SPEAKERS



His Honour Judge Becroft, Principal Youth Court Judge.



Sonja Cooper, barrister and solicitor, Wellington, has worked in youth justice since 1987. She is a district inspector under the Mental Health Act and has a general civil litigation practice specialising in historic abuse litigation.



Neil Cleaver is the National Manager Co-ordinators for the Department of Child, Youth & Family Services. Neil represented the Department on the Youth Justice Taskforce travelling party and is currently a departmental representative on the Youth Justice Leadership Group.



Gregory Hikaka, barrister, Auckland. A significant focus of Greg's practice is counsel for child and youth advocacy work. Before entering private practice Greg was a police legal adviser closely involved in interdepartmental negotiations concerning the CYPF Act and the development of police policy and training concerning the Act.



Susan Howan manages the Youth Justice Team established in the Ministry of Justice in September 2003 to lead policy development in the youth justice sector and cross sector implementation of the Youth Offending Strategy. She also chairs the inter-agency Youth Justice Leadership Group.



Alister James has been a youth advocate since 1989 and is the convener of the Youth Justice Committee of the Canterbury District Law Society. As a Christchurch City Councillor he has been actively involved in a range of community organisations relating to youth justice since 1982.



Megan Jenkins, barrister, Pukekohe, has specialised in litigation, especially family law, since 1991. She is a counsel for child and has been a youth advocate since 1996.



James Johnston, Rainey Collins, Wellington, is of Ngati Porou descent and is a senior youth advocate. He is the convener of the NZLS Youth Justice Sub-committee and a member of the Ministry of Justice Independent Advisory Group. James has spoken about the New Zealand youth justice system at the United Nations in Geneva.



Neil Johnstone is a barrister specialising in family and youth law. He has been a youth advocate and counsel for child for 12 years and is a present member of NZLS Youth Justice Sub-committee and Family Law Section CYPF Committee.



La-Verne King, South Auckland, has iwi affiliations with Ngati Kahu, Ngati Paoa and Ngati Kahungunu and has practised as a youth advocate for 12 years. She is also a senior counsel for child and a District Inspector of Mental Health Services.



Gordon Matenga of Ngati Kahungunu descent, has been a youth advocate since 1993. He was appointed Hamilton District Coroner in June 1996 and has served as a member of the Coroner's Council since 1997.



Dr Gabrielle Maxwell is a psychologist and criminologist. She was director of the Crime and Justice Research Centre at Victoria University until her retirement last year. Recent research has focused on the Family Court, the youth justice system, restorative justice, re-offending and children's experience of violence.



Doug Rishworth, Gisborne, practises primarily as a criminal lawyer. He has extensive jury trial and appellate experience and has been a youth advocate for 25 years.



Lance Rowe, Principal, Armstrong Barton, Wanganui. Lance was admitted in 1989 and has practised in Wanganui since that time principally in criminal law. He has been a youth advocate for approximately 11 years and is a current member of the NZLS Youth Justice Sub-committee.



Louise Sziranyi was admitted in 1984 and is a partner in Thomas Dewar Sziranyi Letts, a specialist litigation firm in Lower Hutt. She has been a youth advocate since 1989 and is a member of the NZLS Youth Justice Sub-committee.

The statements and conclusions contained in this booklet are those of the author(s) only and not those of the New Zealand Law Society. This booklet has been prepared for the purpose of a Continuing Legal Education conference. It is not intended to be a comprehensive statement of the law or practice, and should not be relied upon as such. If advice on the law is required, it should be sought on a formal, professional basis.

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