



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

9 September 2022

MEDIA STATEMENT

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

On behalf of the New Zealand judiciary, Chief Justice Helen Winkelmann has today paid tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Queen Elizabeth II's reign as Head of State of New Zealand has spanned eight decades. When she acceded to the throne in 1952, New Zealand's Chief Justice, Sir Humphrey O'Leary, suggested that few would live to see the culmination of what he wished to be her "long, calm and fruitful reign". Both prediction and wish proved true, the Chief Justice said.

There have been seven Chief Justices of New Zealand during Queen Elizabeth II's reign. Much has changed in the landscape of the courts including the establishment of the Supreme Court, which replaced the Privy Council in London as the highest appellate court of New Zealand. But through all that time the Queen has continued to play an important if symbolic role in the administration of justice in New Zealand, as the figure in whose name justice is carried out.

"It is with great sadness that I learned today of the Queen's passing. I acknowledge her extraordinary commitment, and unprecedented service to the Commonwealth."

"On behalf of the judiciary, I express my sorrow at her death and my sympathy to her family at this sad time."

Courthouse flags will be lowered to half-mast.

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