

## ROLE DESCRIPTION

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<b>DESIGNATION:</b>	Regional Principal Counsel
<b>SERVICE:</b>	Counsel
<b>CLASSIFICATION:</b>	SO2.2 – Vacancy No : 57/09
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Townsville
<b>DATE OF REVIEW:</b>	October 2009
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:</b>	<b>Contact Carl Heaton (07) 3238 3280</b> <i>The Regional Principal Counsel will be required to carry out circuit work and appear in major cases throughout Queensland and must be prepared to travel.</i>  <i>New permanent appointees to positions within Legal Aid Queensland are on three months probation.</i>

## PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

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- Appear for clients granted legal aid in superior and inferior courts in northern Queensland, including the Court of Appeal and the Mental Health Court.
- Assist the Public Defender to manage the Townsville branch of the Counsel Division of Legal Aid Queensland.

## MAJOR DUTIES

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1. Appear as Counsel:
  - (i) in Supreme and District Court trials and sentence hearings.
  - (ii) in hearings and appeals before the Mental Health Court;
  - (iii) for respondents to applications by the Attorney-General under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*;
  - (iv) in other proceedings as required before the Magistrates Court the Coroner and in Family law proceedings.
2. Advise on and argue appeals to the court of Appeal.
3. Provide legal advice to staff and clients of Legal Aid Queensland and other lawyers who undertake legal aid work, particularly on matters pertaining to criminal law, evidence and Court proceedings
4. Take a leadership role in the continuing legal and professional education of staff of Legal Aid Queensland and Lawyers who undertake legal aid work in northern Queensland, including formal presentations and mentoring.
5. In conjunction with the Public Defender, manage and coordinate the activities of the Townsville branch of the Counsel Division of Legal Aid Queensland.

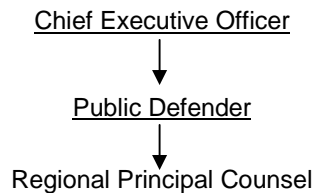
## Role Description

### Regional Principal Counsel

6. On behalf of the Public Defender and in conjunction with the Regional Senior Solicitors in northern Queensland, participate in regional legal assistance forums to work with stakeholders and service delivery partners to promote efficient and effective delivery of legal services to disadvantaged people in northern Queensland.
7. Assist the Public Defender and Chief Executive Officer by providing advice regarding policy, procedural and law reform initiatives, particularly as they pertain to regional issues and clients

## REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

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## SELECTION CRITERIA

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Merit will be assessed on the following basis:

### EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

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#### Essential

Admission or eligible for immediate admission as a legal practitioner in Queensland, and eligible for a current practising certificate as a barrister and entry in the High Court Register of Practitioners.

### SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES

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#### Essential

1. Demonstrated superior ability to represent persons in the higher courts.
2. Demonstrated superior ability to critically review case materials and advise upon, draft and argue grounds of appeal in the Court of Appeal.
3. Superior interpersonal, communication and negotiation skills, including communicating advice to instructing solicitors, junior counsel and clients.
4. Demonstrated awareness of major issues affecting the criminal justice system and legally aided clients in northern Queensland and an ability to prepare high quality advice and written submissions relating to policy, procedural and law reform initiatives.

#### Highly Desirable

5. Demonstrated ability to lead, advise, train and manage a team of legal and paralegal professionals.
6. Demonstrated ability to command respect for professional competence and integrity from the judiciary and members of the legal profession.
7. Demonstrated ability to advise and appear for persons in Family law proceedings and civil litigation.
8. Demonstrated commitment and capacity to contribute to the professional leadership and training of staff of Legal Aid Queensland and other lawyers who undertake legal aid work in northern Queensland.

**Note:** *Applicants should address the above selection criteria in the context of the Major Duties specified within this Role Description*

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

Legal Aid Queensland is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer, and expects all employees to act in accordance with its Code of Conduct and with relevant legislation, including the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* and the *Public Service Act 2008*.

Legal Aid Queensland buildings and surrounds are a non-smoking environment.

Employees of Legal Aid Queensland are subject to performance feedback and management systems.

Legal Aid Queensland operates a safe system of work, and expects employees to abide by workplace health and safety requirements.

Legal Aid Queensland is an author keying environment, and regularly uses internet and other computer technology in daily business.

A current driver's licence is highly desirable for regular driving to court and on circuit for work.