



Comhairle na mBreithiúna
The Judicial Council

COMMITMENT TO JUDICIAL WELLBEING

**Adopted by the Judicial Council on
the 31st of January 2025**

A COMMITMENT TO JUDICIAL WELLBEING

A well-functioning judiciary exemplifies core judicial values of independence, impartiality, integrity, propriety, equality, competence and diligence (See Judicial Council Guidelines for Judicial Conduct and Ethics and the Bangalore Principles on Judicial Conduct).

The Nauru Declaration on Judicial Well-being (July 2024) emphasises the vital role of judicial wellbeing in upholding integrity and effectiveness within the judiciary and reflects an international commitment to judicial wellbeing.

As part of the Judicial Council's remit to achieve:

- a) excellence in the performance of the judiciary,
- b) high standards of conduct among judges, and,
- c) public confidence in the judiciary and the administration of justice,

the Judicial Council recognises that judicial wellbeing is essential and must be supported.

Judges are human beings, and the performance of the judiciary is dependent on the human capacity and faculties of individual judges. Judicial work is demanding, and stress is a natural human response. Being under stress is not a sign of weakness and ought not to be stigmatised. Judicial well-being is a shared responsibility of judicial institutions and of individual judges.

In fulfilling the responsibility for judicial wellbeing, the Judicial Council, as an institution and as a collection of the individual members of the judiciary, supports the following core objectives and confers on the Judicial Support and Welfare Committee the role to achieve those objectives:

1. To promote judicial well-being through raising awareness and by providing for access to internal and external health and well-being supports.
2. To develop accessible and transparent assistance and intervention pathways for judges in times of illness, bereavement or other crises including those which may arise from the inherent demands of judicial work which also includes working with difficult subject matter, with the support of the Board of the Judicial Council and the Chief Justice and the Presidents of each court jurisdiction.

3. To respond to occupational training and development needs by identifying and providing opportunities to enhance skills with the support of the Judicial Studies Committee where appropriate.