

The Community Law Canterbury Resource Management Service



**COMMUNITYLAW
CANTERBURY**
Te Ture Whānui ō Waitaha

Mission: We are a Community Law Centre. Our services provide quality, free legal help to people in Canterbury who face barriers to accessing justice.

In 2009 Lincoln University re-established its ties with Community Law Canterbury. Now over a dozen students from Lincoln University are on the voluntary caseworker roster. Marisha Dorrance is the solicitor who coordinates the Resource Management Service and manages the volunteers. Here's what she had to say about the service.

“Community Law Canterbury is a non-profit charitable organisation situated at 281 Madras Street, Christchurch. It offers free legal advice on general law as well as specialist areas of law. One of the specialist areas of law is resource management. Community Law Canterbury runs a free Resource Management Advice Service on a Tuesday evening by appointment.

How the Resource Management Service Operates

A client books in for a 45 minute session with a voluntary Resource Management Advisor who is usually a Resource Management Lawyer or a Planner. The Advisor assesses the concern and provides the advice to the client. A voluntary caseworker attends the appointment to record the details of the query and the advice given. Caseworkers are students at Lincoln University and the University of Canterbury. If a client requires further assistance they are referred to resource management advisors.

The Resource Management Service allows individuals and community groups to access free initial advice on a variety of resource management issues. These issues can include resource consent applications, oppositions and process, plan interpretation, easements, court processes, trees and property, and the Local Government Act.

Caseworkers are exposed to current resource management issues in a supportive and learning structure and are introduced to resource management advisors in Canterbury.

Community Law Canterbury currently has sufficient caseworkers for the Resource Management Service. As the need arises, it will provide induction training for new intakes.”

To contact the staff at Community Law Canterbury you can visit, phone, fax or e-mail them at:

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