

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO LEGAL ISSUES CENTRE



KEY EXTRACTS FROM THE CHARTER

BACKGROUND

The University of Otago Legal Issues Centre was established in order to carry out research on how New Zealand can have a more affordable, accessible and efficient legal system. The main focus of research is on issues relating to civil litigation.

The aim of the Centre has been to provide independent, high quality research which will influence public policy development.

The research which is carried out by the Centre must relate to one or more of its Research Objectives and the way in which research findings are used should demonstrate that the Centre is acting as the critic and conscience of society.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives ... [have] been divided into Research Objectives and Outcome Objectives, with each being of equal importance.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- (i) To carry out research on legal issues relating to how a more accessible, affordable and efficient legal system can be created for the benefit of all citizens. Research will be on those issues stated in Schedule 1 together with other issues of a similar nature.
- (ii) To carry out research on how courts can best ascertain the truth and arrive at a fair and just outcome. Research will be on those issues stated in Schedule 2 together with other issues of a similar nature.
- (iii) To deliver independent, high quality and high-impact research that informs and influences the policy-making process.

OUTCOME OBJECTIVES

- (i) To influence policy development and implementation in order to achieve better legal outcomes for all citizens.
- (ii) To make submissions to Government Ministers, the Ministry of Justice and the Law Commission on how changes to legislation and legal processes can result in a justice system which better serves the interests of all citizens.
- (iii) To widely disseminate the findings from research projects to better inform elected representatives, officials, policy-makers and the general public.
- (iv) To engage with the community through news releases and by staff being available for interview by the news media.
- (v) To have staff contribute to public debate in areas where they have relevant expertise. This will include publishing articles in legal journals and in the general news media on how changes to the legal system can better serve citizens.
- (vi) To prepare submissions on relevant government bills and discussion papers in order to represent the interests of all citizens. The Centre will also conduct workshops and seminars when appropriate.
- (vii) To raise the profile and public standing of the University and the Faculty of Law.