

TE HAPORI - THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP
TO THE ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG TREATMENT (AODT) COURT

TE WHARE WHAKAPIKI WAIRUA

TERMS OF REFERENCE

As amended 14 March 2022

Background

1. The adult Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment (**AODT**) Court (Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua) commenced sitting in November 2012, at two locations (Waitākere District Court and Auckland District Court).
2. Under the present model the AODT Court is a therapeutic court where offenders whose offending is driven by an untreated substance use disorder are diverted from prison, and are instead, closely monitored through a lengthy and intensive individualised treatment programme. The court is non-adversarial in its approach, with the judge working with the offender aided by a multidisciplinary team. With the holistic approach taken, participants in the court are, through courageous hard work, able to make transformational changes to their lives.
3. The New Zealand AODT Court model has been designed to adhere to the "*10 key components of Drug Courts*" as enunciated by the US National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) (1997). Research has consistently demonstrated that this model improves treatment outcomes and reduces recidivism.
4. One of the ten key components requires the forging of partnerships by the AODT Court with public agencies and community based organisations, thereby generating local support and enhancing the effectiveness of the AODT Court programme.
5. Such partnerships have a number of benefits for both the AODT Court and the wider community. In particular, they provide an opportunity for the community to both support and inform the work of the court and ensure that the community is kept well informed about the work of the court.
6. To encourage and support such partnerships, a Community Advisory Group (CAG) – Te Hapori was formed at the time the AODT Court pilot was launched and met for the first time on 6 November 2012. Judge Lisa Tremewan and Judge Ema Aitken, the inaugural judges of the adult AODT Court were present. Also present was Judge Peggy Hora (Ret), a pioneering US drug court judge and recognised international expert in the field.

Although not formal members the AODT Court, judges have had an ongoing liaison and consultation role with Te Hapori.

7. Past and present Te Hapori members represent a wide variety of community interests and backgrounds including the recovery community; legal, medical and other professionals; academics; philanthropic organisations; business and victim's interests.
8. Members of Te Hapori have also included a number of dignitaries. Reflecting the bicultural heritage of Aotearoa New Zealand, Te Hapori membership includes tangata whenua, pākehā, and a range of others representing our nation's multicultural community and Takatāpui & LGBTQI+ community.
9. There continues to be significant expertise held by members of Te Hapori touching many of the issues dealt with by the AODT Court.
10. While Te Hapori members do not necessarily speak for a particular sector of the community, or a particular group, by ensuring that a wide range of individuals with diverse backgrounds and life experiences are included, this is more likely to ensure that the support given to the AODT Court by Te Hapori is helpful and wide-ranging.

The Terms of Reference

Purposes

11. Te Hapori has evolved into a body which serves a number of purposes including:
 - a) fundraising activities to provide financial support to court participants for a range of individual or group needs and to support the costs arising from the bi-annual He Takatini graduation celebration and pounamu ceremonies;
 - b) providing a meaningful opportunity for the AODT Court to be informed by the input of the wider community (outside key stakeholders);
 - c) advocating for the work of the AODT Court by informing the wider community about the purposes and processes of the AODT Court thereby enhancing the awareness of and knowledge about the court generally.

Limitations of scope

12. It is formally acknowledged that Te Hapori cannot and would not in any way usurp the function of the AODT Court.

Chair, Treasurer and Secretary

13. Members of Te Hapori will appoint a chair, treasurer and secretary.

Regularity of meetings

14. Te Hapori meetings are likely to be scheduled approximately every two months, such meetings commencing with an update report concerning the court's progress from any attending AODT Court judges (including issues arising to which the Te Hapori might be able to appropriately play a role).

Membership

15. New members may be invited from time to time to join Te Hapori after an appropriate enquiry has been made through the chair who may extend an invitation for the proposed new member to attend a meeting, after which the proposal for membership may be discussed within the membership Te Hapori and, an offer may be extended to the proposed member to join the group.
16. Members who do not attend three consecutive meetings without apology will be deemed to have relinquished their position on Te Hapori unless the chair directs otherwise.
17. A quorum of five members including the chair, treasurer and secretary is required to enact any changes to policy or procedure.
18. Members who wish to retire are, where time permits, asked to indicate their intention to do so 6 months in advance.

19. Applications

20. All special needs applications must first be approved, in writing, by an AODT Court judge before funding is sought from Te Hapori.
21. The Chair and Treasurer jointly have authority to approve applications for funding up to \$500. Funding beyond that requires the support of a majority of Te Hapori members.
22. Any bank accounts opened in the name of Te Hapori will require the signing authority of two of the three officeholders – Chair (present Chair – Alex McDonald), Treasurer (present Treasurer – Michael Bird) and Secretary (present Secretary – Stephanie Tressider).

These Amended Terms of Reference were ratified by Te Hapori at its meeting held on 14 March 2022

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AM', written over a horizontal line.

Alex McDonald, Te Hapori Chairperson