

A SNAPSHOT OF THE NEW ZEALAND LEGAL PROFESSION as at 1/4/2011

As regulator of the New Zealand legal profession, the New Zealand Law Society is responsible for issuing practising certificates. Some of the information which is obtained in this process is summarised to show key indicators on the makeup of New Zealand's legal services providers.

01 Who is currently holding practising certificates?

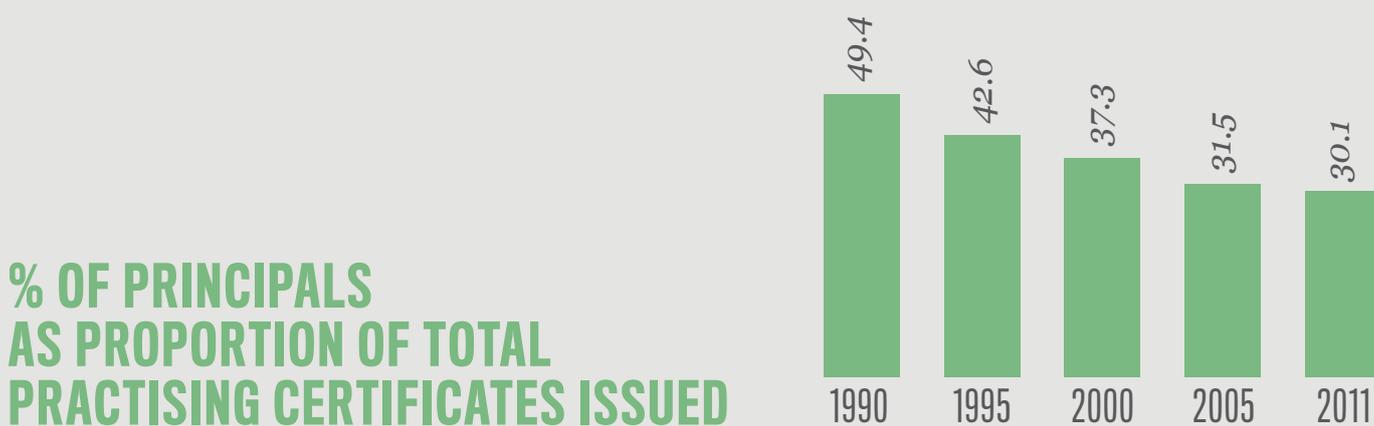
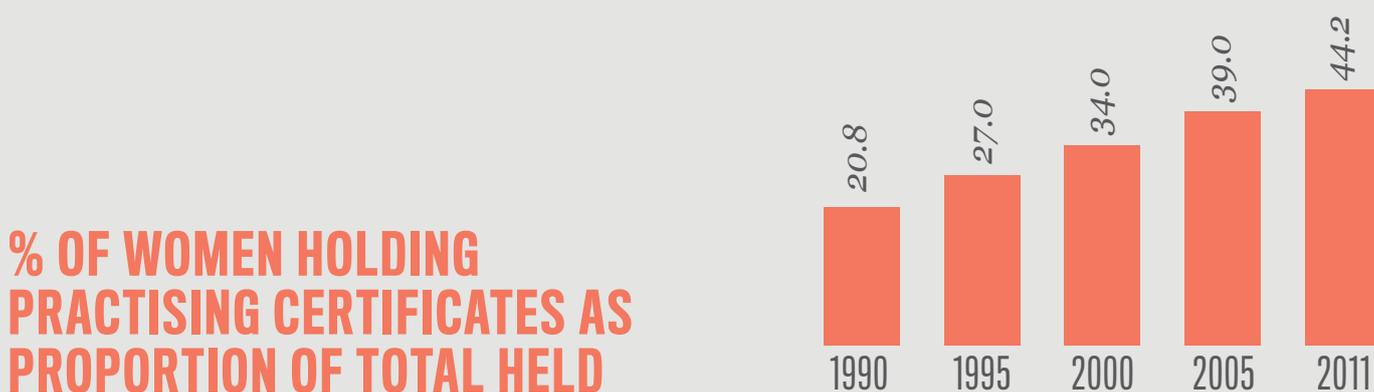
PRACTISING CERTIFICATES ON ISSUE - 1 APRIL 2011

NZ LAW SOCIETY BRANCH	SOLICITORS		BARRISTERS		TOTAL		PRINCIPALS	
	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂
AUCKLAND	1853	2301	351	534	2204	2835	322	1156
CANTERBURY-WESTLAND	438	595	41	86	479	681	102	364
GISBORNE	20	35	1	1	21	36	7	24
HAWKE'S BAY	68	127	7	23	75	150	19	85
MANAWATU	53	81	4	9	57	90	14	58
MARLBOROUGH	16	28	1	7	17	35	9	21
NELSON	52	87	2	8	54	95	15	61
OTAGO	171	190	25	27	196	217	46	119
SOUTHLAND	64	76	1	0	65	76	18	51
TARANAKI	61	79	5	5	66	84	14	48
WAIKATO BAY OF PLENTY	361	485	77	95	438	580	95	304
WELLINGTON	1196	1183	81	166	1277	1349	125	428
WHANGANUI	20	42	2	2	22	44	6	33
NEW ZEALAND TOTAL	4373	5309	598	964	4971	6273	792	2752
OVERSEAS	139	170	7	25	146	195	3	9
TOTAL	4512	5479	605	989	5117	6468	795	2761

At the moment, of 11,585 practising certificate holders, 55.8% are male, 13.8% are barristers sole, 30.1% are principals (ie, have fulfilled the requirements to practise alone), and 20.5% are in-house counsel working in academic, corporate, government, community law centres, local government or professional/trade association enterprises.

02 Major changes in the profession's composition.

At a high level, there have been three major changes in the demographic make-up of the New Zealand legal profession in the past two decades. These are the increasing number of women working as lawyers, the growth in barristers sole, and a fall in the proportion of lawyers who are principals. The trends since 1990 can be shown as follows:



YEARS IN PRACTICE

The Law Society holds information on when each practitioner was first admitted. This shows that almost two-thirds of New Zealand's lawyers (64%) have been in practice for less than 20 years, but also illustrates the changing makeup of the profession. While 82% of women have been in practice for less than 20 years, only 50% of men have.

03 How many years have our lawyers been in practice?

YEARS SINCE ADMISSION



LAWYERS CURRENTLY PRACTISING BY ADMISSION YEAR

For example, 0.9% of lawyers currently practising who were admitted in 1970 - are women.



04 Admission.

The legal profession is energised by the continual admission of new lawyers. Two major trends are apparent over the past few decades: a decline in the proportion of new entrants each year to total lawyer numbers, and a dramatic increase in the proportion of women admitted as lawyers. More women than men have been admitted since 1993. Unfortunately information on new admissions since 2007 is no longer collated by the Law Society and is unavailable from other sources.

1980

ADMISSIONS = 388

ENTRANTS/LAWYERS IN PRACTICE = 9.7%

WOMEN ADMITTED **102** = 26.3%

1985

ADMISSIONS = 404

ENTRANTS/LAWYERS IN PRACTICE = 8.1% ↓

WOMEN ADMITTED **170** = 42.1%

1990

ADMISSIONS = 491

ENTRANTS/LAWYERS IN PRACTICE = 8.3% ↑

WOMEN ADMITTED **225** = 45.8%

1995

ADMISSIONS = 710

ENTRANTS/LAWYERS IN PRACTICE = 10.1% ↑

WOMEN ADMITTED **361** = 50.8%

2000

ADMISSIONS = 845

ENTRANTS/LAWYERS IN PRACTICE = 10.2% ↑

WOMEN ADMITTED **485** = 57.4%

2005

ADMISSIONS = 883

ENTRANTS/LAWYERS IN PRACTICE = 8.8% ↓

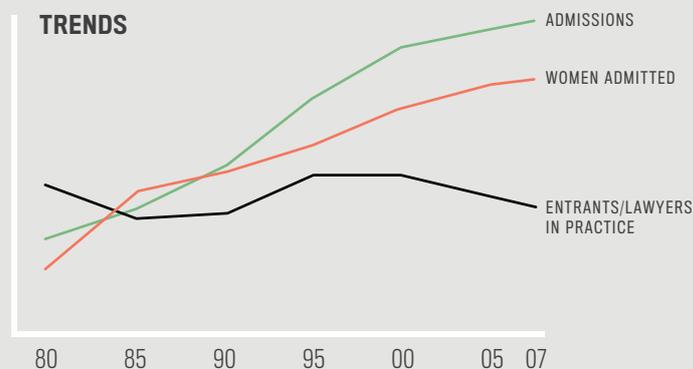
WOMEN ADMITTED **540** = 61.2%

2007

ADMISSIONS = 908

ENTRANTS/LAWYERS IN PRACTICE = 8.6% ↓

WOMEN ADMITTED **561** = 61.8%



LONGEST TIME IN PRACTICE

Of those lawyers currently holding a practising certificate, one was admitted to the bar in 1946, and three were admitted in each of 1948 and 1949. All are men. The earliest date of admission for a woman still in practice is 1952. The names of the holders of the practising certificates are, of course, confidential. The longest time in practice in New Zealand may have been the 70 years from Laurie Schnauer (1908-2001), who was admitted in 1931 and spent his last day at work just three days before his death at the age of 93.

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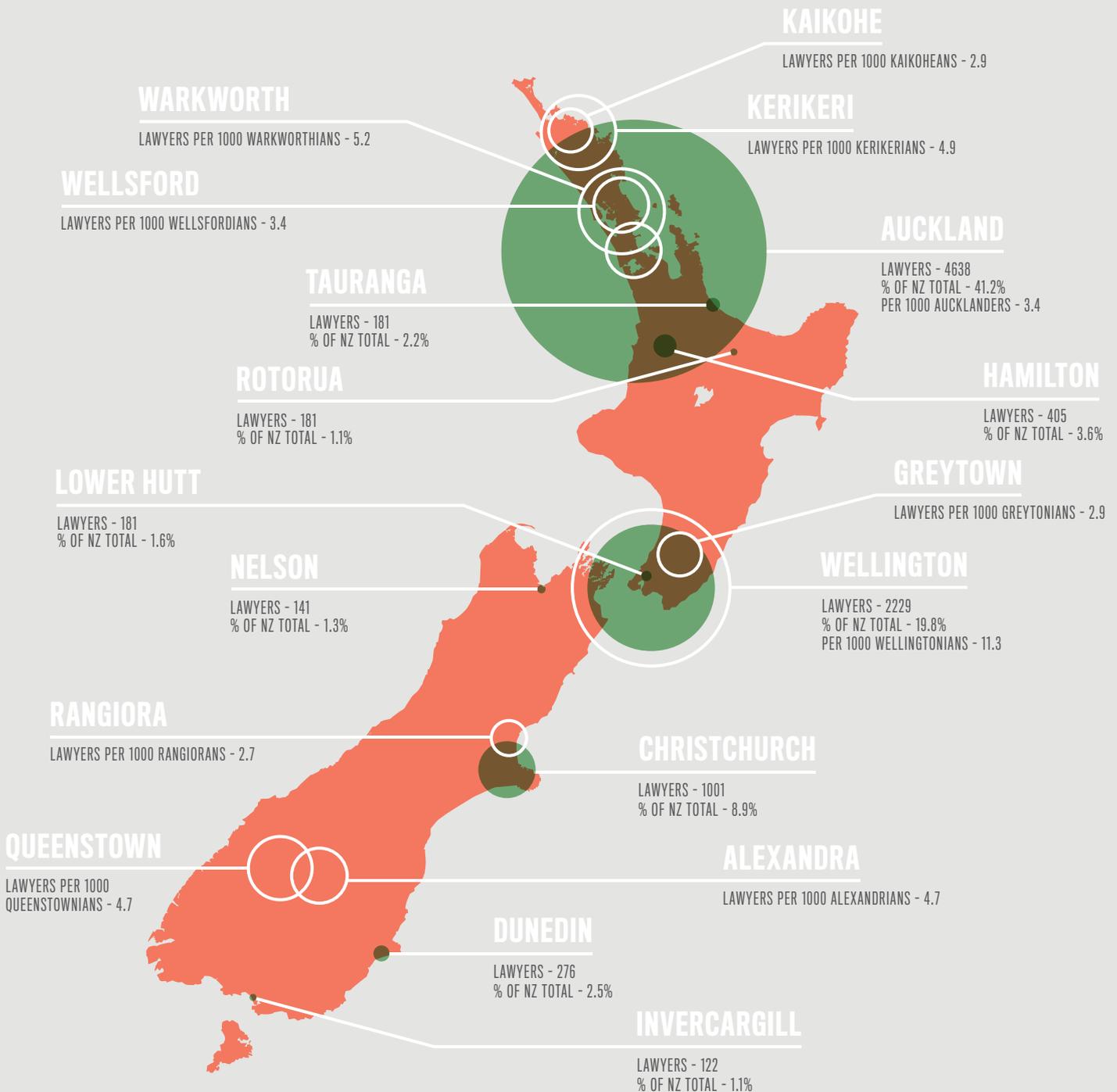
as at 1/4/2011

05 Lawyers by location.

A total of 147 distinct residential locations around New Zealand have a legal practice. Generally the larger a population centre, the more lawyers, although Wellington City with its high number of in-house counsel working in government has the highest proportion of lawyers per head of population.

NZ-BASED LAWYERS BY URBAN AREA (TOP 10)

● = % OF NZ TOTAL LAWYER POPULATION ○ = LAWYERS PER 1000 INHABITANTS



NZ-REGISTERED LAWYERS OVERSEAS

Since the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006 came into effect, it has been possible for lawyers living overseas to hold a New Zealand practising certificate. There are 340 such lawyers, resident in 31 countries. Most popular is England (136 lawyers, or 40% of total), followed by Australia (56), Dubai (31), Hong Kong (18) and Singapore (15).

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06 Areas of practice.

The Law Society collects information from practitioners on areas in which they practice. Lawyers are asked to estimate the proportion of their time spent in each of 23 areas of practice. As the resulting information is self-estimated, the following statistics are indicative only.

SPECIALIST AREA OF PRACTICE

Over 6,400 practitioners specified an area of practice where they spent over half their time. The areas of practice with the most lawyers specialising are as follows:

TOP 10 AREAS OF LAW BY LAWYERS SPENDING OVER HALF THEIR TIME IN PRACTICE

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL - 17.4% - TOTAL LAWYERS SPECIALISING
PROPERTY - 16.1% **CIVIL LITIGATION - 13.1%**
FAMILY - 10.8% **CRIMINAL - 9.4%** **EMPLOYMENT - 4.4%**
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - 4.0% **TAX - 3.7%** **TRUSTS AND ESTATES - 3.6%** **ADMINISTRATIVE/PUBLIC - 3.0%**

TOP 10 AREAS OF PRACTICE, ALL LAWYERS

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL - 4,551 - LAWYERS WHO SPENT SOME TIME PRACTISING
PROPERTY - 3,882 **CIVIL LITIGATION - 3,389**
TRUSTS AND ESTATES - 3,321 **FAMILY - 2,785** **EMPLOYMENT - 2,499**
CRIMINAL - 1,966 **ADMINISTRATIVE/PUBLIC - 1,556** **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - 1,381**
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY - 1,367

The area with the fewest specialists is Privacy Law, where just 1 practitioner spent over half their time practising. Other areas of practice with a relatively low number of specialists are arbitration (13), lending activities (24), ACC (27) and selling real estate (28).

The least-favoured area of practice overall was Privacy Law, with just 8 practitioners stating that they spent some time practising in the field. Other areas where relatively low numbers of practitioners spend some time are selling real estate (86), arbitration (142) and lending activities (166).

LAW PRACTICES

New Zealand is a land of small law firms. At 1 April 2011, 90.6% of our law firms had 1-3 partners, and roughly the same proportion had 5 or fewer fee earners. The figures show that 64.6% of lawyers work in a law firm – although in a relatively new development, 5.6% work in incorporated firms.

While a relatively high proportion of males work in law firms (69% of all men), women are more likely to work as in-house counsel. The figures show that 25% of women were working in corporate or governmental organisations, and made up 58% of all lawyers working in these.

New Zealand's lawyers are recorded as working in over 4,300 separate enterprises, giving an average of 2.6 lawyers per workplace. **There is an average of 4.0 lawyers per law firm.**

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as at 1/4/2011

07

Lawyers and their place of work.

ORGANISATION	♀	♂	TOTAL	% LAWYERS	ENTERPRISES	% ENTERPRISES
ACADEMIC	27	10	37	0.3	26	0.6
BARRISTER PRACTICE	569	896	1465	12.6	1407	32.0
CORPORATE ENTITY	522	383	905	7.8	497	11.3
COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE	70	19	89	0.8	26	0.6
DEFUNCT ENTITY	0	2	2	0.0	913*	
GOVERNMENT	696	516	1212	10.5	252	5.7
INCORPORATED BARRISTER PRACTICE	16	20	36	0.3	26	0.6
INCORPORATED LAW FIRM	214	328	542	4.7	163**	3.7
INCORPORATED LAW FIRM - NO TRUST ACCOUNT	41	59	100	0.9	54**	1.2
LAW FIRM	2570	3739	6309	54.5	1381**	31.4
LAW FIRM - NO TRUST ACCOUNT	220	317	537	4.6	358**	8.1
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	42	24	66	0.6	25	0.6
PROFESSIONAL/TRADE ASSOCIATION	41	23	64	0.6	42	1.0
QUEENS COUNSEL/SENIOR COUNSEL PRACTICE	18	71	89	0.8	82	1.9
UNKNOWN	71	61	132	1.1	55	1.3
TOTAL	5117	6468	11,585	100.0%	4394	100.0%

* NOT INCLUDED IN TOTAL ENTERPRISE COUNT ** INCLUDES SOME DOUBLE-COUNTING

New Zealand Law Society statistics on law firm size have been kept since 1998, enabling the following comparison over the last decade:

NEW ZEALAND LAW FIRMS BY NUMBER OF PARTNERS OR DIRECTORS, 1 APRIL 2011

PARTNERS	2000	2005	2011
1	926	1026	1306
2-5	415	440	489
6-10	59	60	60
11-15	7	8	7
16-20	3	5	5
21+	9	9	6
TOTAL	1419	1548	1883

08 *Our
stereotypical
lawyer.*

...AND FROM ALL THAT, CAN WE COME UP WITH A STEREOTYPE?



*Going by the numbers, the “typical” New Zealand lawyer is male, has been in practice for less than 9 years, lives in Auckland, is not a partner, is a solicitor in an unincorporated firm with 1-3 partners, and works in company/commercial and/or property law. If the number of women in the legal profession continues to grow at the same rate, **our typical lawyer will change gender in 2018.*** 