

Raising ACP awareness in the legal sector

What: Delivering ACP presentations to raise awareness and increase ACP activity in the legal sector

Why/rationale: To increase awareness and understanding of ACP within the legal sector so lawyers are better equipped to introduce ACP when people are making plans for their future with their lawyer (eg, estate planning, appointing Enduring Powers of Attorney or drafting a will).

Who: Whanganui DHB

Benefits/value added:

- Normalising ACP as part of good future planning.
- Cross-sector collaboration.

Risks/challenges:

- Lawyers will not see the alignment or understand the concept of ACP.
- People will not want to discuss ACP at the same time as estate planning or suchlike.

Steps: How this looked on the ground

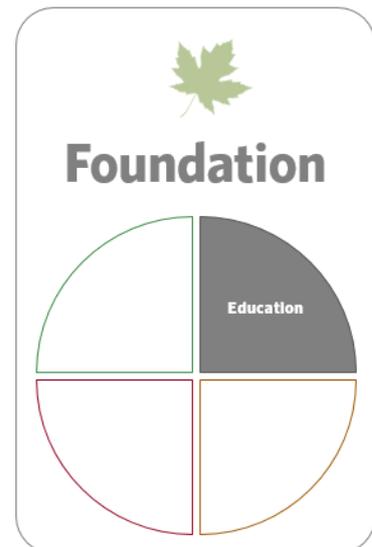
1. Discussed engagement opportunities outside of the health sector with the DHB ACP steering group. The group agreed to target lawyers as an opportunity to start ACP conversations with people while they are still in good health.
2. Developed a PowerPoint presentation to introduce ACP using relevant scenarios ([see example](#)).
3. Developed a contact list of local lawyers in the region. Included free legal advice organisations like Public Trust and Citizens Advice Bureau.
4. Made contact with lawyers offering to deliver a presentation introducing them to the concept of ACP, how ACP could benefit their clients and how ACP is relevant to them in their legal role.

Outcomes to date:

Legal firms are proactively contacting the ACP facilitator requesting presentations.

Future opportunities:

- Offering to present on ACP at local law society annual meetings.
- Considering potential for lawyers attending ACP presentations being eligible for continuous professional education points.



Things to consider:

What other organisations have relevant contact with consumers outside of the DHB (carer organisations, Age Concern, non-governmental organisations, St John, Hospice, church groups, Lions clubs)? What training could you offer their staff? Before approaching organisations, think strategically about what would be in it for them.