

ROLE DESCRIPTION

DESIGNATION:	Family Lawyer
SERVICE:	Regional Legal Services
CLASSIFICATION:	PO4 – Vacancy No: 64/09
LOCATION:	Townsville
STATUS:	Full time
CONTACT:	Jaquie Palavra (07) 4760 7500

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

This is an outstanding opportunity for an experienced legal professional to take on a position delivering high-quality family law services to vulnerable and disadvantaged Queenslanders. Legal Aid Queensland plays an important role in the state's justice system, providing specialist services in child support, child protection, domestic violence, social work, dispute resolution and family law matters. We represent the interests of children in family law and child protection matters and aim to resolve family law disputes through family dispute resolution processes before they go to court. The work is challenging and complex, but rewarding.

As a lawyer, you will represent the interests of legally aided clients in family law and related matters. You will liaise and maintain relationships with key stakeholders to improve service delivery for clients and you will also have an opportunity to contribute to policy developments and law reform issues.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Represent clients, including preparing matters, instructing counsel and personally appear as a solicitor advocate in family law, domestic violence and child protection matters.
- Act in the child's best interest as an independent children's lawyer and separate representative in complex family law and child protection matters.
- Participate in family group meetings, court ordered conferences and primary dispute resolution as lawyer, mediator and chair.
- Provide advice and information to clients state-wide and the public in relation to various areas of law.
- Mentor, assist and guide staff within the team and external legal practitioners regarding family law issues.
- Provide duty lawyer services in the family court and federal magistrates court.
- Support Legal Aid Queensland's contributions to policy, procedure, law reform and legal service delivery initiatives, and contribute to operational planning within Legal Aid Queensland.

Role Description

Family Lawyer

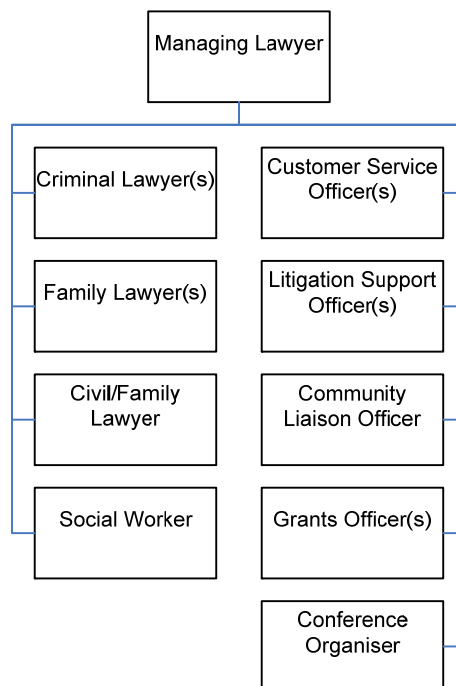
- Represent the team in external forums and liaise with relevant justice stakeholders, government agencies and community organisations.
- Provide continuing legal education and information to Legal Aid Queensland staff and external stakeholders to increase awareness in relation family law issues.
- Ensure all work complies with quality and case management standards and meet all other professional and corporate responsibilities.

YOUR CORE CAPABILITIES:

Merit and performance will be assessed on these core capabilities:

- You have knowledge of family law and related legislation and experience preparing, representing and advocating for clients. You are also committed to self-development and maintaining up-to-date knowledge of the law and procedure.
- You can build and sustain relationships with team members, other colleagues and external stakeholders.
- You contribute to improvements in policy and operational practices and identify solutions to problems.
- You present and write in a clear concise and articulate manner. You tailor your communication style to the audience and communicate effectively with both external stakeholders and also clients with complex needs.

YOUR REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS



YOUR QUALIFICATIONS:

You are admitted or are eligible for immediate admission as a legal practitioner in Queensland, and eligible for a current practicing certificate and entry in the High Court Register of Practitioners.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- A driver license is highly desirable, as the position will involve travelling to conduct outreach work and to visit courts and other locations.
- Appointees to positions are on three months probation.
- Total remuneration will include employer superannuation contributions, annual leave loading and salary packaging benefits. Please see the Applicant Information Kit for more details.
- Legal Aid Queensland uses the internet and other technology in daily business, including an electronic case management system and staff are expected to use this technology to produce their own documents (including typing and data entry).
- Additional information, including our organisation structure and Applicant Information Kit, is available from www.legalaid.qld.gov.au