



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Lawyer - Family Violence Program

POSITION TITLE	Lawyer, Family Violence Program
INDUSTRIAL INSTRUMENT	Conditions of employment comply with the <i>Community Legal Centres Multi-Business Agreement (MBA) Certified Agreement 2006-2009</i> and pay rates in the <i>Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010 (SCHCADS)</i> .
FULL-TIME/PART-TIME	4 days per week (0.8EFT) position up to 30 June 2022 (parental leave cover). (Full-time at Youthlaw is a 38 hour week).
CLASSIFICATION	Level 5.2 - 6.2 SCHCADS Award 2010
REMUNERATION	In addition: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Salary packaging• Superannuation (9.5%)• 4 weeks annual leave (pro rata) with loading of 17.5%• Additional paid leave between Xmas and New Years Day.
REPORTS TO	Family Violence Program Coordinator and CEO
CONTACT TO DISCUSS POSITION	Tiffany Overall, Family Violence Program Coordinator
CONTACT DETAILS	tiffany@youthlaw.asn.au or 0400 904034

POSITION CONTEXT

This position is situated in the innovative Family Violence Program at Youthlaw, Victoria's specialist legal centre for young people under 25 years. The program comprises a small integrated, interdisciplinary team of lawyers and social work trained youth practitioners and a program coordinator. The program provides youth specific needs and risk assessments, safety planning, legal advice, representation, non-legal supports and referrals.

Young Peoples Legal Rights Centre
Inc No A0041616E
ABN 12 794 935 230

www.youthlaw.asn.au

The Program was initiated following the release of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence. Both the Commission report and needs assessment conducted by Youthlaw prior identified an enormous gap in legal and non-legal family violence services for young people under 25.

Youthlaw Family Violence Program has been providing a Duty Lawyer service at the Melbourne Children's Court since 2016. Through that service we identified a significant number of young people not attending court in relation to Family Violence Intervention Order matters they were responding to.

Youthlaw received funding from the Victorian Legal Services Board until June 2022 to implement and evaluate a pilot program to engage earlier with young people, especially young people under 18 who are using violence in the home (AVITH). The pilot commenced in early 2021.

Youthlaw Early support for AVITH Program aims to build a relationship with the young person in order to provide earlier support to address their legal and non-legal support needs. Our goal is to ensure that the young person can fully engage with the court process and access appropriate and specialist support, resulting in better and safer outcomes for them and their family.

The program is mainly receiving referrals in the western metropolitan area, especially Sunshine and Werribee, but has also developed referral pathways with Royal Children's Hospital and The Orange Door North Eastern Melbourne Area (NEMA)

The Centre for Innovative Justice was engaged by Youthlaw to conduct a formal evaluation of the Pilot (the Evaluation), using an action research methodology to inform improvements and adaptations to the Pilot and program model. A final report will be produced by June 2022

ABOUT THE ROLE

We are seeking a highly motivated and experienced lawyer to join our Family Violence team, and act as the family violence lawyer for the Early Support for AVITH Pilot Program, working in an integrated partnership with a social work trained youth practitioner attached to that program.

In the role you will provide expert, youth specific legal information, advice, secondary consultation, court representation and casework primarily in family violence and other related matters (e.g. crime, and VOCAT etc.). In particular, you will undertake the following key responsibilities:

- Provide secondary consultations to generalist Youthlaw lawyers and other professionals working with young people who are using or experiencing violence in the home
- Work with program staff to develop the program policies & referral pathways
- Maintain and further strengthen relationships and referral pathways with various program stakeholders, and AVITH and family violence sectors
- Fortnightly outreach at the Sunshine Hub based at WEstJustice and YSAS
- Provide legal advice, court representation and conduct casework for children and young people under 18 who are using violence in the home (AVITH)
- Contribute to advocacy to improve responsiveness & services to AVITH clients
- Contribute to CIJ research of the pilot program
- Contribute to community legal education projects especially related to AVITH
- General lawyer duties including responding to general legal information calls to Youthlaw, contributing to the policy and advocacy program, to service development and planning & participation in staff, casework and supervision meetings
- Shared administrative duties

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

You will have experience appearing as an advocate in court, on family violence matters and strong negotiation skills and a demonstrated ability to handle challenging case work. You will have

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excellent communication and interpersonal skills allowing you to work effectively with vulnerable young people and build effective professional relationships with stakeholders.

- At least 2 years relevant legal practice experience as an employed solicitor.
- Experience practicing in family violence matters
- Experience working with children and young people
- Excellent communication and written skills
- Excellent organisational and time management skills
- Demonstrated experience and ability in working within a small team environment and working autonomously
- A Working with Children Check

HIGHLY DESIRABLE

- Relevant training in family violence e.g. identifying / responding appropriately to family violence, basic risk assessments and safety planning
- Knowledge of VLA Grant Guidelines and ATLAS
- Eligible for VLA panel 29A accreditation
- An understanding of the issues faced by, and needs of, vulnerable and marginalised young people

QUALIFICATIONS

- Hold or be eligible to hold a current legal practising certificate in Victoria (without supervision).

LOCATION, TRAVEL AND WORK OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS

With COVID restrictions easing, the position will be based at Youthlaw at 147-155 Pelham Street, Carlton 3053 VIC, but will also outreach fortnightly from Sunshine and other areas from time to time.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

Closing date for application – Sunday 15th August 2021.

Please note interviews will most likely take place on afternoon Thursday 19th August or Monday 23rd August 2021.

Please provide one letter that is a combined cover letter & addresses the key selection criteria (no more than 2 pages). Please also provide your CV and at least two professional referees.

Do you want more information?

Read the position description carefully.

Look at our website including our most recent annual report.

Your applications and any general queries can be directed to Tiffany Overall (Family Violence Program Coordinator) at tiffany@youthlaw.asn.au

If you are not shortlisted we will let you know as soon as possible. Unfortunately we do not have the capacity to provide feedback to all applicants. Those who are interviewed will be provided feedback.