

WLSP LAWYER – PILBARA PROJECT

POSITION NAME	WLSP Lawyer
CLASSIFICATION LEVEL	Level 7/8 SACS Award, depending on skills and experiences (\$113,912 - \$129,966 pro-rata) RP level 5/6 SACS Award, (\$97,211 - \$110,114)
REPORTS TO	Principal Legal Officer & Senior Supervising Lawyer
TENURE	Fixed term 12 month contract, with probable extension
HOURS	Full time, with flexible working options

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE WA Women's Legal Service WA is the only gender-specific community legal centre in Western Australia, delivering state-wide specialist legal assistance to women in the areas of family law, protection and care, family and domestic violence and criminal injuries compensation for 30 years. In addition to poverty and FDV, WLSWA clients live with multiple vulnerabilities and complex issues that create other barriers to accessing justice. Our socio-legal assistance is tailored to ensure continuity in support and mitigate re-traumatising clients. As a specialist legal service, WLSWA works alongside and compliments generalist community legal services.

POSITION OVERVIEW This position is a continuation of WLSWA's specialist socio-legal service in the Pilbara to enable, enhance and extend place-based responses and ensure that women in the region have timely access to supports that can respond to their unique unmet needs, and that local services are often not immediately equipped to deliver. The lawyer will work in partnership with a dedicated social worker to deliver coordinated assistance via a two pronged strategy.

- Capacity – provide coordinated socio-legal assistance to women where local services cannot do this
- Capability – building the knowledge and skills of local providers to respond to women's unmet socio-legal needs

Based in the Perth WLSWA office, the WLSP lawyer and social worker provide socio-legal case management assistance to women referred to the service through a combination of actual and virtual outreach, delivered via a co-location model with local providers. Travel is one week per month. These positions are jointly funded by BHP and PLS.

RESPONSIBILITIES Legal

- ✚ Provide legal information, advice, casework (including Court representation) for women in the Pilbara region. Legal assistance will be in the areas of family and domestic violence, family law, protection and care, and criminal injuries compensation.
- ✚ Case manage the provision of legal services to clients, including assistance with communications, meetings and negotiations, and file management to the highest standard, in collaboration with the WLSP social worker and local providers.
- ✚ Provide the above assistance to clients virtually and at local outreach locations, as needed.
- ✚ Ensure all statutory requirements of legal practice are met.
- ✚ Assist with the research, production, maintenance and evaluation of resources required for community legal education.
- ✚ Remain abreast of current trends and practices in the legal system and sector, and broader issues impacting women.

Sector

- ✚ Work in collaboration with other Pilbara partner agencies, to ensure the delivery of coordinated, integrated and holistic socio-legal assistance to clients experiencing complex and intersecting needs.
- ✚ Assist in the establishment and continuation of wider networks, referral pathways, sector partnerships and strategic alliances to achieve effective service delivery for clients, in collaboration with the WLSP social worker.
- ✚ Assist in the design and delivery of community legal education for service providers in the region who also deliver programs to our client base to ensure that those who work with women are equipped to support them through their legal journey.
- ✚ Provide community legal education in collaboration with local providers, where appropriate.
- ✚ Mentor or supervise peers in other CLCs so that the woman, with complex legal needs, can 'stay' where she started.
- ✚ Participate in networks and forums relevant to service as the WLSWA rep.

Operations

- ✚ Ensure compliance with the Policies and Procedures of both WLSWA and co-located agencies where services may be provided from.
- ✚ Provide regular service updates and case studies to the Principal Legal and Chief Executive Officers, as directed.
- ✚ Undertake professional development in line with continuing professional development requirements.
- ✚ Assist with the preparation of submissions to government and stakeholders with respect to legal policy and law reform about women facing disadvantage, as requested.

SELECTION

CRITERIA

Qualifications, knowledge and experience

- ✚ Degree in Law or equivalent with minimum of two years post admission experience (exemption for restricted practitioners).
- ✚ Admitted or eligible for admission in the Supreme Court of Western Australia.
- ✚ Current or eligibility to hold a practicing certificate.
- ✚ Post admission experience in, or knowledge of the main casework areas of WLSWA, including family law, family and domestic violence, protection and care, and criminal injuries compensation.
- ✚ Understanding of the social and economic context adversely impacting women, including gender inequality, homelessness, and poverty.
- ✚ Advocacy, skills and experience representing clients in the courts.
- ✚ Outstanding written and oral communication skills.

Organisational Fit

- ✚ Ability to organise a daily workload by priorities, and meet deadlines in a fast paced, quickly changing environment.
- ✚ Ability to travel when required to deliver services to clients and the community.
- ✚ Excellent problem-solving skills with capacity for proactive thinking and independent work.
- ✚ Ability to work constructively and collaboratively in a team environment, and actively participate in all WLSWA and co-located agencies' activities.
- ✚ Ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships with stakeholders.
- ✚ Values driven professional with high levels of enthusiasm, integrity and ethics.
- ✚ Demonstrated commitment to social justice and other WLSWA and women's centre values.
- ✚ Demonstrated competence using Microsoft Word and Outlook.
- ✚ Current National Police Clearance.

Highly Desirable

- ✚ Experience in working with women living with adversity, including demonstrated ability to work with, and have an understanding of the cultural and safety needs of First Nations women, and women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- ✚ Experience delivering services in regional and/or remote areas.
- ✚ Experience in coordinating or presenting community legal education.
- ✚ Current Working with Children Check.
- ✚ Current 'C' Class WA Driver's Licence.