

Duty Statement

Agency	Legal Aid NT	Work unit	Criminal Law/ Respondent Early Assistance Legal Service (REALS)
Job title	Solicitor	Designation	Professional 2 (P2)
Job type	Full time	Duration	2 Years
Salary	\$92,910 - \$110,781 plus Superannuation (salary packaging options available)	Location	Alice Springs or Katherine
Position number	Supernumerary	Closing	4pm Thursday, 18 June 2026
Contact Officer	Human Resources on 08 8999 3000 or recruitment@legalaid.nt.gov.au		
About the agency	www.legalaid.nt.gov.au		
Apply online	Please submit applications to recruitment@legalaid.nt.gov.au		

Information for applicants

To be considered for this position, applicants must attach a resume, a statement addressing the selection criteria (maximum 2 pages), and copies of your tertiary qualifications.

Inclusion and diversity

Legal Aid NT values diversity. We encourage people from all diversity groups to apply for vacancies and accommodate people with disability by making reasonable workplace adjustments.

About Legal Aid NT

Legal Aid NT is an independent statutory authority established under the *Legal Aid Act 1990* (NT). Our purpose is to ensure people in the Northern Territory understand their legal rights and that people facing disadvantage have access to quality legal services, and to uphold a fair Northern Territory and national justice system.

The Respondent Early Assistance Legal Service (REALS) is a specialised service providing information, legal assistance and social support to clients, responding to allegations that they have used domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFSV) via a domestic violence application (DVO) brought against them under the *Domestic and Family Violence Act 2007* (NT).

REALS assists any DVO Respondent, most clients who require the assistance are male, particularly those from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds. REALS sits within Legal Aid's Family Law Practice.

This is a newly created position at Legal Aid NT and will operate as a hybrid role within the Criminal Law Practice and REALS, based in either the Alice Springs or Katherine office.

The position will report to both respective practice managers.

Primary objective

Under the supervision of the Managing Solicitor of the regional office and the REALS Managing Solicitor, provide high quality legal advice, representation, advocacy and legal assistance to REALS clients and clients across criminal law in the respective Local Court.

Key duties and responsibilities

1. Deliver high quality legal advice and representation in a broad range of criminal law areas and appear in courts for people charged with criminal offences.
2. As a member of the team, be responsible for a reasonable share of the file work undertaken by the office and assume conduct of those matters which are assigned to you by the Managing Solicitor, including a share of the duty lawyer and clinic advice services provided by the service.
3. Appear as solicitor and counsel as required in the Local Court and the Youth Justice Court to conduct bail applications, pleas, contested hearings, oral committals, and other matters as necessary and in regional courts as required; and in the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory to conduct bail applications, pleas, appeals (from the Local court); and to instruct and assist counsel in the preparation and conduct of jury trials.
4. In accordance with REALS guidelines, and to a high standard:
 - deliver duty lawyer and advice services to DVO Respondents in the Local Court as required.
 - provide legal task assistance, advocacy, education, referrals and duty lawyer services to DVO Respondents with a priority focus on assisting vulnerable and/or disadvantaged people in family violence and limited family law matters.
5. Provide legal advice, referrals, and support to assist clients in engaging with family law processes safely, including helping families transition between and manage matters across the Commonwealth family law, NT family violence, and NT child protection jurisdictions.
6. Liaise and work with the Men's Support Worker contracted to work with Legal Aid NT as it relates to legal matters.
7. Maintain and improve professional standards by keeping up to date with developments in relevant areas of legal practice including participating in professional development activities in relevant areas of legal practice and complying with the Continuing Professional Development requirements of the Law Society of the Northern Territory.

8. Ensure compliance with the *Legal Profession Act (NT)*, the *Legal Aid Act (NT)* the Legal Aid Guidelines, the REALS guidelines and all legislation, subordinate legislation, professional standards, Rules of Court, and Practice Directions applicable to the conduct of the legal practice.
9. Maintain effective file management, diary management, administrative systems and quality assurance procedures to ensure timely and efficient service delivery.
10. Liaise and collaborate with Legal Aid NT staff, panel practitioners, external agencies, courts, interpreters and support services to ensure continuity of service and minimise duplication.
11. Contribute to community legal education, training, advocacy, policy development and law reform activities arising from service delivery.

Selection criteria

Essential

1. Admission or eligibility for admission as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory of Australia.
2. Demonstrated high level initiative including the ability to work as a part of a team with minimal supervision in undertaking tasks and addressing challenges, including the ability to deal with competing demands and complex matters.
3. Demonstrated ability to deliver high quality legal advice, assistance, and representation in a range of criminal law matters, and for DVO Respondents, and undertake related advocacy, policy and law reform work.
4. Knowledge of current legal issues affecting disadvantaged people in the NT and the provision of legal services in the NT including the ability to acquire expertise in working with users of DFSV, in accordance with best practice.
5. Experience in assisting and supporting vulnerable clients who may be at risk of, or are experiencing or are affected by trauma, alcohol and drug dependence, DFSV, homelessness, mental health conditions or cognitive impairments.
6. High level oral and written communication skills, the ability to communicate with people from diverse backgrounds and clients with complex needs, including the use of interpreters to provide legal advice and representation.
7. Ability to deliver high quality legal advice, community legal education and legal assistance and undertake related advocacy, policy, and law reform work.
8. Commitment to legal aid values and an understanding of Northern Territory justice issues and the legal assistance sector.

Desirable

1. A minimum of two years post-admission experience in legal practice, with at least 1 year in criminal law, civil or family law, including the conduct of contested hearings.
2. Understanding of the Respondent Early Assistance Legal Service (REALS), Family Advocacy and Support Services (FASS) program, and best practice in working with users of violence.
3. Understanding of the practice and policy concerns relevant to providing legal assistance to clients responding to allegations of DFSV against them or with a history of using violence including an understanding of specific issues affecting people who have a history of using DFSV.

Further Information

- The successful applicant will be required to obtain and hold a Working with Children Clearance notice and undergo a criminal history check. A criminal history will not exclude an applicant from this position unless it is a relevant criminal history.
- The successful application must hold a current NT 'C' class driver's licence or the ability to obtain as per the requirements of the NT Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) Road Users' Handbook.