

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023  
2024

# YOUTHLAW AOTEAROA



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## **Our Vision:**

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

# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa. YouthLaw Aotearoa is embarking on an exciting new strategic plan. The staff and the Board held workshops in early 2024 and had many discussions around where we wanted YouthLaw to head in the coming years.

When designing our strategy, we drew on a vast pool of insights into access to justice which have emerged over the past 20 years. The strategy we developed is exciting and ambitious.

We know that children and young people experience high levels of legal need. Most legal problems occur when children and young people transition to adulthood. They experience multiple legal problems for the first time, such as employment, housing, income and credit-related issues. The most serious legal problems are highly concentrated on certain populations, such as rangatahi Māori, Pasifika and whaikaha people.

Serious legal problems are often entwined with social problems, cause significant harm, and are difficult to resolve. We also know the level of unmet legal need for children and young people is enormous – we will never have enough capacity to meet it.

With this in mind, our new strategic plan has three key goals:

1. Ensuring some of our resources are used to ensure all children and young people are supported in their transition to the adult world;
2. Ensuring most of our resources are targeted at children and young people who experience the highest levels of legal harm;
3. Ensuring some of our resources are used to prevent legal harm occurring in the first place by fixing bad laws.



*Above: YouthLaw's overarching strategic goals are shown in the above illustration.*

# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

There are three other threads running through our entire strategy.

- At the heart of our organisation are children's rights. The well-being of children and young people would be promoted if children's rights were reflected in our laws and legal system. Many of the horrors described in the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care would have been avoided if the systems of care were built around children's rights. We will continue working to promote children's rights in Aotearoa.
- Rangatahi Māori are our first and highest priority. They have the highest legal needs of all children and young people, and some of the highest needs in Aotearoa. Becoming more Te Tiriti based and working within a kaupapa Māori framework are essential to the success in addressing high legal need for these young people.
- Embedding youth participation and youth voice into YouthLaw is the third thread. To be accessible to children and young people, our systems need to be age and culturally appropriate. To reflect the rights and interests of children and young people, laws need to be designed with their voice in mind. Having children and young people within the YouthLaw whānau will ensure we are both more accessible and effective at advocating for reform.

I'm excited about the direction we are heading in and look forward to working with the YouthLaw whānau to see this vision come to life.

While the first six months of 2024 were busy with developing YouthLaw's new strategy, business as usual continued throughout the 2023-24 financial year, and I congratulate the team on meeting their Ministry of Justice targets across all areas.

We were pleased to welcome Darryn Aitchison, who started as our new General Manager in October 2023, and led the development of our plan as outlined above. Thank you to all the staff, volunteers and to my fellow Board members for their commitment and contributions during the past year.

Ngā mihi,



Simon Judd



# GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa. It is an honour and a privilege to present my first General Manager's report for YouthLaw Aotearoa. I have watched YouthLaw do amazing work for my entire legal career. During the past 10 months, I've had the privilege of working with the amazing team of people behind it all. I want to thank the entire team – the Board and the staff – for the warm welcome and support I've received so far. I feel a huge responsibility steering this ship. I'm grateful for the time, space and wholehearted support you have given me as I feel my way into the role.

It has been a huge year for the team! The start of the year was difficult due to the loss of two senior staff members, followed by two more staff before the end of quarter two. These losses put stress on the team and put us behind in our contracted targets. Within weeks of my arrival in October, we started developing a new strategy. This was a huge piece of work, which led to more work, as we looked to put our 2025 budget and operational plan together. It also meant we were effectively down one lawyer for much of quarter three and four. There is also the inevitable disruption a new GM brings.

I'm grateful and proud of the way the whole team pulled together. Everyone played a critical role in getting us to this point.

Some of the highlights for the year included:

- Meeting all our targets
- Relaunching our Youth Project Team
- Developing the new strategic plan
- Plotting a pathway to becoming a Te Tiriti based organisation
- Taking significant steps towards pay equity for our wonderful workforce.

Thank you to the core team of Natalie Watkin Ward, Velda Chan, Sarah Guy, Gretchen Carroll, Paul Paek, Andrew Fermor, Cole Peters, Amelia Campbell and Stevie Hoesel. A big thank you also to Neil Shaw, Sarah Mansell, Rita Unasa, Felix Poole, Veisia Maka, Sophia Malthus, Muna Panyasong, Hyunjee Na, James Rogers, Caroline Bunz and Felicia Montes for their contribution this year. And finally, thank you to our wonderful Board, our Youth Project Team, and our law student volunteers. You are all critical to our success and your voluntary service to the children and young people of Aotearoa is humbling.

## **The New Strategy**

We start the 2025 financial year with a new strategy. While it will take considerable time and effort to pull it off, we are hopeful it will make a significant contribution to the advancement of children and young people in Aotearoa. A key goal of our strategy is to help prepare children and young people for the journey to adulthood and to be active citizens. With this in mind, we are developing and piloting a **civics education programme** for schools over the next 12 months.

# GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The programme is designed to build legal capability within children and young people, so they are better prepared for the legal journey to adulthood. The programme will also help to elevate their voices within the democratic system so laws are designed with their rights and well-being in mind. We are delighted to have The Michael and Suzanne Borrin Foundation's support for this new programme.

A second goal of our strategy is to reduce the most serious legal harms experienced by children and young people. Aotearoa has some of the worst rates in the world for child poverty, violence against children and youth suicide, and research shows unmet legal need is a significant driver of these. We have several pieces of work in the pipeline we hope will make a significant difference.

In 2025 we will start developing our **workforce capability project**. The purpose of this project is to build capability within the people, organisations and sectors who work with children and young people (especially those with high legal needs). People who work with children and young people need to know how to identify a legal issue and how to escalate or resolve it. Professionals also need clarity about their own legal obligations and duties. Lack of clarity exposes children and young people to the risk of poor decisions and delays. Through the workforce capability project, we will develop and pilot a professional development programme designed to strengthen workforces and improve outcomes.

Our **Korowai Tuakiri Project** is building the foundations of a kaupapa Māori framework for our services. Rangatahi Māori experience the highest level of legal need amongst children and young people. This project aims to build internal cultural capability, build relationships with our Māori community, and deepen our partnerships with Māori social services. It is a collaboration with our national body, Community Law Centres Aotearoa, and its Tangata Whenua Caucus, Ngā Kaiawhina Hāpori Māori o te Ture.

As you can see, 2025 will be an exciting and busy time. However, a key value we are taking with us is Ihirangaranga. While we want our people to be inspired and empowered, we also want them to be supported. We will undertake this task carefully, sustainably and in a manner that looks after our people. Thank you to all our YouthLaw whānau for the past financial year and I look forward to reporting back next year on the progress we have made.

Ngā mihi nui,



Darryn Aitchison  
General Manager



# LEGAL ADVICE SERVICES

Despite numerous staff changes, the legal advice team achieved our client targets. For part of the financial year, we operated with a reduced team, with the resignation of previous General Manager **Neil Shaw**, solicitor **Rita Unasa**, and law clerk **Felix Poole**. Felix completed his Professionals while he was at YouthLaw and was subsequently admitted. He is now employed as a barrister and solicitor at a criminal law firm.

Fortunately, we were able to secure some extra assistance. **Caroline Bunz**, an intern from Germany, joined our team for three months. We wish Caroline the best of luck for her goal to become a judge. **Amelia Campbell**, who brings a wealth of knowledge from her previous work in community law, has joined the team full-time and works remotely from Vanuatu. **Veisia Maka**, law student and Board member, joined us over summer as a law clerk. We also recruited three law clerks between April and July to support us in reaching our client target - **Muna Panyasong**, **Sophia Malthus** and **Hyunjee Na**. All three started as valuable volunteers at YouthLaw. Muna, who was in Aotearoa on an exchange, has since returned to the University of Cambridge; Hyunjee is in pursuit of a full-time career; and Sophia continues her law studies and volunteering with us.

With more experienced solicitors, the team could take on more representation cases that aligned with their interests. Education cases make up our primary workload for younger clients, while our clients who are transitioning to adulthood primarily have employment concerns. Our casework has continued to become increasingly complex. The younger generation's high level of internet literacy and AI's emergence have resulted

in a decrease in straightforward inquiries. We often receive inquiries that the client has been unable to resolve independently after conducting their own online search. This increased complexity typically means more time is spent on cases.

Special recognition must be made to Board member **David Sutton**, who has consistently supported the legal team, particularly with his expertise in education law and his willingness to represent our clients in suspension cases. David's representation has meant favourable outcomes for a number of students.

With more experience and a fresh direction, the legal team is optimistic that they'll be able to help even more clients in a meaningful way in the coming year.

## Client Feedback

*"Thank you so much for all the hours and hard work you have put into me even though I was the one who made the bad mistake. I will forever be thankful and will definitely never forget this day."*

*"I wanted to say this is an excellent summary of advice and thanks to the whole team, Darryn, Cole et al - and very helpful to my son and his whānau. Ngā mihi ki a koutou mo tēnei mātauranga."*

*"Thank you very much for helping me with my situation, I just wanted to write this email to say thanks for making it easy and helping me understand what I should be doing, once again thank you."*

*"Thank you very much for your email and advice, especially at such a busy time for you all. X and I are most grateful for the advice, your work is helping the community very much and important."*

# CASE STUDIES

## Case One

### *Background*

A young person was seeking our advice as they had been having issues with their employer. The employee was working as a part-time permanent employee, and the employer reduced their hours below the weekly hours guaranteed to them in their employment agreement. The employee was available, willing, and wanting to work their regular hours. However, the employer reduced their hours without explanation or clear written agreement from the employee. When the employee enquired about the change to their working hours, the employer provided them with a copy of a variation of employment agreement that the employee had never seen or signed.

### *What we advised*

We advised that if the employee was available and willing to work, their employer was obligated to offer them at least their guaranteed hours each week. In addition, the employer could only vary the employment agreement with the written consent of the employee. In this case, there was no written consent. We advised that the young person could raise a personal grievance in these circumstances.

### *The outcome*

Using YouthLaw's advice, the employee raised a personal grievance against their employer. In addition, YouthLaw represented the young person during mediation with the employer. At mediation, YouthLaw helped the young person negotiate a successful outcome. The young person was satisfied with this outcome and expressed gratitude for YouthLaw's assistance.

## Case Two

### *Background*

A young person had a recurrent behavioural issue at school. They were given a final warning and stopped doing this behaviour for some time, but returned to it after a traumatic experience. They were removed from class to attend a meeting, where the family were given several hours to choose whether to voluntarily withdraw the young person from school, otherwise the student would be suspended. The family chose suspension. The suspension was not registered with the Ministry of Education until the next day.

### *What we advised*

The family contacted YouthLaw asking for help, and we attended the suspension meeting. We suggested a child-centred approach to address the behaviour and the client expressed remorse. Despite this, the school excluded our client and did not inform the family. We contacted the Ministry to raise our concerns that the school made multiple procedural errors throughout the suspension process. Importantly, the family were not informed of the outcome of the suspension meeting at any point.

### *The outcome*

The Ministry is now in communication with the school about our client returning to the school.



# CASE STUDIES

## Case Three

### Background

A young person was employed as a permanent staff member for a company. Their driver's licence was suspended and they informed the company about the situation. However, after informing the employer, they noticed a change in the employer's attitude. Instead of being offered work that did not require a licence to work at, they were assigned to sites that required a licence. Less and less work was offered to the young person until they had practically no work to do. They requested a meeting with the employer. During the meeting, the young person was informed that they would no longer be offered any work due to the licence suspension and that they should simply resign. They were not offered any more work and were suddenly terminated from their role. They were also informed that they would not be paid out their notice period.

### What we advised

YouthLaw represented the young person in this matter. A personal grievance letter was sent to the employer, citing unjustified disadvantage and dismissal as the grounds for the grievance. The employer denied the allegations, and private negotiations with the employer's legal representatives to resolve the issue fell through. YouthLaw recommended mediation as the next course of action, which the young person was willing to engage in. At mediation, YouthLaw presented their perspective on the situation and proposed ways to resolve the issue.

### The outcome

YouthLaw successfully secured an extremely positive settlement package at mediation, also rectifying the situation. Our client was extremely pleased with the representation and mentioned that the overall outcome had far exceeded their expectations.



Left and below: Members from the YL team at various public events during the year.



# LAW RELATED EDUCATION

The Law Related Education (LRE) team, led by Education and Engagement Manager Sarah Guy, had another successful year in the 2023-24 period. The strong momentum and relationships established previously continued on, and LRE achieved both its session and participant target numbers (set by the Ministry of Justice) ahead of schedule. Our ability and enthusiasm to respond to community need drove the decision to keep offering services after these targets had been achieved.

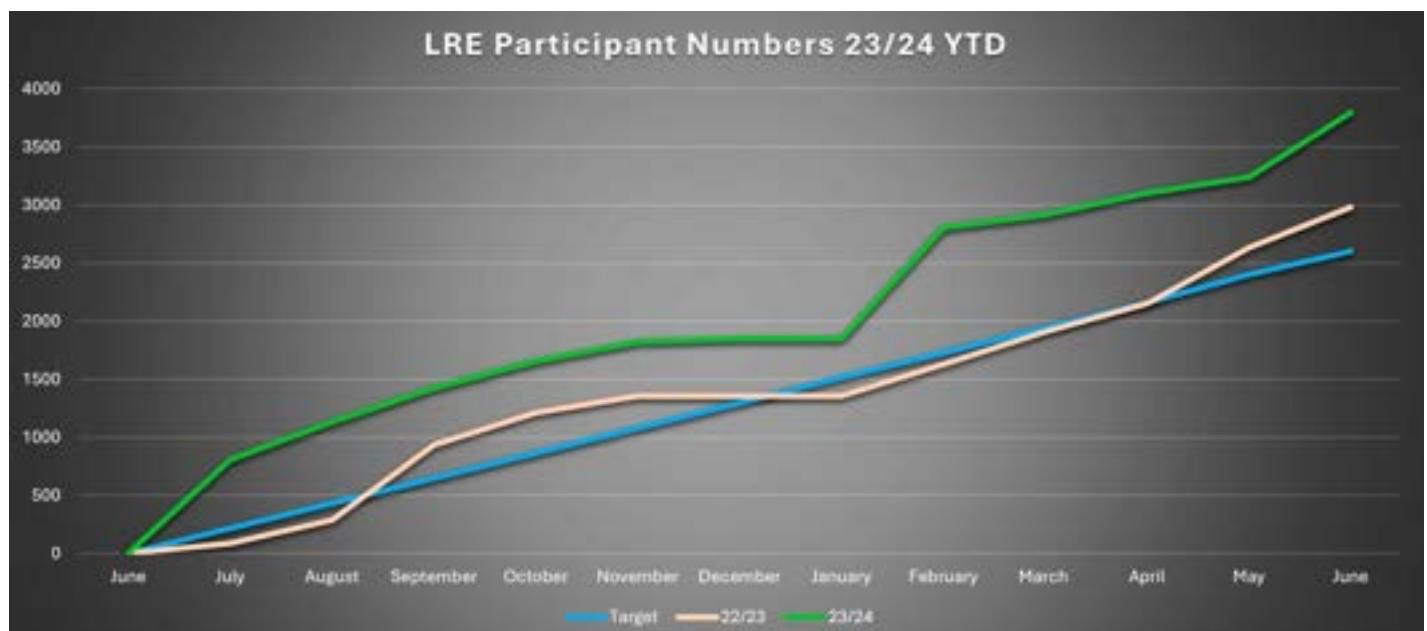
The LRE team was strengthened by a new staff member, Education and Engagement Coordinator Stevie Hoesel. Stevie's passion for youth and their rights has been an incredible addition. The team was also delighted to have an intern, Felicia Montes, for six weeks.

We finished our first year with the Ministry of Education's Migrant and Ethnic Community Hubs, presenting to 14 Ethnic Community Hubs and engaging with 370 people from across wider Auckland. One challenge is that these communities largely meet in the weekends and

evenings, as these times work best for the families. To be true to our purpose of enabling access to justice, we take this into account and meet with them outside our normal operating hours. Feedback from the organisers was hugely positive.

"Your dedication, expertise, and passion have made a profound impact on all our communities. Your advocacy for youth rights has been truly inspiring. By highlighting the importance of respecting and protecting the rights of young individuals, you have encouraged the communities to create safe and inclusive spaces for our youth to thrive. Your sessions are not only informative but also incredibly engaging," wrote Nazreen and Awad, from the Migrant and Refugee Education Ākonga and Community Delivery.

Access to justice is of huge importance to LRE. It is more than providing services when it suits an organisation, it is placing an active



# LAW RELATED EDUCATION

importance on designing a service that addresses the needs of respective communities. We need to make sure our LRE service is relevant; accessible in terms of both time and mode/location; and delivered in understandable language. We are also widening the scope of who we deliver to – for instance, if we share information with one student, they may share it with a couple of friends or whānau, but if we work alongside the youth sector, those staff will reach many more young people.

While it's impossible to mention here all the wonderful places we worked with over the year, we wish to extend gratitude to the schools, groups, organisations and all participants who welcomed and spent time with us. One highlight was the Lil Gay Out, hosted by Hobsonville Senior College in Auckland. We loved speaking with young people from a number of schools about their rights and responsibilities, to keep our Rainbow young people informed. We were invited by our friends at CAYAD (Community

Action on Youth and Drugs), which is one of our new community relationships. An established relationship that continued to thrive this year was with Pillars Ka Pou Whakahou. Pillars is a charity that actively supports tamariki and whānau of people in prison or those serving a community-based sentence. It is always such a pleasure to work beside such organisations and have an innate understanding and respect for each other's kaupapa.

“Sarah Guy has been a long-standing support to us for several years now, always going above and beyond to engage with our rangatahi and team...Stevie was engaging, trauma-informed and connected so easily with our rangatahi,” said Corinna from Pillars.

The coming year will be an exciting and busy one for the team, as we embark on new initiatives such as the civics in schools programme.



*Left: Education and Engagement Manager Sarah Guy far right (holding her furry friend Jack), with Education and Engagement Coordinator Stevie Hoesel behind Jack, pictured at one of the several sessions YouthLaw was privileged to hold with Pillars this year.*

# YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The Youth Project Team (YPT) is back! The YPT plays a crucial role in ensuring that the voice of young people remains at the heart of YouthLaw's mission. In the past year, the YPT has undergone significant growth, embodying YouthLaw's commitment to honouring and amplifying youth voices. YouthLaw was one of the first organisations in New Zealand to adopt a clear children's rights approach. This approach aligns with our belief that involving children and youth in decision-making is not just a matter of rights, it's a means to make better decisions. The YPT embodies this philosophy by actively participating in initiatives that affect them and their peers, thus contributing to meaningful change.

The YPT is made up of a dynamic group of young people aged 16-24, based in Auckland, who are dedicated to protecting the rights of their peers, expanding access to justice and enriching their communities. The YPT engages in various activities including outreach projects, raising awareness about relevant legal issues, and promoting awareness of youth rights. During the past year, our core cohort of five members rapidly expanded to fifteen, reflecting our growing impact and the increasing interest in our work. We are gearing up for an ambitious 2025, building on our accomplishments from the last year.

The YPT hosted its inaugural Taiohi Think Tank in July 2024 at Auckland's Maritime Museum. This event brought together rangatahi from VOYCE Whakarongo mai, Kick Back, I.Lead, Manurewa Youth Council, Te Roopu Waiora, and YouthLaw's own YPT.

The gathering was a vibrant exchange of insights, marking a new step in strengthening our collective advocacy efforts. The energy of the day was palpable as participants sang, laughed and built new friendships. We are excited about the upcoming initiatives that will stem from the valuable ideas shared during this event.



Above: mementoes from the Think Tank day.

The YPT's involvement in policy advocacy has also been notable. YPT organised a meeting with community partners such as VOYCE Whakaronga Mai to discuss submissions related to the Repeal of Section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act. This collaboration led to one team member, Matakorama Waipouri, providing testimony in YouthLaw's submission and another, Stella Donaldson, speaking before the Select Committee on behalf of the YPT. These contributions have amplified our voice in important legislative discussions and demonstrated YouthLaw's commitment to the youth voice.

# YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The YPT's work underscores the importance of incorporating young people's perspectives into decision-making processes. Our members bring experiential knowledge and insights into contemporary conditions, which leads to more effective and impactful solutions. By giving young people a platform to share their views and contribute to advocacy efforts, we ensure that the decisions made are not only inclusive, but also better informed.

Another notable project was the development and execution of the "Heat Check" street interview series created for our Instagram account. This initiative, alongside our "P.S." infographic series, was designed to raise awareness about YouthLaw's services and the legal issues affecting young people. The impact of these efforts resulted in a significant

increase in engagement with our Instagram account and generally sets a foundation for future communication campaigns, showcasing the YPT's creativity and influence. The YPT has actively participated in several events with YouthLaw's Law Related Education team, including Auckland's Funfest and local Youth Council events. These engagements allowed us to connect with the broader community, promote our initiatives, and gather valuable feedback. Our involvement has strengthened our ties with other community organisations and expanded our outreach efforts.

As we head towards 2025, we look forward to continuing our collaboration with community organisations, exploring new initiatives, and furthering our advocacy efforts.



*Above left: Staff members and the YPT crew celebrate the group's first few months' successes.*

*Right: The YPT were an integral part of the YL team at the Funfest held in Auckland, January 2024.*

# VOLUNTEERS

YouthLaw has been fortunate once again this financial year to have a strong cohort of volunteers in different areas, including growing our youth participation. Thank you to everyone who volunteered this year.

Our **legal assistant volunteers** help the team with client interviewing and relaying advice, research, as well as preparing and drafting documents. They're juggling university studies, jobs, family commitments, and social lives and yet still make the commitment to come in and help every week. We were also fortunate to have Caroline Bunz and James Rogers as interns for several months each in the legal team as well. James, and another intern Felicia Montes, worked with the LRE team as well, helping out with their sessions and creating resources.

Some feedback from our legal team volunteers:

*Thank you everyone for so much care and help in my time at YouthLaw. I've learnt so much here (possibly more than uni!) – Hyunjee, volunteer/law clerk 2021-24.*

*It's been a pleasure working at YouthLaw. Hope I can come back and visit sometime in the future – Muna, volunteer/law clerk 2023-24.*

*This will be my final [volunteer] intake at YouthLaw, it has been a fantastic time and I can't wait to see the team grow and support all your mahi from the sidelines – Claire, volunteer 2022-24.*

The **Youth Project Team (YPT)** was revived (see page 12) and a crew of enthusiastic and inspirational volunteers were recruited to determine and drive the YPT's kaupapa. Thank you also to Matakorama Waipouri and Stella Donaldson from YPT who played a vital role in our submission on the repeal of 7AA.

As ever this year, we turned to our **Board** to provide direction and support. Board membership was once again stable from the previous year, with the full contingent of 12 members being re-elected. As a national organisation, it's awesome to have Board members from around the motu.

*Right: Our Board at the staff and board strategic planning day, (absent David Sutton), plus General Manager Darryn Aitchison front row, and Culture and Resource Manager Natalie Watkin Ward, middle row far left.*



# LAW REFORM

It's been a productive year on the law reform front, with our focus now orientated towards deepening our opportunities and knowledge for proactive law reform, rather than reactive. For instance, we participate in quarterly hui with the Ministries of Education and Justice, which include conversations about the direction of government policy. Several staff members were involved in different law reform projects during the year, led by General Manager Darryn Aitchison, including Solicitor Andrew Fermor, Education and Engagement Coordinator Stevie Hoesel and Graduate Solicitor Cole Peters.

We have also been lucky enough to have youth lend their voices to our submissions, in particular we'd like to thank Matakorama Waipouri and Stella Donaldson from the Youth Project Team who played vital roles in our submission on the repeal of 7AA. Thanks also to Vivienne Holm, who has been invaluable on the School Dispute Resolution Panels reform project.

You can read our written submissions on our website <http://youthlaw.co.nz/resources/> and videos of our oral submissions are available on our Facebook page @YouthLaw.

DATE	BILLS/REVIEWS/ACTIVITY	ACTION
Throughout 2023-24	School Dispute Resolution Panels reform project	Several members of the YouthLaw whānau continued to work to encourage the implementation of Dispute Resolution Panels for high schools, as legislated in the Education and Training Act. The team made progress over the financial year, outlining a plan, making strategic Official Information Act requests, and communicating with the Minister of Education and key allies to establish a new avenue for justice in high schools.
Throughout 2023-24	Ram Raid Offending and Related Measures Amendment Bill	We prepared a written submission against this Bill, as well as collaborating with like-minded community organisations to write a separate joint submission. We presented our oral submission in March 2024, and some of the YouthLaw team joined others at Parliament to hand over a joint petition against the Bill.
September 2023	Employment Relations (Restraint of Trade) Amendment Bill	We made a submission in support of this Bill's intentions, due to the unjust use of restraint of trade clauses in many young people's employment agreements. We are particularly supportive of the restriction on such clauses that do not protect any proprietary interests.

DATE	BILLS/REVIEWS/ACTIVITY	ACTION
October 2023	Electoral (Lowering Voting Age for Local Elections and Polls) Legislation Bill	We made a submission to the Justice Committee in support of lowering the voting age in local elections to 16 years old.
Early 2024	School phone bans	The Ministry of Education contacted us about the incoming school phone bans, allowing several members of our team to share their reflections with the Ministry. This initial meeting allowed us to arrange quarterly meetings with the Ministry.
November 2023 – May 2024	Children and Young People's Privacy Project	We wrote a submission to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner giving feedback on the Project, and Darryn participated in an online panel during Privacy Week in May. The panel discussed a report by the Office, <i>Safeguarding Children and Young People's Privacy in New Zealand</i> . This was a great opportunity to showcase our work and learn about systemic issues facing young people and the workers who support them. It is clear that those working with youth struggle to navigate complex issues, because they lack the specialist legal support they need to do it safely. We also raised that more needs to be done to ensure privacy rights of children and young people are promoted and upheld.
May 2024	Prosecution Guidelines	We worked with Community Law Centres Aotearoa to make a submission to Crown Law on the review of the prosecution guidelines. These guidelines have not been reviewed for around 30 years. This was an important opportunity to influence how prosecution discretion is exercised, especially in light of the legislative direction of the current Government. Our submission argued that the draft guidelines do not adequately reflect the specific vulnerabilities faced by children and young people. We were particularly concerned that references to children and young people within the guidelines were open to being limited to people under 18. We argued the guidelines should reflect the fact that a young person is typically seen as someone younger than 25.



DATE	BILLS/REVIEWS/ACTIVITY	ACTION
May 2024	COVID-19 Lessons Learned	We responded to The Royal Commission COVID-19 Lessons Learned/Te Tira Ārai Urutā, who asked about the Government's response to COVID-19, and what could be done in a future pandemic. We provided input to Community Law Centres Aotearoa's submission regarding terms of reference.
Throughout 2023-24, presented August 2024	Repeal of Section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act	Section 7AA of the Act places duties upon Oranga Tamariki to practically adhere to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. YouthLaw worked in partnership with Māori providers and gave written and oral submissions against the repeal of this section.
July 2024	Reinstating Three Strikes Bill	This Bill aims to bring back the three strikes sentencing system for repeat offenders, which will require a sentence to be served without parole for the second strike, and the maximum penalty to be served without parole for the third strike. YouthLaw provided some content to Community Law Centres Aotearoa to support their submission against this Bill.

*Below left: YouthLaw held a meeting with community partners to discuss submissions related to the repeal of Section 7AA. Right: The group (including YL) presenting a joint petition at Parliament against the Ram Raid Bill.*



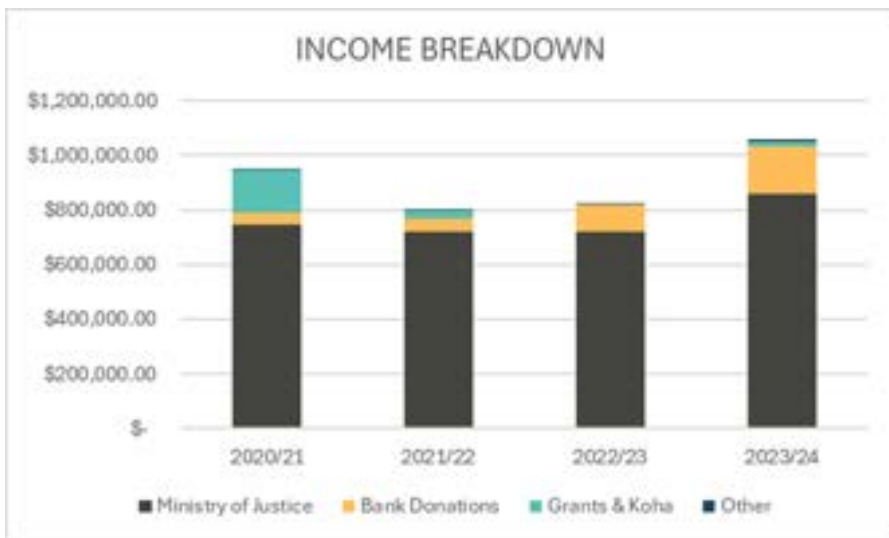
# FINANCES

## Financial Position

The 2023/24 financial year has once again left YouthLaw in a strong financial position with accumulated funds of \$506,227. We have ended the year with a surplus of \$140,932 which, although slightly less than the 2022/23 financial year, is still a great outcome. High interest rates have meant our bank donation funding has continued to increase, which has contributed to the overall surplus. YouthLaw did not undertake any significant projects during this financial year, as we focussed instead on strategic planning for the future of YouthLaw and how best to utilise our reserves. Our current financial position gives us an excellent opportunity to implement strategic changes to our mahi without significant financial risk to the organisation.

## Income

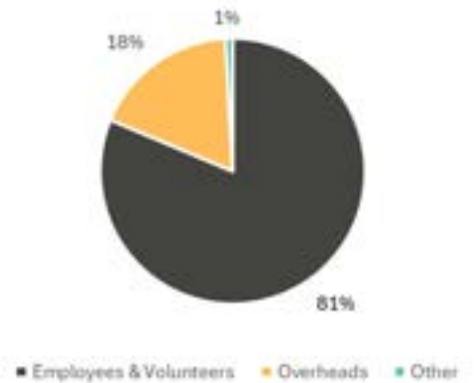
The bulk of our funding continues to come from the Ministry of Justice, who contracts YouthLaw to provide free legal services for young people across the motu. Our baseline funding was supplemented by a Cost-of-living payment from the Ministry of Justice’s Special Fund surplus, which was negotiated as part of the Community Law Centres Aotearoa (CLCA) ‘Towards Pay Equity’ scheme. The bank donation funding, consisting of the interest earned on lawyers’ trade accounts, has been significantly higher than expected due to high interest rates over the 2023/24 financial year. Ministry of Justice funding made up 81% of our total income and the bank donations made up 16%. The remaining 3% came from project grants, interest on term deposits, and public donations.



## Expenditure

The largest proportion of YouthLaw’s expenses goes to our people. Following an underspend on employee costs in 2022/23, we were able to hire some fantastic people to fill key roles in 2023/24. Additional funding from the Ministry of Justice’s Special Fund surplus allowed us to implement salary increases in line with CLCA’s ‘Towards Pay Equity’ scheme. Employee and volunteer expenses represent 81% of our total expenditure. Overheads made up a further 18% of our annual spending, which includes rent, power, accounting, IT, insurance, communications, and various other costs. The remaining 1% accounts for all other expenses, such as bank fees and depreciation.

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



## 2023/2024 FY

Revenue	\$1,056,913
Expenses	\$915,981
Surplus	\$140,932
Assets	\$715,079
Liabilities	\$208,852
Accumulated Funds	\$506,227

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

The Ministry of Justice

ASB, ANZ, BNZ, Westpac and TSB

*We would also like to thank the following organisations:*

Amnesty International	Friendship House	Pillars Ka Pou Whakahou
Ara Taiohi	Kick Back and The Front Door	Praxis
AUT University Law School	Manukau Jobs and Skills Hub	Te Ara Ture
Barnardos	The Michael and Suzanne Borrin Foundation	Thomson Reuters
BetterCo Accountants	The Ministry of Education	Save the Children
Children's Rights Alliance Aotearoa	Moore Markhams	University of Auckland Law School
Community Law Centres Aotearoa	NZ Law Society Youth Justice Committee	VOYCE Whakarongo mai
Community Law Centres nationwide	Office of the Chief Justice	VXT
Expert IT	Office of the Privacy Commissioner	

*As well as these individuals:*

Christine Cammell  
Sally Kedge

Robert Ludbrook  
Wi Pere Mita