



AUCKLAND JUSTICES OF THE PEACE ASSOCIATION INC

Established 1922

Patron - The Honourable Justice Heath

President Mr G (Garry) F Nicholls JP

Registrar Ms J C (Janet) Thompson JP

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Graham Bodman
General Manager
Arts, Community & Events
Auckland Council

Dear Sir

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU - FUNDING

Recently my colleague Ric Carlyon and I met with Joy Hames and Carole Blacklock to discuss the relationship between Auckland Justices of the Peace Association (AJPA) and the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and in particular, funding.

Our Association represents approximately 1,450 Justices of the Peace throughout the Auckland region who provide their ministerial and judicial services free of charge to the public.

In recent times, particularly in the Auckland region, these services are provided at Justice of the Peace Service Desks - approximately 50% of which are currently located within CABs. We have estimated that on average about 70% of the services offered by CABs to the public are provided by Justices of the Peace.

In recent years, there is a trend to establishing our own network of Service Desks away from CABs as there have been ongoing issues with CABs (such as CAB's need to have a paid CAB manager present when Justices of the Peace wish to see public outside CAB's normal working hours).

We are aware that Council provides a level of rate payer funding to the CAB organisation to the level of approximately \$1.9 million per annum. This funding supports a significant level of remuneration, free socials, free training and CAB's general office expenses.

Our understanding is that CAB volunteers and staff are simply people who wish to assist the public – apart from training, they don't need any other qualification. CAB volunteers do not pay any membership fee as currently, Auckland Council pays all expenses.

Justices of the Peace are warranted by the Governor General following a rigorous selection process. They are required to not only supply their services free of charge, they are also required to provide their own resources (including stamps etc), attend Auckland Justices of the Peace Association training and pay an annual subscription to Auckland Justices of the Peace Association. Auckland Justices of the Peace Association also does not provide free socials.

It seems particularly unfair that the organisation that contributes by far the greatest level of services to the CAB, receives no recognition or funding from Auckland Council.

We have attempted to discuss this issue with the CAB. However they have advised that there are no funds available from the CAB and have suggested that we must approach the Council.

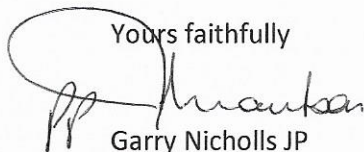
Auckland Justices of the Peace Association's financial requirement is extremely modest by comparison to CAB. We estimate that an amount of \$100,000 would enable the Auckland Justices of the Peace Association to cover the costs of Justices of the Peace attending the Service Desks and their associated expenditure.

Auckland Justices of the Peace Association low cost structure provides for only two part time contractors – all other work including rostering and governance is attended to by volunteers.

We respectfully request that this proposal is considered in the forthcoming Council consideration of CAB funding.

We would also like the opportunity of presenting our submissions in person if this was possible.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garry Nicholls', written over a large, light-colored oval shape.

Garry Nicholls JP
President
Auckland Justices of the Peace Association Inc