

What is a Communication Assistant?

We are dedicated to providing skilled Communication Assistants who facilitate clear communication and equitable participation in justice settings.



The role of a Communication Assistant

A Communication Assistant (CA) is a specialised professional appointed by the Court to help effective communication and support participation in legal proceedings. Working within various New Zealand Courts — including Family, Youth, Matariki, District, and High Courts — CAs serve as independent officers under section 80 of the Evidence Act 2006.

Our CAs are experienced Speech Language Therapists with expertise in communication development and intervention. They undergo specialised training and mentoring to do their job in justice contexts.

As neutral officers of the Court, CAs are sworn in to ensure impartiality and reliability in their role. Beyond legal settings, CAs provide support to diverse environments where clear communication is needed. This includes working with agencies such as Oranga Tamariki, Corrections, and Health sectors.

Ensuring clear communication

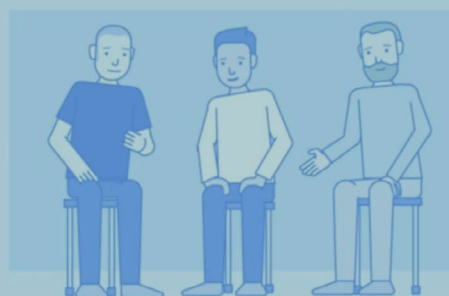
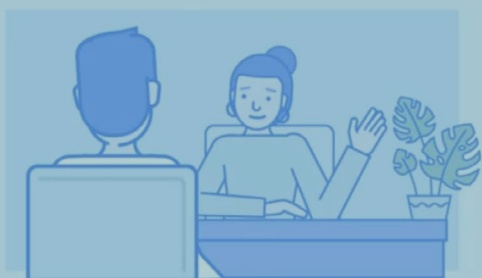
CAs help to adjust communication and accommodate each person's needs, facilitating equitable participation in complex communication situations. They provide plain language documents to enhance understanding and make information accessible for everyone involved.

Evolution and expansion

Originally starting in court settings, the role of CAs are expanding to include other challenging communication contexts beyond legal settings. This change shows their vital contribution to promoting effective communication across different sectors.

Watch video

This video titled "Communication Assistance talks about the role of communication assistants in New Zealand's justice system. It shows how these professionals support communication in legal settings, ensuring everyone can understand and participate effectively in court proceedings. The video explains the importance of this role in facilitating fair trials and access to justice for all participants.



Scan QR code
to watch video

