

Position Description

Conciliator | Kaitakawaenga

Reports to Conciliation & Investigation Team Manager | Kaiwhakahaere Tīma Kaitakawaenga

Mō mātou | About us

Tautohetohe Whaipāinga: Utilities Disputes (UDL) is a not-for-profit organisation, providing consumer dispute resolution and other related services to the utilities sector.

UDL investigates and facilitates the resolution of complaints between energy, water, fibre installation and telecommunication companies and their customers. It focuses on resolving complaints in a timely and cost effective manner and works pro-actively to minimise complaints through our research and education.

We are a focused team that works together in a supportive way.

We apply a fair and reasonable decision making approach to all aspects of our work. Our aim is to be accessible, independent, fair, accountable, efficient and effective. We are committed to the health and safety of our staff and communicate in plain English.

UDL welcomes and supports people of all gender identities, ages, ethnicities, sexual orientations, disabilities, and religions.

Mō te Tūranga | About the role

The role of the Conciliator is to resolve consumer complaints, using a range of dispute resolution strategies, and to carry out investigations and prepare high quality draft written decisions.

They are also required to assist our Early Resolution Team from time to time in receiving incoming complaint calls and may be required to provide cover for the Conciliation Team Manager role from time to time.

Mōhou ake | About you

Person specification

- A relevant tertiary qualification (in law or similar)
- Demonstrates an understanding of Te Ao Māori, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the applicability of Tikanga to dispute resolution in Aotearoa (desirable)
- Experienced in interpreting legislation with a sound understanding of the requirements of working within a statutory based complaint/dispute environment
- An excellent writer with strong oral and written communication skills
- Dispute resolution skills (desirable)
- Good sense of humour and a team player

Professional skills

- Interest or experience in mediation or conciliation
- Computer literacy (MS Office, cloud-based systems and databases, Google suite of products)
- Able to analyse, interpret, and simplify technical and legal information
- Ability to effectively deal with challenging behaviour
- Ability to ask effective questions and build rapport
- Able to conduct a strategic investigation
- Able to identify complaint issues, determine options and apply basic dispute resolution techniques to resolve them
- Demonstrate consistent use of plain English principles
- Able to apply independence (both actual and perceived)
- Able to apply the principles of natural justice
- Able to interact with people from diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Open minded
- Collaborative team player
- An ability to work independently
- Adaptable and resilient
- Focuses on continually improving themselves and the organisation

Responsibilities

- Handle initial enquiries from the public about the complaints process and providing accurate advice or referral
- Facilitate the resolution of complaints using a range of dispute resolution strategies including conciliation and mediation
- Undertake investigations
- Provide advice to the Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner on complaints
- Prepare draft decisions for the Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner
- Maintain complete and accurate records of complaints and interactions with parties
- Demonstrate independence and applying the rules of natural justice when resolving complaints
- Comply with the various schemes, requirements of the Commissioner, and best practice complaint handling processes
- Identify opportunities for improving complaint handling processes within the office
- Contribute to and support other staff in the completion of their duties
- Undertake other tasks as required

Competencies

A Conciliator is expected to demonstrate the following competencies:

Competency	Performance measure
Decision quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes good decisions based upon a mixture of analysis, insight, experience, and judgement • Most of their solutions and suggestions are correct and accurate when judged over time
Written communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can write clearly and succinctly in a variety of communication settings and styles • Written communication has the desired impact on the recipient • Understands and uses the plain English writing standard • Written work contains minimal errors
Approachability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is easy to approach and talk to • Is warm and pleasant and puts others at ease • Is sensitive and patient, builds rapport and is aware of others needs • Can talk through decisions effectively even when it may not be the recipient's desired outcome
Peer relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quickly finds common ground and solves issues easily • Is seen as a team player, is cooperative and encourages collaboration
Listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practises attentive and active listening • Has the patience to hear people out • Can accurately restate the opinions of others even when they disagree
Problem solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses common sense and logic to solve difficult issues with effective solutions • Makes use of all available sources for answers when necessary • Can see hidden issues • Is excellent at analysis • Identifies opportunities for improvement
Ethics and values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adheres to an appropriate (for the setting) and effective set of core values and beliefs at all times • Acts in line with those values • Genuinely cares about people, is empathetic, available and ready to help
Composure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can work effectively while under pressure • Does not display defensiveness or frustration in their behaviour • Can be counted on to be a settling influence in a crisis • Is resilient when faced with the unexpected • Learns quickly when facing new issues
Health and Safety	<p>Shares in and actively contributes to UDL's commitment to, and the continuous improvement of, a safe and healthy workplace through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping informed on health and safety matters • Proactively offering suggestions and contributing to health and safety initiatives • Identifying and eliminating hazards and risks in the work environment • Being aware of and supporting the wellness of other employees • Being prepared for and ready to act in an emergency • Reporting early any feeling of pain, discomfort, or stress

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting all incidents, injuries or near misses • Following all health and safety procedures
Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Te Ao Māori and Tikanga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands UDLs alignment with the values and obligations of Te Tiriti o Waitangi • Appreciates the importance of Te Ao Māori and its value to the work UDL does • A sound understanding of the role tikanga can play in the consideration and resolution of disputes