

Foreword

This bench book is intended to be a practical, user-friendly and informative guide for Justices to guide them in their work in the High Court. It comes in two parts: 1. **Quick guides for use on the bench**, which include process documents, checklists and templates; and 2. **The bench book**, which includes more detailed explanations, references to legislation and case law. Justices are encouraged to study and understand both parts, so they have the necessary knowledge to perform their functions.

I gratefully acknowledge the initiative and commitment on the part of the Pacific Justice Sector Programme (PJSP) to produce this bench book, and the financial backing by the New Zealand Government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

I particularly commend the outstanding work of Justices of the Peace John Whitta and Tangianau Taoro, and the PJSP bench book team Katy Ford and Jordy Hermans. They collaborated tirelessly in true team spirit to prepare and produce this bench book.

I appreciate the valuable contributions of Hon. Justice Patrick Keene, Hon. Sir David Carruthers and Judge John Adams.

Comments are invited and should be referred to the Senior Justice of the Peace.

This joint effort has resulted in a bench book of which we can all be proud and which will go a long way towards improving the standards and quality of services provided by the Justices of the High Court to members of the public.

Hon. Sir Hugh Williams

Chief Justice

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