sarah Mansell for the hard work involved in negotiating with the new landlord and organising the fit-out of the premises. I also thank Board member, David Sutton, for his assistance to Neil and Sarah with the lease negotiations. We are confident that this will be an excellent new home in the years ahead.

The pandemic has continued to make it difficult to reach the number of clients that YouthLaw would usually assist, both in relation to legal advice and law related education. Neil and the team are doing all they can in this unusual environment to provide the best service achievable in the circumstances.

We are aware, however, that Covid-19 is not going away and that it is having a significant effect on the health of young people, both physical and mental. The young are particularly impacted in terms of education and employment prospects.

A strategic issue for the Board and whānau to consider is how best to adjust our services to respond to the needs of young people in these days of Covid-19 that we are living through now and those that lie ahead.

Thank you to the staff and volunteers of YouthLaw and to my fellow Board members for their commitment and contributions over the past year.

We can be certain that Covid-19 will throw new challenges at us over the coming year and we will all need to pivot and adapt. I am confident that YouthLaw will respond to the needs of our clients, the children and young people of Aotearoa, as they grapple with these challenges.

Ngā mihi nui



Simon Judd

Chairperson



# GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Tēnā koutou, Tēnā koutou, Tēnā koutou katoa.

It has been another unusual year for YouthLaw staff with Auckland dipping in and out of Covid-19 restrictions. We were fortunate that the level 3 restrictions were for short periods, and for extended periods during the year we felt that we could operate normally.

When staff did have to work from home, we continued to provide advice to young people across the Motu. The previous year provided experience working in lockdown conditions and allowed us to plan what was necessary.

It has been a tough year to achieve our targets against our contract with the Ministry of Justice. We usually experience our highest workloads for the legal advice team during the school terms. The lockdowns during school terms had a negative impact on our client numbers, and seriously dented our Law Related Education team's ability to do its work in schools.

Sarah Guy and Manawa Pomare had most of their sessions cancelled and then postponed, and plans for their work across the Motu were repeatedly impacted – with travel arrangements booked and rebooked on many occasions.

YouthLaw's biggest event this year was the move to its new office in the Westfield Shopping Centre. With the lease for the Putney Way premises coming up for review and renegotiation it was an opportune time for the YouthLaw Board and staff to look at its placement in the South Auckland community and the Motu.

I wish to congratulate YouthLaw staff who conducted several internal hui to work through the many issues of moving our base.

In the end, it was recognised that YouthLaw would make a greater impact on the community we serve by being located in a place with easier access for young people and high volumes of people - what better place than the Westfield Shopping Centre in Manukau for achieving those outcomes.

I wish to acknowledge David Sutton, Harvena Cherrington, and Simon Judd from the Board who supported the negotiations with the Westfield leasing team to achieve a great result for YouthLaw. Their work helped us obtain a contribution from the landlord for set-up, and a capped rental increase provision, and a five year lease term.

The staff was honoured to have an office opening led by kaumatua and kuia from the local Tainui Iwi.

The significance of the blessing ceremony was not lost on all those who attended, and it felt like we have entered into a new era for YouthLaw and its work. We also look forward to working with and growing our relationship with our Tainui friends.

I wish to thank all the volunteers who have been part of our YouthLaw team this year. It is always a pleasure to have student volunteers work with our legal team. They bring enthusiasm and energy to the working environment.

Also, a big shout out to Sarah Butterfield and Robert Lim who take on the role of training and supervising these volunteer students. We also wish to thank the volunteers who work remotely to support Sarah and Robert's work on law reform. The law reform highlights are detailed on page 17.

A highlight for the year was the introduction of the Education and Training Act 2020 (ETA). Sarah Butterfield spent many hours working on submissions to that legislation. She wrote many significant submissions throughout the year, but the ETA was her most challenging law reform work for the year.

We also acknowledge the work of the board members who contributed to the law reform work; especially Simon and Piers Davies who wrote and edited submissions and continually encouraged Sarah and her team.

A significant component of the ETA is the establishment of dispute panels, which is a progressive step in resolving disputes in schools, and hopefully keeping young people in education. It has been a disappointment that funding for the disputes panels has not been included in the Ministry of Education budget. Sarah and her team continue to work on that issue.

Sarah Mansell and I wish to acknowledge the work and support of the Board members. The Board has continued to monitor the mental health of staff members through lockdown periods, and we wish to thank Nive Sharat Chandran for prompting and encouraging staff to seek counselling and giving us contacts of suitable providers.

We also wish to thank David Sutton who has attended an office hui to bring his perspective on working from home, and actively working with the advice team on school disciplinary matters. We have engaged and supportive governance members, and that makes the work of staff that much more meaningful.

I wish to thank the YouthLaw staff. Our senior solicitor, Velda Chan, has kept the legal advice team operating through the many interruptions caused by the lockdowns without a break in service and to her normal high standards.

Our legal advice team has largely remained static, with no solicitors leaving, and grown in maturity and experience. A shout out to Rita Tapuai Unasa, Sarah Butterfield, and Robert Lim who are the backbone of the legal advice workload. Not having volunteers for periods throughout the year has meant we were more established in our own routines and with fewer interruptions to train the waves of volunteers.

Sarah completed a duty lawyer training and put it to good use by successfully representing a client in the Manukau District Court for a discharge without conviction.

As I have already noted, our LRE team had, in the words of Queen Elizabeth II, an *annus horribilis*. Manawa and Sarah Guy were confounded at every turn with covid restrictions. Manawa was able to dedicate more time to the advice team, and we brought on Nadia Bari to support Sarah for the final push to achieve our contract numbers. Although we didn't make the LRE contract numbers for the 2020-2021 year (and didn't expect to), the final four months saw LRE make 70% of its annual target.

We lost several team members this year, including Paul Paek, Greta Wilkins, Ruth Stowers and Damian Piilua.

Damian was our Youth Participation Coordinator. He took over the role after Sarah Colcord. Damian was loved by the members of our youth groups and the YouthLaw whānau. Unfortunately, our funding for our youth participation work ended, and with it his role.

Paul and Greta were originally volunteers in our advice team, but were recruited as law clerks on fixed term contracts during our first lockdown in 2020. We had another law clerk, Ruth Stowers, also a previous volunteer, leave us in late October 2020. Ruth has gone onto work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in the newly re-established graduate programme.

We also had two interns work for us for 12 week periods. Ogonna Nweke and Elisepa Taukolo came to us under a Ministry of Social Development programme to give young people experience in a law practice.

I wish to thank Gretchen Carroll for her work as office administrator. Since the ActionStep client management system has been incorporated into all Community Law Centre functions, reporting has been simplified, Gretchen has been largely freed from the tedious task of our cracking the numbers code for YouthLaw's reports and has taken on more of our website and media, and works with the team to produce legal information. Since Gretchen has a degree in communications, and regularly contributes to various magazines, we have been fortunate to have her working in this space.

Finally, I wish to thank our Operations Manager, Sarah Mansell. Sarah not only keeps the various functions of YouthLaw aligned and functioning in a practical way (working with our youth groups, various funding organisations, facilitating meetings, and providing an ongoing link between the YouthLaw office and our governance body), she also supports the work and needs of others in the YouthLaw whānau.

While this year has been a challenging one for the YouthLaw whānau, it has been even more so for the young people we serve. Many have had their education interrupted or ended due to Covid-19 restrictions, and many starting work for the first time have lost jobs.

A visitor from the Ministry of Social Development informed us that 5000 young people across the Motu are sleeping rough every night. The impact from these events will continue to flow on.

With this in mind, we will continue to work our hardest to help the youth of Aotearoa.

Ngā mihi nui



Neil Shaw

General Manager



# CONGRATULATIONS

## TO ROBERT LUDBROOK ONZM

*Long-time YouthLaw Board member Piers Davies writes a tribute piece to Robert Ludbrook on behalf of the whole YouthLaw whānau.*

It was with great pleasure that we heard that Robert had been appointed an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2021 for services to Family Law and Children's Rights.

This is a well-deserved and long overdue recognition of all the work that Robert has done over 50 years to bring Access to Justice to families, children and young people. Not only was Robert the founder of YouthLaw Aotearoa but he was part of the group that established the first Citizen's Advice Bureau in Ponsonby in 1970 and ran the legal advice service there.

At that time Ponsonby was an economically deprived suburb. Robert studied community law centres in California and London in the 1970s and on his return to Auckland, persuaded the Law Societies to establish the Grey Lynn Neighbourhood Law Office, now the Auckland Community Law Centre, above a butcher's shop in Grey Lynn.

Robert worked at making sure that its legal services reached out into the local Māori and Pasifika communities and inspired a generation of young lawyers and law students (including future judges) to become involved in Access to Justice.

It was Robert's involvement in the campaign to expose the abuses of young people at Lake Alice Psychiatric Hospital and Social Welfare homes that led to him to founding YouthLaw in 1986, initially as a pilot scheme but one that has proved its worth for 35 years.

Robert's work at YouthLaw led to his study of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and his campaign to get New Zealand to ratify and apply the convention, including appointing a Children's Commissioner.

He also applied his experience at YouthLaw when he was appointed the Director of the Australian National Children's and Youth Law Centre in Sydney.

For the last ten years Robert has been campaigning to get the Adoption Laws reformed and the struggle continues.

Kia kaha!

# LEGAL ADVICE, INFORMATION ASSISTANCE AND REPRESENTATION

We provide advice and assistance to children and young people (or those working with them) throughout Aotearoa. Initial contact tends to come through our phone line, email or online advice form.

With the Covid-19 alert level fluctuations in Auckland, YouthLaw had a year which kept the advice line staff extremely busy.

Working within this pandemic environment has created some challenges for the advice line team, as under normal circumstances, we are heavily supported by an army of volunteers. Usually we would have two to three volunteers every shift, helping us with taking calls, interviewing clients, doing research, drafting advice and sometimes the more experienced volunteers providing advice.

However, we were unable to fully utilise the help of our volunteers for a number of reasons. During the higher alert levels, it was impossible for us to supervise volunteers as they were not working in the same space as us. At the lower levels, although the volunteer programme was running, we had fewer volunteers than usual to maintain social distancing requirements and volunteers were encouraged not to come in if unwell.

This meant staff provided the same legal services with much less volunteer support, impacting the efficiency of our services. Nevertheless, as we did spend a large portion of the year at alert level one, the team was able to complete a satisfactory number of cases for the year.

As with previous years, we've noticed a trend of the cases we are working on gradually increasing in difficulty. This is likely a result of our younger clientele, coupled with the increasing availability of information that can be found easily online. This has helped our team develop our skill sets more broadly.

## Client Feedback

*"Thank you so much for your time and for sharing your expertise with me, this information is extremely helpful!"*

*"Thanks very much again for making it possible to get this advice from you."*

*"Thanks again for your help on Monday. I have forwarded the information to X's parents. X has taken the case very seriously and I do believe this situation has taught [them] a lot."*

*"Hi Velda, Thank you so much for the information provided. I will discuss X's options and most likely contact [lawyers] to proceed. Thank you for taking the time to provide me with a detailed response."*

*"Just calling to thank Sarah and your wonderful team for helping my son X last week. Update X is back at school and doing really well. We cannot thank you enough for your help."*

*"Thank you so much for your reply to our clients email. I have forwarded it to them and I'm sure that it will be most helpful. Have a great day!"*

*"Thank you for all the work you have done with our complaint. I will be going over your advice on how to proceed from here. I feel the OIA and PA request would be the best approach in the first instance and that things from there.*

*Again thank you for your help and advice on this."*

This year, we also started to use the practice management software ActionStep, a system that has been implemented by all CLCs. As we started with an already paperless office, the move was not too drastic, although there are some shortcomings and restrictions to the ActionStep system. The volunteers and staff are now able to use ActionStep adeptly and our file storage system has remained paperless.

In the coming year, it seems we will have to find ways to deal with ongoing lockdowns due to the Delta variant of Covid-19, which also means that the staff will continue to work at home with reduced volunteer support. Working on the advice team in the home environment may have different challenges to that of working in the office, and we will need to find ways to ensure our team works safely and in a supported way, whatever our work environment might be.

## Congratulations to Manawa and Velda

Two of our team members reached a notable milestone this year.

Manawa Pomare and Velda Chan both celebrated their 10-year anniversaries with YouthLaw. To celebrate, members of our team and Board went out for a meal at Mexico in Sylvia Park and spent some time reflecting on those 10 years.

We are extremely fortunate to have such dedicated employees. The history and experience that they bring to their roles is invaluable.

## Client Feedback (cont.)

*"Many thanks, your help is much appreciated. We will try our best to keep on track with [students name] situation.*

*We will get in touch and follow through with your valuable [advice]."*

*"Much appreciated. Really helpful to have this overview and know where we stand.*

*I shared the report with X's mum this afternoon and it was an empowering process.*

*Many thanks for this effort and all your help."*

*"Thank you for your email and assistance. Appreciate this ...nothing further (lol)"*

*"I will accept this offer, thank you for all the hard work yourself, Neil and Robert have put into this. If you have anything else you need from me please let me know."*

*"Thanks for this information Sarah, it is really helpful. Thanks so much for your time."*



Manawa Pomare reflects on her 10 years with YouthLaw, while members of the team listen on.

# LAW RELATED EDUCATION

It was another challenging year of stops and starts for the Law Related Education (LRE) team, with lockdowns, negative national perceptions of Aucklanders travelling to other regions during our Covid-19 times, and thinking about how to re-engage youth.

In spite of these challenges, with the extension of the Working Together More fund due to COVID disruptions in the previous financial year, LRE was able to continue their travels, further increasing our national reach. They visited Taupō, Murapara, Rotorua, Nelson/Blenheim, Otago, Tauranga, Taranaki, Manawatū /Whanganui and Whāngārei.

Nadia Bari joined the team in May, which meant we were able to update many LRE resources and better place ourselves moving forward with a new perspective and energy.

One stand-out highlight of the year was the inaugural CLC National Educators Hui in Christchurch, October 2020. Sarah Guy arrived early for the weekend and helped the Christchurch team set up and prepare resources and session formatting.

The LRE team also had the opportunity during the year to run new sessions prepared with a focus on blind and vision impaired youth at Blind and Low Vision Education Network NZ. This challenged us to think outside the 'norm' of how to access legal information and how sessions can be run inclusively.

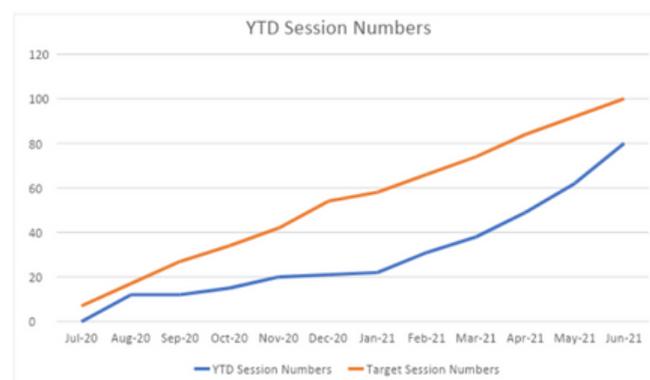
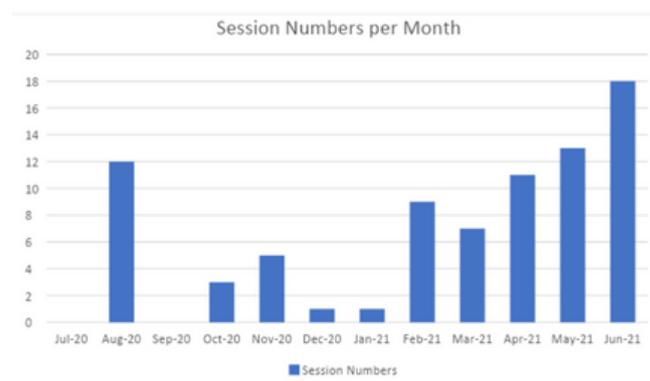
We built upon existing relationships such as with the Whenuapai Youth Programme, where YouthLaw is now a component in every programme intake. Overall, we are establishing series of sessions as opposed to one-offs, so that learning can be reinforced and built upon, such with Auckland Alternative Education, where we conducted a session each week during Term Two.

## Participant Numbers and Satisfaction

While we achieved 80% of targeted numbers through the year, more than half of these sessions were conducted only in the last quarter of the year.

In the last three months of the financial year, LRE conducted 42 sessions, compared to the 38 sessions total for the nine months previous. There was an average of approximately 25 participants per session, and of the surveys completed, 95% satisfied which exceeded our target.

In terms of makeup, 77% of these sessions were conducted with youth participants, the remaining 23% to Youth Provider/Youth invested organisations. A total of 2012 participants were reached, falling short of targeted 2600 participants.



# YOUTH PARTICIPATION

'Ko Ngā Rangatahi Te Tokomanawa o a Tatou Mahi – Youth at the Centre of Our Work' is a core objective of YouthLaw. We are working towards embedding a youth voice at all levels of our organisation, from governance to our services, to the resources we create.

The 2020–2021 financial year was the second of our two-year pilot in youth participation. We continued with the groups and roles we had established in the previous year, namely:

- The Project Team: a South-Auckland-based group with a focus on resources and legal information;
- The Youth Advisory Committee: a national body providing advice to YouthLaw and guidance to The Project Team; and,
- The youth Board members: two young people who sit on our governing body and advise our youth participation work.

These talented young people have guided and advised us, and contributed to our work in other areas (for instance, by adding their voices to our law reform submissions).

Their presence has also enriched and energised our workplace and formal events. At our AGM in November 2020, they breathed life into the formalities and inspired our team. Chairperson Wahine Murch spoke on behalf of the Youth Advisory Committee, and Noah Tauti gave an emotive spoken word performance on the realities of being a young person in Aotearoa.

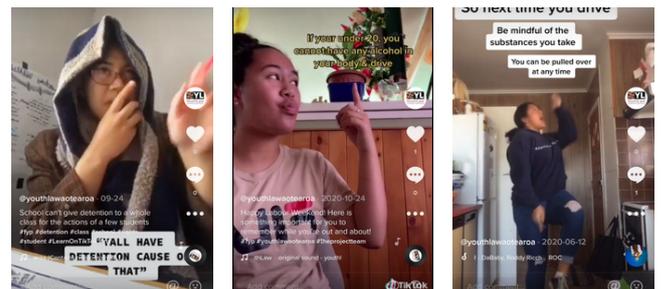


YouthLaw Board members and youth participation members sit side-by-side at the 2020 YouthLaw AGM.

Beyond their impact on our day-to-day work, the young people have also worked on projects that would never have happened without them.

## TikTok videos

During the first stages of the Covid-19 pandemic, while we were all working or studying from home, The Project Team were making progress on their idea to share legal information via TikTok videos.



Leiu (The Project Team, YouthLaw Board member), Uga (The Project Team) and Liza (The Project Team) feature in creative TikTok videos, informing young people about laws that affect them.

They developed videos in different styles over a range of topics. We have continued to check the legal information in these videos and gradually upload them. So far, they haven't had the reach of our other social media platforms so please go check them out if you're interested!

## Election 2020

In the lead up to the 2020 elections, young people from our voluntary groups helped to develop and deliver a social media campaign through Instagram and Facebook. We shared information about how to vote, and young people spoke from the heart about why people should vote (if they could), or why they should encourage their friends and whānau to vote.

## Interview Project

Early in 2021, The Project Team began developing a concept for legal information videos.

They decided it would be interesting to have an interview format. Together with our team and a lovely volunteer (Julia Wiener who joined us for this project), they developed the questions they each wanted to ask, and the correct answers to those. Before hitting the streets, we practiced together to make sure everyone was feeling confident.

Over a sunny weekend, The Project Team strolled around the Manukau region and interviewed young people (with their consent). Members of our team joined from a distance as moral support, and a talented young videographer by the name of Heni-Ana Karanga filmed the process. Once everyone was happy with the amount of people they had interviewed, Heni-Ana edited the footage down into two videos:

1. A legal information video in a question-and-answer montage, which could be played whole or broken down easily into topics and questions; and,
2. A behind-the-scenes video showing not only the hard work that The Project Team had put in, but also how much fun we all had throughout the process.

We had hoped to premiere these videos in the second half of 2021, though (like many things) this has been disrupted by the ongoing pandemic.



The Project Team members PJ and Noah speak with local young men about driving laws they might (or might not) know about.

## Evaluation and Planning

Our funding periods with the JR McKenzie Trust, Auckland Airport Community Trust and Foundation North have now come to a close. We are so grateful to our funders for supporting YouthLaw to engage with young people throughout the motu.

As we came to the end of our two-year pilot, we began developing an evaluation plan to capture our successes and learnings throughout this journey. We will make the results of this review widely available.



Damian Piiua, who initially joined us as part of the Youth Advisory Committee, and then later as our Youth Participation, Co-Design and Social Media Coordinator.

Sadly, we also said our fond farewells to Damian Piiua, as our Youth participation Coordinator role was funded by JR McKenzie. A massive 'thank you' to Damian, and to every young person who has been a part of this journey with us.

While our pilot is over, YouthLaw's commitment to youth participation is stronger than ever. We're so excited to plan the coming years alongside our awesome youth members.

If you want to check out our social media pages, you can find us on:

-  @youthlawnz
-  @youthlawaotearoa
-  @youthlaw

# TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

YouthLaw strives to be a Treaty/Te Tiriti based organisation and this is reflected in the mahi we carry out.

Solicitor and educator Manawa Pomare continued her involvement as one of the Co-Chairs of the Community Law Centres o Aotearoa Māori Caucus Ngā Kaiāwhina Hapori Māori o te Ture (NKHMT).

Manawa also delivered LRE sessions in Kura Kaupapa Māori.

We were honoured to have Kaumatua Papa Toimai Katipa, Kuia Mere Komene and Tohunga Toitoti Katipa join us to bless and open our new office. They have extended us an opportunity to learn about the history of Tainui in the Manukau region, where we are based. It will be our great privilege to build our connection and understanding, when COVID-19 allows.

We had hoped this year to have a noho marae and wānanga for whānau, including our staff, Board and youth participation members, to build upon prior learning and develop a shared understanding of what being Treaty-based means for us. However, just as happened last year, COVID-19 disrupted our plans and we have postponed once again.

More staff enrolled in te reo Māori courses, and they were able to continue these online.

# VOLUNTEERS

*YouthLaw's volunteers help us in many ways. We appreciate all the hard work and the time they spend working with us - we truly rely on it!*

Our legal advice team volunteers do everything from research, client interviewing and relaying advice, to preparing and drafting documents. They make a firm commitment and we are heavily reliant on them to support our lawyers on the advice line. As detailed on the previous page, "Legal advice, information and representation", our volunteer intakes were disrupted during Auckland's numerous lockdowns, however, during levels one and two the legal assistant volunteers were working hard.

For the first time this financial year we had a handful of dedicated law reform volunteers. They put in many hours to support our law reform work, including writing and presenting submissions, and created some exceptional pieces of work. They were a large part of why we were able to be so active in this space - please read more about their contribution in the law reform section on page 17.

We also introduced law internships, each lasting several months. Some were filled in a voluntary capacity and provided invaluable help for our legal advice and law reform work, so thank you to Verniel Virtucio, Nicole Chong, Corallee Collins-Annan and Sapphire Petrie-McVean.

We heavily rely on our Board and would like to thank them for dedicating time and energy toward the betterment of young people in Aotearoa, and for ensuring the well-being of the YouthLaw staff.

And finally, a big thank you to The Project Team and Youth Advisory Committee who helped YouthLaw better tailor what we do for young people throughout the motu. To read more about their work and contribution, turn to Youth Participation on page 13.

# LAW REFORM

This financial year was a busy one for law reform, with YouthLaw undertaking nine separate law reform projects (see chart below).

In semester one, 2021 we put out the call for law reform specific volunteers and received more than 50 applications from across Aotearoa. From these we recruited some amazing volunteers, and they contributed hugely to our law reform efforts. Our law reform volunteers were Imogen Burrows, Sarah Burton, Isabella Docherty, Kimberley Gee, Charlie Harmer, Isabella Meltzer and Nicole Tan.

Special acknowledgement to Isabella Meltzer who contributed to the Social Security (Financial Assistance for Caregivers) Amendment Bill written submission and presented our submission to the select committee alongside YouthLaw solicitor Sarah Butterfield.

Also to Kimberley, who contributed to the Harmful Digital Communications (Unauthorised Posting of Intimate Visual Recording) Amendment Bill written submission and presented our submission to the Justice Committee alongside Sarah.

We also wouldn't have been able to undertake our law reform programme without the help of our supportive Board, The Project Team, The Youth Advisory Committee, and friends of YouthLaw. Special thanks to Simon Judd, Piers Davies, Jennifer Braithwaite and Robert Ludbrook for their ongoing and committed support. Also special thanks to Simon for presenting our oral submission to the Oranga Tamariki (Youth Justice Demerits) Bill alongside Sarah Butterfield. Thanks also to Wahine Murch and Tangihaere Rangimarie Gardiner for their support on behalf of The Youth Advisory Committee.

You can read our submissions on our website, at [www.youthlaw.co.nz/resources](http://www.youthlaw.co.nz/resources)

and videos of our oral submissions are available on our [Facebook page @YouthLaw](#)

We undertook a consultation with the The Project Team and The Youth Advisory Committee on our Workplace Bullying and Sexual Harassment submission and got some great insights, including:

“Support systems are less accessible for students because they depend on the security of a job to support themselves. Complaining about bullying might feel like a sure-fire way to lose that job.”

“Pacific Islanders/Māori don't reach out for help. Lots of them don't know of YouthLaw.”

When asked how YouthLaw could better help, responses included “make the process shorter” and “more YouthLaw centres in New Zealand.”



Solicitor Sarah Butterfield and law reform volunteer Kimberly Gee present YouthLaw's oral submission on the Harmful Digital Communications (Unauthorised Posting of Intimate Visual Recording) Amendment Bill.

“I have just got off a call with one of my colleagues from the Children's Rights Alliance who watched the YouthLaw submission online last week. She said it was very impressive – clear, well balanced / practical and did not give any wriggle room in relation to what needs to be done. She also commented that it was particularly effective given it was based on what the YouthLaw team hear from children and young people themselves. I haven't seen it myself yet but I understand that congratulations go to Neil and Robert for delivering a great submission!!”

- YouthLaw Submission on the Family Courts (Supporting Children in Court) Legislation Bill

DATE	SELECT COMMITTEE	BILLS / REVIEWS	ACTION
June 2021	High Court Rules Committee	Civil Access to Justice consultation.	YouthLaw was asked to make a submission as we contributed to the initial submission in 2020. We contributed to the CLCA submission.
June 2021	Internal Affairs	Charities Act Review Consultation - YouthLaw made a submission to the 2019 discussion document. In this submission we provided feedback about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The regulator (roles and functions of the Registration Board and Charities Services)</li> <li>• Appeals; and</li> <li>• The role of officers.</li> </ul>	YouthLaw made a brief submission to Internal Affairs elaborating on our 2019 submission.
May 2021	Ministry of Education	Te oranga me te haumarū ākonga: Wellbeing and safety for tertiary domestic and international learners submission 2021	Neil Shaw and Sarah Butterfield attended a consultation Zoom with Ministry representatives to discuss the proposed pastoral code for domestic students and the tertiary disputes resolution scheme. YouthLaw made a submission. Since our submission, a pastoral code has been created and another consultation was undertaken.
May 2021	Justice Committee	Family Court (Supporting Children in Court) Legislation Bill	YouthLaw led by Robert Lim made a written and oral submission on this bill. The bill received royal assent in August 2021.
April 2021	Justice Committee	Harmful Digital Communications (Unauthorised Posting of Intimate Visual Recording) Amendment Bill	YouthLaw made a written and oral submission on this bill. The bill is currently at the second reading stage.
March 2021	MBIE – Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment	Bullying and sexual harassment at work submission. MBIE released an Issues Paper on bullying and harassment (including sexual harassment) at work in New Zealand.	YouthLaw ran a consultation event with the project team at YouthLaw offices and online with the Youth Advisory Panel. These comments were incorporated into our submission to MBIE. The comments will help MBIE evaluate current processes for reporting workplace bullying and sexual harassment.

DATE	SELECT COMMITTEE	BILLS / REVIEWS	ACTION
February 2021	Social Services and Community Committee	Oranga Tamariki Youth Justice Demerit Points Amendment Bill. Proposal to introduce a “demerits” scheme based on specified offences to reduce youth reoffending. YouthLaw Aotearoa strongly contested this bill as it proposed fundamental changes to the youth justice system.	YouthLaw made a written and oral submission on this bill. The bill was withdrawn in May.
February 2021	Social Services and Community Committee	Social Security (Financial Assistance for Caregivers) Amendment Bill. Change to unsupported child benefit and orphans benefit criteria.	YouthLaw made a written and oral submission on this bill. Since then, the bill has received royal assent.
August 2020	New Zealand Law Society	Access to Justice Submission	YouthLaw made a submission in consultation with the Community Law Centres Aotearoa.



The YouthLaw whānau enjoy their team day at Auckland Zoo. Back row (left to right): Robert Lim, Rita Unasa, Sarah Mansell. Middle row (left to right): Velda Chan, Neil Shaw, Sarah Butterfield, Manawa Pomare, Nicole Chong, Nadia Bari. Front row (left to right): Damian Piilua, Sarah Guy, Gretchen Carroll.

# FINANCES

1 JULY 2020 - 30 JUNE 2021

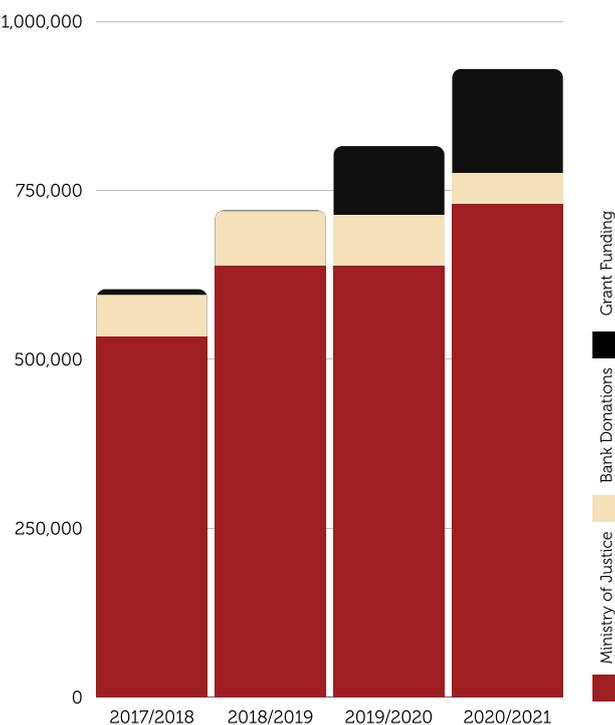
## Financial Position

We had budgeted for a deficit of \$44,000 for the 2020/2021 financial year. We outperformed the budget and instead finished the year with a deficit of \$14,000.

For the 2021/2022 financial year, we anticipate a deficit of \$24,000. Our cash reserves are such that the Board is comfortable with this deficit.

## Income

The Ministry of Justice continues to be our primary source of funding, providing 77% of our income this financial year. The Ministry contract us to provide legal services that address the needs of young people throughout Aotearoa.



As in other years, the major trading banks have provided untagged donations, derived from the interest earned on lawyers' trust accounts. Unfortunately, the pandemic has driven interest rates very low and so this income source was greatly diminished. This year, 5% of our total income was from bank donations.

We received the second tranche of our grant funding from the JR McKenzie Trust, and we were grateful to receive extensions to our existing funding periods with Foundation North, Lotteries, The Working Together More Fund and Auckland Airport Community Trust. Therefore 16% of our income this year is attributed to these funders.

We also received koha from members of the public. While donations represent a small proportion of our funding, they are beneficial to our kaupapa and are greatly appreciated.

## Expenditure

Our people are our priority and our expenses reflect this. Employee and volunteer costs represent 74% of our overall spending.

Office overheads (including IT, communications, rent, power, cleaning, accounting, insurance, and various other costs) comprised 15% of our expenditure.

The remaining 11% of our costs were related to a grant-funded project, for instance youth participation and the national education roadshow.

For a copy of YouthLaw Aotearoa's full Performance Report for 2020/2021FY, please email [info@youthlaw.co.nz](mailto:info@youthlaw.co.nz)

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

YouthLaw Aotearoa wishes to thank the many organisations and individuals who have provided their kind support and invaluable assistance to its ongoing achievements and success.

*In particular we would like to thank the following organisations:*

Community Law Centres O Aotearoa	Children's Rights Alliance Aotearoa	Te Ara Ture
Community Law Centres around the country	Expert IT	University of Auckland Law School
Praxis	Better Co Accountants	AUT Law School
	Moore Markhams	

*We also wish to thank the following individuals:*

Robert Ludbrook	Heni-Ana Karanga	Dinah Dolbel
Darryn Aitchison	Abhi Guda	Harvena Cherrington
Papa Toimai Katipa	Mere Komene	Toitoi Katipa

*We are very grateful to our funders for enabling the work we do:*

The Ministry of Justice	J R McKenzie Trust	The Working Together More Fund / He Putea Mahi Tahī
ASB, ANZ, BNZ, Westpac and TSB	Lotteries Community Fund	Auckland Airport Community Trust
Foundation North	The Ministry of Social Development	





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