

## **Investment made into relieving Family Court backlog**

As part of Government's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, a massive \$62 million has been announced to begin a reform of the Family Court. The Family Court has found itself under a lot of pressure during the COVID-19 pandemic and this reform should help it respond to the backlog that has built up.

The family court can be a confusing and complicated place for vulnerable people in a stressful time in their lives – it is hoped that reform can transition this to a system that is supportive and can give enough information up front to allow issues to be quickly dealt with and to prevent backlogs from building.

The Family Court (Supporting Families in Court) Legislation Act 2020, which comes into force on 1 July 2020, is designed to provide measures that will help to retain skilled lawyers for children, make access to legal aid more possible, and create resources and provide information to help parents and whānau to navigate the system.

As well as this, it is expected that a second bill, also to enhance the Family Court systems, will be introduced later this year.

Resource:

\$62 million package to support families through the Family Court

<<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/62-million-package-support-families-through-family-court>>

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