



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

MEDIA STATEMENT

6 September 2022

Judiciary seeks feedback on vision for future of technology in Courts and Tribunals

The judiciary has today released for consultation a draft Digital Strategy for the Courts and Tribunals of Aotearoa New Zealand. The draft Digital Strategy will inform decisions about the use of technology in New Zealand's court system over the next decade.

The Digital Strategy addresses how technology can enable courts to do better what they do now, capitalising on the lessons learned about use of technology in the courts during the Covid-19 pandemic. It also looks at how technology can enable courts to administer justice in new ways to better serve the community, including those whose justice needs are not currently being met. The Government's announcement of significant investment in digitising court processes makes this especially timely.

"Reducing costs, simplifying court processes, providing better information to participants, and providing better online tools for management of court processes, will all improve access to justice," the Chief Justice said.

The Digital Strategy sets out to answer three key questions:

How can digital technology be used to support the administration of justice by the judiciary?

How will technology enable the courts to do better what they do now?

How will technology enable the courts to find new ways to meet unmet justice needs, to support just, timely and efficient dispute resolution processes and outcomes, and to support open justice?

At the request of the Chief Justice, Court of Appeal Judge Justice David Goddard has led development of the Strategy. Justice Goddard conducted interviews with Heads of Bench, Ministry of Justice officials, external stakeholders, and technology experts. Insights from those interviews, along with local and international research, informed the preparation of the Strategy.

[The draft Digital Strategy is now available on the Courts of New Zealand | Ngā Kōti o Aotearoa website](#) and is open for consultation until 30 September 2022.

Feedback is welcomed from individuals, or interested groups, to
CourtsDigitalStrategy@justice.govt.nz.

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