



## National Restorative Justice Practitioners' Conference 2010

# *Restorative Justice: Turning the Tide*

Conference Speakers Day 1 Friday March 26 - 2010

### Opening Address:



**Hon Simon Power** - Minister of Justice

Topic:

*Overview of the Government's direction for justice policy, and evidence based interventions.*

Hon Simon Power is Minister of Justice, Minister for State Owned Enterprises, Minister of Commerce, Minister Responsible for the Law Commission, Associate Minister of Finance, and Deputy Leader of the House. He is ranked fourth in the Cabinet. He has been the Member of Parliament for Rangitikei since 1999.

During his parliamentary career Simon has held many Parliamentary roles and spokespersonships. In Opposition, at various times, he was spokesman for Labour and Industrial Relations, Justice, Tertiary Education, Defence, Veterans' Affairs and Law and Order. He was Senior Whip during 2004 and 2005, and Chairperson of the Privileges Committee from 2005 to 2008. Simon is currently a member of the Privileges and House Business Committees. He also chairs the Cabinet Domestic Policy Committee.

Simon graduated from Victoria University with a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws before working as a lawyer in Palmerston North and Auckland. He was also President of the Victoria University Law Students' Society for two years.

### Key note Address:



**His Honour Judge Russell Johnson** - Chief District Court Judge

Topic:

*Court access to restorative justice services around New Zealand*

His Honour Judge Russell Johnson is the current Chief District Court Judge.

Chief Judge Johnson was educated at Kaitaia Primary School, Inglewood High School and Auckland University, graduating LLB DipCrim. He practised law for 24 years in Auckland (save for 2½ years as a Crown Counsel in Hong Kong in the mid-1970s) before being appointed to the District Court Bench in January 1993. He sat as a resident Judge in Waitakere, Auckland, and Manukau District Courts. He was appointed Chief District Court Judge on 1 April 2005. The Chief Judge is also a Judge of the Supreme Court of Pitcairn Islands, and a Judge-Advocate for the New Zealand Defence Forces.

He was an Officer of the Royal New Zealand Naval Volunteer Reserve for 25 years, being awarded the Volunteer Reserve Decoration (VRD) in 1987. He retired as Commanding Officer of the RNZNVR in Auckland in 1992 with the rank of Commander RNZNVR.

## Theme address:



**Prof Kevin P. Clements** - Chair in Peace & Conflict Studies  
Director of the National Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies,  
University of Otago

Topic:

*Turning the Tide – restorative practices changing communities*

Professor Clements is the Foundation Chair of Peace and Conflict Studies and Director of the New Zealand Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Otago, Dunedin New Zealand, and Secretary General of the International Peace Research Association. Prior to taking up these positions he was the Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies and Foundation Director of the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Queensland, Brisbane Australia.

He went to Queensland from International Alert where he was Secretary General from January 1999 to September 2003. International Alert is one of the world's largest NGOs working on conflict transformation. During this time he was on the Board of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention.

Prior to becoming Secretary General of International Alert Kevin was the Vernon and Minnie Lynch Chair of Conflict Resolution at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia USA, 1994-2000, and Director of the Institute from 1994-1999.

His career has been a combination of academic analysis and practice in the areas of peace building and conflict transformation. He was formerly Director of the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva and Head of the Peace Research Centre at the Australian National University in Canberra. Prior to this he held university positions at Canterbury University, Hong Kong University following a Post Doctoral Fellowship at Oxford University where he worked on development issues.

He has been an advisor to the several governments on conflict prevention, peace, defence and security issues and is currently advising the German Government and the OECD on States and Violence.

## Conference Dinner Speaker:



**His Honour Judge Sir David Carruthers** - Parole Board Chair

**Judge Sir David Carruthers** has had a distinguished career as a District Court Judge holding family and Youth Court warrants. Judge Carruthers was appointed as a District Court Judge in 1985. He was then the Principal Youth Court Judge from 1996, the Chief District Court Judge from 2001 to 2005 when he was appointed as Chairman of the New Zealand Parole Board.

Sir David has been a leading advocate of restorative justice, and his example of how to apply these principles in a court (he piloted an early example of a restorative approach to young offenders in the Porirua Youth Court), has been a major factor in its effective use among the judiciary in New Zealand and has influenced approaches in a number of other jurisdictions.

## Conference Speakers Day 2 Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March

### Key note Addresses:



**Hon Tariana Turia – Maori Party Co-Leader & Government Minister:**

**Topic:**

*Whanau Ora and restorative practices*

Hon Tariana Turia [*Ngati Apa/Wairiki, Nga Rauru, Tuwharetoa, Whanganui*] is co-leader of the Maori Party. Under the terms of a confidence and supply agreement with the National Party, she is a Minister outside Cabinet in the National-led Government holding the portfolios of Minister for Community and Voluntary sector, Minister for Disability Issues, Associate Minister of Health and Associate Minister of Social development & Employment.

Tariana held a broad range of positions in the Executive between 1999 and 2004 serving as Minister of State and with Associate Minister responsibilities in the Health, Housing, Maori Affairs (Social Development), Social Services and Employment(Social Services), and Corrections portfolios. She has also been a member of several select committees.

Tariana's career before politics included roles in: Maori Access training - Southern Regional Co-ordinator programmes; Maori Affairs Head Office; Te Oranganui Iwi Health Authority - Chief Executive; Whanganui Regional Development Board Trust – Manager; Whaioranga Iwi Social Services Unit – Manager; Te Puni Kokiri (Whanganui Office) - Service broker.

Tariana has a wide history of community activities such as: Former member, Evaluation team, first pilot cervical screening project for Maori women; Former member, Kura Kaupapa Maori establishment task forces and Founding team member, Te Awa Youth Trust.



**Rt. Hon Sir Geoffrey Palmer - Law Commission President**

**Topic:**

*Making the case for restorative justice*

Sir Geoffrey was appointed as President of the Law Commission on 1 December 2005 for a term of five years. He has had a long career in the law, as an academic lawyer, a politician, and a law practitioner.

Educated at the Victoria University of Wellington where he graduated BA in political science and LLB, he was awarded a British Commonwealth Fellowship at the University of Chicago where he graduated Doctor of Law cum laude in 1967.

As the Member of Parliament for Christchurch Central from 1979-1990, he became Deputy Leader of the Opposition and later in 1984-1989 Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General. He was from 1984-1987 Leader of the House of Representatives. After the 1987 election, he became Minister for the Environment, and in 1989-1990 he was Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Both before entering politics and after leaving it, he was a Professor of Law at the Victoria University of Wellington and at the University of Iowa in the United States. In 1994 Geoffrey Palmer became a founding partner of Chen, Palmer & Partners. He left the firm to join the Law Commission.

Geoffrey Palmer has written numerous books and scholarly articles on legal matters. Since 2002, he has been the New Zealand Commissioner on the International Whaling Commission.



**Hon Lianne Dalziel MP - Labour Justice Spokesperson**

**Topic:**

*Restorative justice and turning the tide on New Zealand's reactive criminal justice approach*

Lianne completed her law degree at Canterbury University and was admitted to the bar to practice as a Barrister & Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand in 1984.

Lianne worked in Christchurch Public Hospital while she was a law student, which is how she became involved in the union movement, first as a union delegate and then as an organiser, leading up to her election as the Canterbury Union Secretary of what is

now the Service & Food Workers Union.

Lianne represented Christchurch Central from 1990 until she decided to stand as a List MP in 1996, and is now in her fourth term as MP for Christchurch.

Lianne served as a Minister in Helen Clark's Labour led governments holding a broad range of portfolios as a Minister including: Immigration, Commerce, Small Business, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs & Food Safety and associate portfolios in Justice and Education.

Lianne is now Labour's spokesperson on Justice and Commerce. She chairs the Commerce Select Committee and is a member of the Privileges Committee.