



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

## MEDIA STATEMENT

29 March 2023

# Chief Justice launches Digital Strategy for Courts and Tribunals of Aotearoa New Zealand

The Chief Justice has today launched the Digital Strategy for the Courts and Tribunals of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Digital Strategy sets out the judiciary's objectives and guiding principles for use of technology in the courts. It outlines how the judiciary, supported by the Ministry of Justice, will strive to capture the benefits of technology, without compromising the human quality of our justice system.

"Following a period of consultation and valuable feedback from the legal profession and other interested groups, I am delighted to now be able to launch the Digital Strategy for the Courts and Tribunals of Aotearoa New Zealand," the Chief Justice said.

"The judiciary is responsible for administering justice through the courts and providing just outcomes for all people. To achieve this, court proceedings must be simple, accessible and timely. They must be conducted in a way that enables all people to fully participate in the proceedings that affect them."

"Using technology wisely has the potential to be transformative, by making it easier to access the courts and reducing the cost and complexity of court proceedings. Technology will help to address the challenges of interacting with the court system experienced by people with disabilities, people who are neurodiverse, people who have English as a second language, and people for whom cost or family and work commitments make it hard to travel to hearings."

Court of Appeal Judge Justice David Goddard led the development of the Digital Strategy. Justice Goddard consulted with judges and tribunal members, Ministry of Justice officials, Government agencies, the legal profession, community groups, academics and technology experts. The Digital Strategy was informed by insights from those discussions, local and international research, and feedback on the consultation draft released in 2022.

[The Digital Strategy is now available on the Courts of New Zealand | Ngā Kōti o Aotearoa website.](#)

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