



Lawyer, Family Violence Program

TITLE	Lawyer (Family Violence Program)
POSITION	0.8 - 1 FTE (negotiable) 7-month contract (parental leave cover position) For immediate start.
CLASSIFICATION	SCHADS Level 5 - 6, dependent on experience. Youthlaw pays 4.5% above award. 2 - 4 years of relevant legal experience
REMUNERATION	Base salary range of \$108,470 - \$123,762 (pro rata if applicable), plus: • 12% superannuation • 17.5% annual leave loading • 5 weeks annual leave per year (pro rata). • Additional paid week of leave between Christmas and New Years Day. • Generous salary packaging options
CONDITIONS	Victorian Community Legal Centres Multi-Enterprise Agreement 2025-2028
REPORTS TO	Aly Butchers, Managing Lawyer – Family Violence
CONTACT DETAILS	aly@youthlaw.org.au or (03) 9113 9500

Are you a lawyer who is passionate about social justice and providing specialist legal help to young people?

Join Youthlaw's Family Violence Program and help drive change through our holistic, integrated practice model. As part of our multi-disciplinary team of lawyers and social workers, you'll provide specialist legal assistance to young people with family violence and related legal issues. Working alongside social workers, you'll support young people to increase their safety, address broader social support needs and reduce future contact with the justice system.

OUR ORGANISATION: YOUTHLAW

At Youthlaw we're passionate about creating a more just and equitable society where young people are heard and empowered to shape their lives and futures.

We are Victoria's statewide specialist community legal centre for young people under 25 impacted by laws, policies, and systemic barriers to justice. Our work is multidisciplinary and holistic. We provide legal information, advice, court representation, and community legal



education, alongside our social work case management and outreach for young people experiencing homelessness, family violence, over-policing, discrimination, poverty, mental health issues, drug and alcohol issues, and more.

We advocate for long-term change through law reform, systemic advocacy, and public interest litigation that centres young people's voices and lived experiences.

Youthlaw is committed to building a diverse and inclusive workplace.

We strongly encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with disability, people from LGBTIQ+ communities, and people with lived experience of the issues facing the young people we support. We believe that a broad range of perspectives and lived experiences makes our work stronger and more effective.

THE PROGRAM: FAMILY VIOLENCE

Youthlaw's Family Violence Program was initiated after conducting a needs assessment in 2015 which identified a significant gap in legal and non-legal family violence services for young people under 25. This was further supported by the findings contained in the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence Report in 2015, and our specialised program began in 2016.

The program consists of a multi-disciplinary team of 3 lawyers and 2 social workers, and is co-managed by a lawyer and social worker. Our integrated practice model involves lawyers and social workers working closely together with our clients to holistically address the specific legal and non-legal needs of each young person throughout their legal matter.

The program offers a duty lawyer service every week at Melbourne Children's Court on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and at Broadmeadows Children's Court on Fridays, for the standalone IVO court lists (family violence and personal safety intervention order matters). The dual duty service model provides young people with both a lawyer to represent them and a social worker to support them, both on the day at court and moving forward during their legal matter. Our program encourages early-intervention and pre-court referrals wherever possible, and we also provide legal advice and representation to young people at other courts up to the age of 25, and in other practice areas intersecting with family violence.

THE ROLE: WHAT YOU'LL DO

- Provide trauma-informed legal help to young people under 25 who are experiencing and / or using violence in their family, intimate relationships, peer groups or school settings.
- Deliver free, high-quality and accessible legal information, advice, casework and court representation.
- Work collaboratively alongside social workers to provide a tailored and holistic service to clients.



- Support systemic advocacy to address young peoples' experiences of family violence in their own right, and the subsequent barriers and injustices faced by young people both in the legal system and our societal systems more broadly.

THE ROLE: KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Family violence legal practice:** Provide legal information, advice, court representation, casework and advocacy to young people with family violence and other intervention order matters, and complex legal needs. This role may include related generalist legal matters for family violence clients (e.g. criminal law, child protection, family law, FAS, fines).
- **Court-based work and duty lawyer services:** Regularly attend court alongside our social workers to support young people who have intervention order related matters, including Youthlaw's regular duty lawyer services at Melbourne and Broadmeadows Children's Courts.
- **Collaboration & system navigation:** Collaborate internally with Youthlaw social workers to provide multidisciplinary, integrated and holistic services to young people. Externally, collaborate across legal, social and youth support service systems to identify and remove barriers for young people accessing legal services.
- **Data & evaluation:** Keep detailed and timely file notes, maintain file hygiene to a high standard, and records data in Youthlaw's Actionstep database in line with organisational policies and legal requirements. Support project monitoring and evaluation as required by our funders (e.g. client feedback and surveys, data collection and consultations).
- **Systemic advocacy:** Contribute to law reform activities undertaken by the Family Violence Program, in collaboration with the Manager of Policy & Advocacy, including policy submissions, stakeholder meetings and research projects, as required.
- **Community legal info & education:** Work collaboratively with the Outreach & Education Program to deliver community legal education or training workshops as needed.
- **Community outreach:** Provide legal advice and assistance to young people at Youthlaw's outreach locations as needed (e.g. Frontyard drop-in clinic).
- **Youthlaw's vision, values & purpose:** Centre Youthlaw's vision, values and purpose in your work, including legal decisions and client care.
- **Culture & wellbeing:** Contribute to fostering team wellbeing, culture and alignment with Youthlaw policies. Engage in reflective practice and continuous learning opportunities.
- **Cultural safety & anti-oppression:** Engage with diverse young people using a culturally safe and intersectional lens. Contribute to advocacy for young people experiencing systemic injustice.
- **Organisational engagement:** Actively contribute to staff and planning meetings, engage in individual supervision and professional development / training opportunities, engage in task supervision of students on placement, support program related events and other duties as directed and necessary.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA



Qualifications

- Admitted to practice as an Australian Legal Practitioner.
- Holds an unrestricted legal practising certificate in Victoria (or eligible to obtain one).
- Holds a current Working with Children Check (or eligible to obtain one).

Essential

- Commitment to social and youth justice and Youthlaw's values (fearless advocacy, human rights, collaboration & youth agency).
- Minimum 2 years' legal experience including court and family violence legal practice.
- Experience working with marginalised young people and understanding of barriers to justice.
- Capable of providing holistic and integrated support to young people with complex needs, including experiences of trauma, family violence and marginalisation.
- Sound legal judgement and well-developed legal analysis skills.
- Self-motivated, able to manage competing priorities, and work collaboratively in a multidisciplinary team.
- Strong interpersonal, verbal and written communication, and IT skills.

Highly Desirable

- Knowledge of and experience working in community legal centres.
- Experience working with young people, including those under 18 years old.
- Experience with other areas of law relevant to the Family Violence Program such as crime, child protection and family law.
- Experience in an integrated practice role.
- Knowledge of the youth services sector.
- Driver's license and ability to drive a car if required (own vehicle or a work GoGet vehicle).

LOCATION, TRAVEL AND WORK FROM HOME

The role will be based at Youthlaw's Carlton office (Building 97, Level 2, 106-108 Victoria Street, Carlton VIC 3053). It involves weekly travel to Melbourne and/or Broadmeadows Children's Courts, as well as regular travel to other court and outreach locations, with occasional out of hours work.

Youthlaw supports hybrid work, but due to regular court appearance work and the need for in-person appointments with young people, the role will likely require on-site / court / outreach attendance 2 - 3 days per week.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

Apply as soon as possible. Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis.

To apply, please email us:

- a brief cover letter addressing the key selection criteria (maximum one page); and
- your CV.

Please send your application to apply@youthlaw.org.au with “FV Lawyer” in the subject line.

If you are selected for interview, questions will be provided to you in advance.

If we can adjust our recruitment process to make it more accessible, please don't hesitate to let us know.