



**Health Justice Solicitor**

**REPORTING TO** Health Justice Program Managing Solicitor

**CLASSIFICATION:** MEA 4-5 **POSITION BASIS:** Full-time/Part time

**DIRECT REPORTS:** n/a

**1. THE ORGANISATION**

The Women's Legal Centre is a specialist community legal centre. Our primary legal practice areas are family law, migration law, employment and discrimination law. Within these practice areas we also provide assistance related to domestic and family violence, and early intervention Care and Protection matters, victims of crime, and sexual harassment.

The Centre includes a specialist program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, Mulleun Mura, and delivers services through Health Justice and community partnerships.

The Centre provides legal assistance across the spectrum of need, including legal information and referral, legal advice and representation, and litigation. The Centre provides legal services within a multi-disciplinary and trauma-informed practice model that incorporates social work, cultural supports and collaborative service models, to provide wrap-around support to the most vulnerable and at-risk clients.

The Centre also provides community legal education and input on law and policy development to build government and community capacity to work towards deeper legal and cultural change to redress power imbalances and address violence and gender inequality.

**2. POSITION SUMMARY**

The Centre's Health Justice Program works in partnership with health services to deliver legal services in healthcare settings in the ACT. Our partners are Calvary Public Hospital Bruce and the ACT's Child and Family Centres in Gungahlin, West Belconnen and Tuggeranong.

Health Justice Solicitors are embedded within the teams at our Partner sites. They work alongside clinical and allied health staff to provide legal assistance as part of their care for women and families.

Health Justice Solicitors work under general direction from the Managing Solicitor of the Health Justice Program. They are expected to apply expertise to provide support, advice and representation for clients dealing with a range of matters, including care arrangements for children, dividing property upon separation, family violence orders, early intervention care and protection advice and representation, and victims of crime compensation claims.

The Health Justice Program also aims to build the capacity of universal allied and clinical health services to identify and respond to women experiencing domestic and family violence. Health Justice Solicitors are responsible for building and maintaining close working relationships with health professionals, including through delivering training and collaborating to support clients.



## **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **1. Legal advice and casework**

- 1.1 Provide high quality legal advice and representation to clients, including representation in ACT and Commonwealth Courts and Tribunals.
- 1.2 Develop and maintain a strong level of technical competence in the areas of family law, family violence and care protection.
- 1.3 Manage your own client case load under general supervision from senior staff.
- 1.4 Work collaboratively with staff in Partner organisations to ensure legal assistance is well integrated within the service and meet client needs.
- 1.5 Work collaboratively with Centre's social workers and case workers to ensure socio-legal and legal services are well integrated and meet client needs.
- 1.6 Adopt and implement trauma-informed best practice principles in legal service delivery.
- 1.7 Ensure all legal service and partnership activities data collection is accurate, comprehensive and informs practice and advocacy.

### **2. Program support and delivery**

- 2.1 Support the effective operation and governance of the partnerships, including monitoring service delivery and supporting partnership governance arrangements.
- 2.2 Develop and maintain strong, creative, and flexible relationships with partner staff.
- 2.3 Develop and deliver guidance and promotional materials and training to enhance implementation and support for the partnership within partner services.
- 2.4 Maintain a strong working knowledge of good practice and emerging research in the area of Health Justice Partnerships.

### **3. Stakeholder engagement**

- 3.1 Develop relationships across legal, community and health services to support responsive service delivery to clients and appropriate and effective referrals.
- 3.2 Represent the Centre in a variety of public forums to promote the work of the Partnership and of the Centre.

### **4. Community legal education & law reform**

- 4.1 Deliver community legal education programs and campaigns which align with the work of the family law practice and the Centre.
- 4.2 Identify law reform issues for action and support the development of law reform proposals, strategies, reports and submissions in consultation with the Managing Solicitor.

### **5. Organisational responsibilities**

- 5.1 Participate in regular supervision and yearly performance reviews.



- 5.2 Participate in reflective practice, clinical debriefing and/or other staff wellbeing initiatives.
- 5.3 Undertake ongoing professional development in accordance with legal professional regulations and in consultation with your supervisor.
- 5.4 Provide input for Centre reporting purposes and other publications as requested.
- 5.5 Ensure compliance with policies and procedures of the Centre.
- 5.6 Participate in the Centre's planning with staff and Board.
- 5.7 Attend regular staff meetings as required.
- 5.8 Other relevant duties as directed by the Head of Practice (Family Law), Principal Solicitor or CEO.



## REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must:

1. Be admitted to practice/eligible to apply for a restricted practising certificate in the Australian Capital Territory with a minimum of two years' post admission experience.
2. Be eligible for an ACT Working with Vulnerable People card.
3. Be able to demonstrate or obtain vaccination status as required by health partners (including Covid-19, influenza and other vaccinations).

## SELECTION CRITERIA

*Essential:*

1. Ability to develop and maintain strong, collaborative working relationships with people from different professional backgrounds and a commitment to delivering services as part of a multidisciplinary team.
2. Demonstrated casework experience in the areas of care and protection, family law and family violence, including experience appearing in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, ACT Magistrates Court and ACT Children's Court.
3. Highly developed organisational skills and the ability to work independently and manage competing workloads under pressure.
4. Demonstrated high level written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to simplify legal jargon and processes for disadvantaged groups, and to build capacity to identify potential legal issues through training and collaboration.
5. Commitment to responding to violence against women, improving women's access to justice and empowering women.
6. Capacity to adopt a trauma-informed approach to service delivery, including dedication to self-care, wellbeing and building personal resilience.

*Desirable*

1. Experience working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, women from diverse backgrounds and women affected by trauma.
2. Experience delivering community legal education.