

Job advertisement reference

QLD/689228

Role type

Permanent Full Time

Classification

PO4

Salary

\$118,967 to \$127,942 a year full time hours

Location

Townsville & Cairns

Contact

Sarah D'Alton, Director

sarah.dalton@legalaid.qld.gov.au**Closing date**Thursday 11th June 2026**Direct reports**

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Our organisation

Legal Aid Queensland's vision is to be a leader in a fair justice system where people are able to understand and protect their legal rights. Our purpose is to provide quality, cost effective legal services to financially disadvantaged people throughout Queensland.

Our values

- Social Justice
- Respect
- Quality
- Cost effectiveness
- Accountability

The division

Legal Aid Queensland has 13 regional offices across Queensland giving legal help and advice to financially disadvantaged people.

Our regional office staff play an important role in delivering high-quality legal services to rural and regional communities including at local courts, outreach locations and from our offices.

Family assessment consultant

Townsville & Cairns/ Regional Services

This is an outstanding opportunity for an experienced social worker/psychologist to take on a position delivering independent clinical and forensic family assessments with a focus on family law and child protection jurisdictions.

You will be part of a broader specialist team of allied professionals delivering high-quality services to individuals, families and children in family law, child protection, domestic and family violence and related areas. The work is challenging and complex but rewarding.

Key responsibilities:

- Conduct clinical and forensic assessments of families and children, including child custody and pre-sentence evaluations.
- Prepare complex and comprehensive assessment reports for use in court proceedings in the family law, child protection and criminal jurisdictions.
- Provide expert opinion and evidence to the court, including being cross examined and challenged on your opinion.
- Work collaboratively with Legal Aid Queensland staff and external stakeholders about case management matters to best support families and children and their safety.
- If a member of LAQ's Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner panel, act as a mediator and chair family dispute resolution conferences in parenting and associated matters.
- Provide high-quality and trauma-informed brief intervention services including crisis counselling, safety planning, information advocacy, mental health support and referrals to external support services for persons who experience and use domestic and family violence.
- Maintain networks with stakeholders and represent Legal Aid Queensland in external forums about family law and child protection matters as required.
- Develop and provide training and continuing legal information/education to Legal Aid Queensland staff, preferred suppliers, external practitioners and stakeholders about family law and child protection matters as requested.

To apply for this role submit your application online via **Smartjobs**. Please provide:

- ✓ a cover letter (maximum 2 pages) addressing how you meet the Success criteria (Knowledge, skills and experience), in line with the "Key responsibilities".
- ✓ your resume/CV.

Other responsibilities

- Actively contribute to team planning and meet all professional and corporate responsibilities.
- Model the values of respect, quality and accountability.
- Maintain a high standard of practice through governance and risk management.
- Foster an inclusive workplace where inclusion, diversity and wellbeing are promoted and prioritised.

Success criteria

Knowledge, skills and experience

- You have experience clinically assessing families and children and understand child development theory and the impacts of separation, domestic and family violence, abuse, high conflict and other risk factors on children and families.
- You have knowledge of legislation impacting families, with a focus on family law, domestic and family violence, child protection and related matters.
- You communicate effectively with stakeholders including clients with complex needs, prepare and present complex assessment reports in a clear, concise, and articulate manner and can be cross examined in court about your assessments and rationale.

Other competencies

Legal Aid Queensland applies the [Leadership competencies for Queensland](#). We recognise that leadership is a part of every role regardless of classification level or management responsibilities. This role is mapped to the “Individual Contributor” profile. The competencies most relevant to this role are:

- **Results-** You build and sustain positive relationships.
- **Results-** You are accountable for providing quality services and pursue continuous improvement in your work and outcomes.
- **Accountability-** You are responsive to guidance and performance feedback and seek opportunities for development.
- **Vision-** You actively seek knowledge and share information and ideas.

Mandatory requirements or special conditions

- You must be a Social Worker or a registered Psychologist and be either eligible for membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers or be registered with the AHPRA Psychology Board.
- Have a minimum of 5 years post graduate relevant experience.
- You may be required to travel to provide services to families in regional/remote parts of Queensland.
- Possession of a C class driver's licence is a mandatory requirement for this role as there is a requirement to undertake travel.
- The incumbent may be required to work hours outside the normal work hours due to travel.
- This is Regulated employment which includes providing services to people under 18 years of age. Confirmation of employment is conditional upon the preferred applicant being issued with a valid Queensland Working with Children Clearance (Blue Card) which will be linked to Legal Aid Queensland prior to their commencing in the role. Please refer to the [Blue Card Services website](#) for further information.

More information

- **There are 2 x Permanent Full Time positions, 1 x Cairns & 1 x Townsville.**
- **Reimbursement or payment of relocation costs may be considered on appointment of successful applicant in accordance with the Domestic Travelling and Appointment Expenses Directive 11/11.**
- You will be assessed against the Success criteria (Knowledge, skills and experience) and also the [Leadership competencies for Queensland](#).
- Applications will remain current for up to 12 months and may be considered for other vacancies (identical or similar) including with an alternative employment basis (permanent, temporary, full-time or part time).
- Legal Aid Queensland embraces diversity and encourages applications from people with disability. We are committed to making reasonable adjustments to provide a positive, barrier-free recruitment process and supportive workplace. Please contact careers@legalaid.qld.gov.au for support to ensure an equitable, barrier-free application process.
- A criminal history check and serious disciplinary history check will be undertaken for this position on the recommended applicant/s due to the nature of the work involved.
- Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ) is a [Child Safe Organisation](#) with a zero-tolerance policy towards child abuse.
- The appointed applicants will be required to disclose relevant conflicts of interest prior to or on commencement and throughout their employment and disclose any employment as a lobbyist in the preceding two years.
- In this role you may be exposed to traumatic material or traumatic events. This may include reading, hearing, or seeing accounts, photos, videos or other material related to traumatic events. The material may be unexpected, confronting, explicit, graphic, distressing, and/or offensive. Staff may also be required to engage with people who have and may continue to experience traumatic events that may be confronting and/or distressing.
- Additional information, including our organisation structure and [Applicant Information Kit](#), is available from LAQ's website.