

# Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court

## Information for victims

Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua, the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment (AODT) Court, provides a treatment pathway for offenders whose criminal behaviour is driven by alcohol and other drug substance use disorder.

### How does AODT Court work?

AODT Court participants go through a programme of three phases over about 18 months. These focus on:

- **Phase 1** – starting their journey to recovery by completing alcohol and other drug treatment, either through residential treatment (live-in) or a community-based programme. They must comply with the requirements of the Court.
- **Phase 2** – starting to rebuild their lives by attending other programmes depending on their needs (such as counselling, stopping violence, parenting, road safety, literacy) and holding them accountable through attending restorative justice (where available) and doing voluntary community service.
- **Phase 3** – reintegrating into the community by finding suitable work or study, accommodation and positive, constructive activities that will support them in their life after they finish the AODT Court programme.

If a participant doesn't comply with the programme, they can be exited from (made to leave) the Court. They can also choose to exit themselves from the Court. If either of these things happen, their case will be dealt with by the mainstream criminal courts in the usual way.

### What happens at the AODT Court?

Throughout their time in the Court, participants must:

- appear regularly at the Court to be accountable for their progress in the programme
- comply with their bail conditions and the AODT Court participant agreement
- be randomly and regularly drug tested and may have to wear an alcohol-monitoring bracelet
- be honest and open with the Court
- behave in a way that brings mana to themselves and to the Court
- get involved with a recovery community through Alcoholics/ Narcotics Anonymous or other social support networks like 'SMART Recovery'.

### How can victims be involved?

As a victim or someone affected by crime committed by an AODT Court participant, you can:

- attend an open AODT Court hearing, including sentencing
- give your views on the defendant's suitability for the AODT Court programme
- apply to read your Victim Impact Statement at sentencing
- choose to be involved in a restorative justice conference with the participant (where available and appropriate)
- be kept informed about the participant's progress through the AODT Court
- be informed about your entitlement to financial reparation or support.

### Benefits of the AODT Court

The benefits of the AODT Court are:

- If a participant addresses the alcohol and drug addiction that's driving their offending, the risk of them offending again in the future is reduced.
- If a participant successfully completes the programme, they'll usually be sentenced to a term of 12 -15 months' intensive supervision where they are supervised by AODT Court probation officers in the community and have further oversight from a judge during this period.

### Further information

For more information, contact our Court Victim Advisors at:

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