

# Introducing the Law Commission

## Our job is to review the law

The Minister responsible for the Law Commission refers an area for law reform to us to consider.

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### WHAT WE DO:

- 1 We research that area of law, review the policy and consult with interested people and experts.
- 2 We publish an Issues Paper giving all the background information and raising questions for people to consider.
- 3 We consult publicly on our Issues Paper, including calling for submissions.
- 4 We consider everyone's responses then we write and publish a report for the Minister and the public. Our Report makes recommendations to reform and develop the law.
- 5 The Minister tables our Report in Parliament.
- 6 The Government then responds to the Report. The Government can either reject it or accept some or all of its recommendations. The recommendations the Government accepts go into a Bill and that Bill goes through the normal parliamentary process before it becomes law.



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## WE ARE INDEPENDENT

The Law Commission is an Independent Crown Entity. This makes us different from other state sector agencies.

The Government does not direct how we carry out our work or the recommendations we make. However the Minister responsible for the Law Commission appoints our Commissioners, assigns our projects and sets our annual performance expectations.

The Minister of State Services and the Minister of Finance can also tell us to support a whole of government approach.

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## WE CONSULT

Most government departments consult with interested people when they develop policy, but consulting is a fundamental part of our process.

The public, and especially experts and interested parties, have a say on the issues we raise.

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## OUR DUTIES

As we review the law, we:

- 1 try to make the law simpler, easier to understand and more accessible,
- 2 take into account te ao Māori, and
- 3 consider the multicultural character of New Zealand society.

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## CONTACT US

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