

“Court in the Act”

A newsletter co-ordinated by the Principal Youth Court Judge for the Youth Justice Community

SPECIAL EDITION

New Youth Court information resources

Courts Minister Rick Barker launched a set of new information resources about the Youth Court on 19 May.

The resources comprise brochures for young people, families, and victims, plus a series of posters and appointment cards.

Rick Barker said the pamphlets reflected the language of today, and offered common sense information.

The pamphlets cover topics including Youth Court processes, family group conferences, and the range of Youth Court orders.

Launching the new posters, brochures and appointment cards at a recent Ministry Youth Justice

“The Ministry is to be congratulated.” - Judge Andrew Becroft

Principal Youth Court Judge Andrew Becroft says the Ministry of Justice is to be congratulated for their “very creative” approach to the design of the new Youth Court information resources.

“The Ministry has not reverted to their traditional corporate colours or style, and they have taken a very contemporary and youth-oriented approach.”

The Judge called the release of the 5 brochures, plus new posters and appointment cards a “very significant development”. “They represent the first co-ordinated suite of information tools that the Youth Court has had in its 19 year history”.

Judge Becroft hopes the new “user-friendly” resources will be used by Police Youth Aid officers, Youth Court staff, community groups, youth workers and others

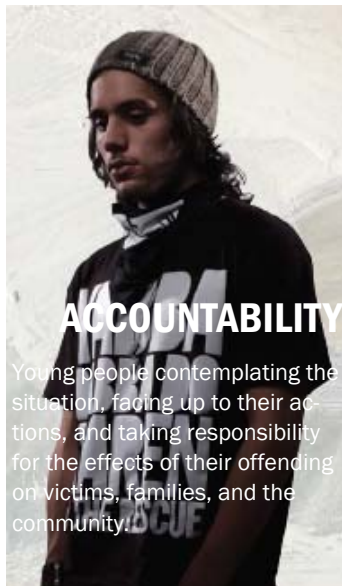
workshop, Minister Barker said

“Going to court is a difficult time for all parties, but ensuring there is clear and concise information available to defendants and the victims of crime can improve outcomes and reduce stress.”



3 main themes in the new visual identity

The artwork and photography featured in the Youth Court’s new materials is designed to reflect 3 main ideas associated with the work of the Youth Court, and the practice of youth justice in New Zealand.



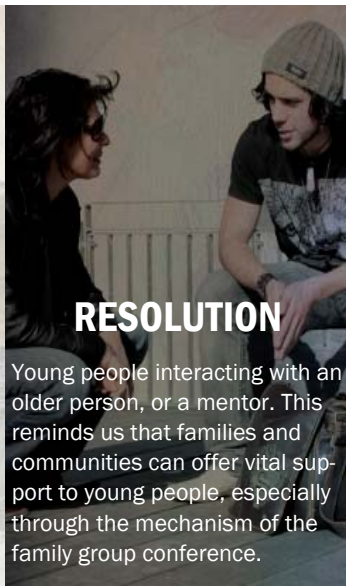
ACCOUNTABILITY

Young people contemplating the situation, facing up to their actions, and taking responsibility for the effects of their offending on victims, families, and the community.

to help inform young people and other Court users about the Youth Court.

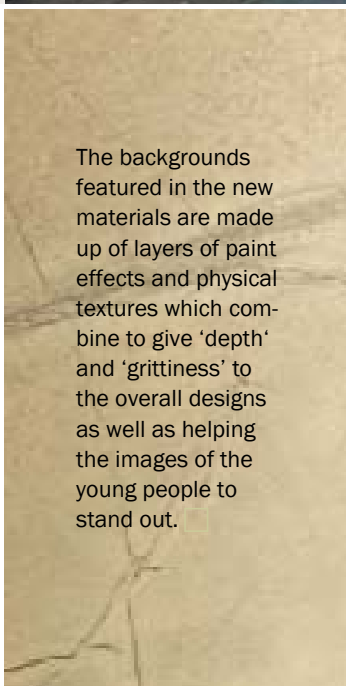
In particular, the Judge says he would like to see the appointment cards (shown above) handed out to every young person as they leave Court, as a record of their next appearance, or family group conference or specialist clinician’s appointment.

Adding a note of caution, the Judge also comments that “Although there are 5 different cards in the series, and as good as the are, there should be no prizes for collecting the full set”.

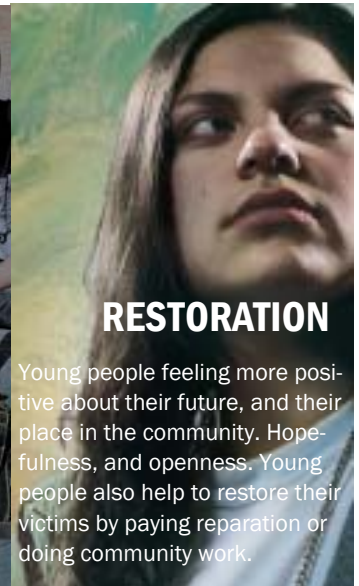


RESOLUTION

Young people interacting with an older person, or a mentor. This reminds us that families and communities can offer vital support to young people, especially through the mechanism of the family group conference.



The backgrounds featured in the new materials are made up of layers of paint effects and physical textures which combine to give ‘depth’ and ‘grittiness’ to the overall designs as well as helping the images of the young people to stand out.



RESTORATION

Young people feeling more positive about their future, and their place in the community. Hopefulness, and openness. Young people also help to restore their victims by paying reparation or doing community work.

Re-designing the Youth Court

In line with the Youth Court’s new ‘look’ as used in these brochures, posters and appointment cards, the Youth Court will also be redesigning our other publications.

Elements of the new visual identity will be used to change the appearance of *Court In The Act*, as well as the Youth Court Law Review (which publishes summaries of recent cases), and the website

www.youthcourt.govt.nz.

What to do with the new Youth Court information resources

Appointment cards



What to do with the appointment cards

- Hand out to young people with next Youth Court appointment.
- Hand out to young people who have appointments with health professionals for s333 reports.
- Send to all attendees for an upcoming family group conference.
- Remind young people of community work commitments and the date and time of work duties.
- Remind young people of appointments with youth advocates.
- Remind parents and caregivers of their young people's appointments and commitments.

What else?

Do you have any other good ideas about possible uses or places for the new Youth Court information resources? If you do, we'd love to hear them. Email us (courtintheact@justice.govt.nz) with your suggestions and we'll include them in a future *Court In The Act*.

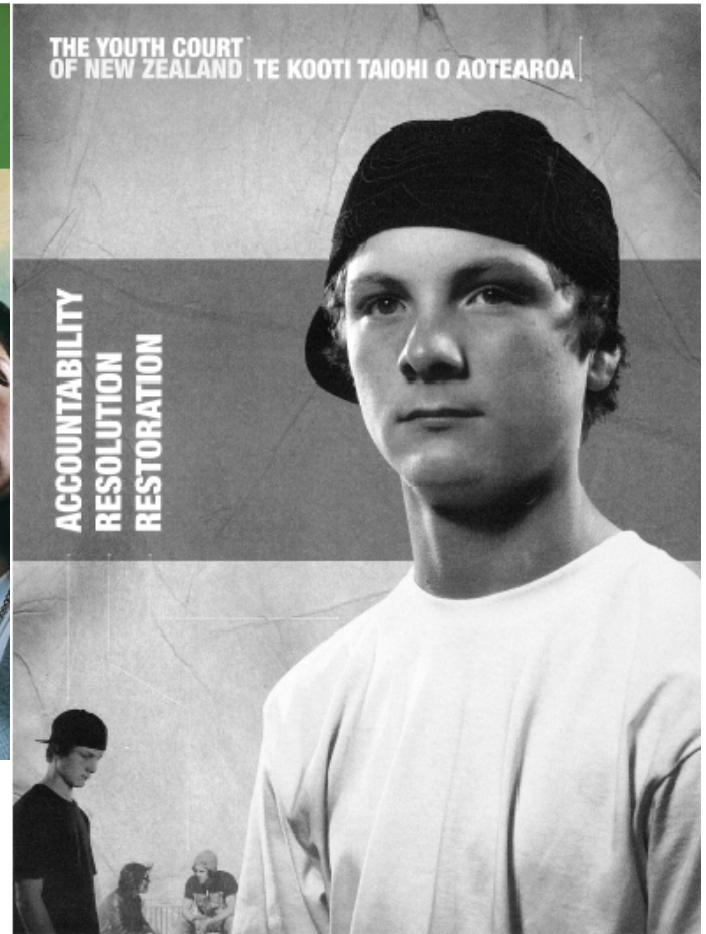
Brochures



What to do with the brochures

- Make available in all District Courts.
- Make available in local information centres and Citizens Advice Bureaux.
- Make available in schools.
- Make available in Police stations.
- Make available in public libraries.
- Make available in local youth centres.
- Use for school assignments on civics and restorative justice.
- Make available in all Community Law Centres.

Posters



What to do with the posters

- Display in all District Courts.
- Display in community centres.
- Display at Police stations and blue light events.
- Display in high school classrooms, counsellor's rooms, and school libraries.
- Display in local youth centres.
- Display in public libraries.
- Display in sports clubs.

Court In The Act is published by the Chambers of the Principal Youth Court Judge
 Judge Andrew Becroft,
 and edited and produced by Tracey Cormack and Tim Hall
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Court In The Act welcomes contributions or comments from anyone involved in youth justice in New Zealand or overseas.

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