



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

15 August 2023

## MEDIA STATEMENT

# Chief Justice's Annual Report released today

Chief Justice Helen Winkelmann has today released a report on the operation of the courts during 2022.

The report provides a snapshot of the business of all New Zealand's courts and a description of how the judicial branch of government operates. It describes how the Ministry of Justice and the judiciary work together to operate the courts and improve court processes.

The report identifies the issue of delay within the criminal justice system, outlining its causes and steps that are being taken to address it. These matters are discussed at pages 33, 36 and (in particular) 38. A key response to delay will be Te Au Reka – the digital document and case management system - which will provide a modern digital infrastructure for the courts. This initiative will enable more efficient processes and has the potential to better enable access to justice and improve the experience of all who engage with the courts.

Further access to justice and efficiency initiatives, such as Te Ao Mārama (page 7), and the Criminal Process Improvement Programme (page 38), are discussed in the report. The Criminal Process Improvement Programme aims to streamline the processes of all the justice sector partners involved in court hearings, in conjunction with the legal profession, the Ministry of Justice and other agencies in the criminal justice sector, to ensure that every court appearance progresses a case towards completion.

The report also includes information on judicial education development (page 22) and wellbeing initiatives (page 20).

The Annual Report is available on the Courts of NZ website.

### **Media contacts**

Alix Chapman

Senior Judicial Communications Advisor

0272 860 198 [alix.chapman@courts.govt.nz](mailto:alix.chapman@courts.govt.nz)

Liz Kennedy  
Judicial Communications Manager  
027 369 6701 [liz.kennedy@courts.govt.nz](mailto:liz.kennedy@courts.govt.nz)

