

Social Worker - (Young Care Leavers Legal Service)

JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE	Social Worker (Young Care Leavers Legal Service)
POSITION	0.6 FTE 2-year contract
CLASSIFICATION	Level 5, SCHADS Award 2010 2+ years of relevant social work experience or equivalent
REMUNERATION	Full-time base salary \$108,470 plus: • Generous salary packaging • 12% superannuation • 17.5% annual leave loading • 5 weeks annual leave with bonus paid leave between Christmas and New Years Day
CONDITIONS	Victorian CLCs Multi-Enterprise Agreement 2025-2028
REPORTS TO	Manager, Law Clinics
CONTACT DETAILS	Tegan@youthlaw.org.au (Director, Social Work)

Are you a social worker who is a passionate advocate for young peoples' rights? Do you want to support young people as they transition from out-of-home care?

We are looking for an experienced social worker to join our Young Care Leavers Legal Service, which will provide integrated, trauma-informed social work support and legal services to young people who have recently exited out-of-home care.

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 and outreach supports for young people experiencing homelessness, family violence, over-policing, discrimination, poverty, mental health issues, drug and alcohol issues, and more.

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 LGBTIQA+ 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.

YOUNG CARE LEAVERS LEGAL SERVICE

Be part of an innovative, integrated social work/legal practice that supports young people exiting from out-of-home care with their legal and social needs.

The Young Care Leavers Legal Service will deliver an integrated legal and social support model to young people who have transitioned from out-of-home care. The Young Care Leavers Legal Service has the capacity to support the young people long term with various legal issues as they arise.

At 18, many young people exit care into significant instability - navigating housing, income, education, and complex systems on their own, often while managing the impacts of trauma and disrupted childhoods. Legal problems emerge quickly and compound over time. These young people face insecure tenancies, fines and escalating debt, family violence, and early contact with police. Together with a dedicated lawyer, you will support the young person in understanding their options on their legal issues, advocate or assist them in advocating for their rights and provide support to navigate legal systems.

Working closely alongside the lawyer, the social worker will support young people through legal processes, assist them to navigate systems, and link them in with ongoing supports to address their underlying needs and reduce progression into homelessness and the justice system. This will involve working closely with other youth and community services to ensure co-ordinated assistance to the young person.

WHAT YOU'LL DO

- Provide trauma-informed social work supports to young people up to 25 years, who have experienced of out-of-home care.
- Collaborate closely with Youthlaw Young Care Leavers lawyer to deliver coordinated responses to client needs.
- Support young people through legal processes with integrated supports.
- Undertake risk and needs assessments and safety planning.
- Collaborate and build strong relationships with youth services and other stakeholders through outreach, referrals, and case co-ordination.
- Support systemic advocacy on issues faced by out-of-home care leavers, including access to their care records.
- Share learnings and reflections, internally and externally, to contribute to improving and capacity building of integrated practice in the community legal sector.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

Youthlaw does incredible, life-changing work providing free, high-quality legal and social work support to young people across Victoria who are doing it tough. Our frontline services help young people experiencing homelessness, family violence, mental health challenges, poverty, discrimination, over-policing, mistreatment and growing up in out-of-home care. But we know we need to do more to share the impact of our work – with young people, our supporters and funders.

That's where you come in.

We're looking for a passionate social worker who understands the underlying needs of young people in the justice system. Someone who is passionate about delivering innovative, inclusive and culturally safe legal-social services for young people experiencing disadvantage in order to make meaningful change.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Trauma-informed social work:** Provides episodic case work support which many include medium to long term support for young people who have exited out-of-home care and are currently experiencing legal issues. This includes risk assessments, safety planning, case coordination, service system navigation, and referrals to specialist supports (e.g. mental health, AOD, housing).
- **Youth centred practice:** Applies youth development principles to practice and advocates for young people's rights.
- **Integrated practice:** Collaborates closely with lawyers to ensure young people receive coordinated and holistic responses to legal-social support needs, including joint case planning, advocacy and contributing to multidisciplinary strategies that prioritise safety, wellbeing and therapeutic models of client care.
- **Collaboration & system navigation:** Navigates and collaborates across legal, social and youth support systems, including coordinated service delivery, building referral pathways, and identifying and working to address barriers to young people accessing our services.
- **Community outreach:** Connects with young people at outreach locations, such as court or partner services, as required.
- **Data & evaluation:** Keeps detailed and timely file notes and records data in line with organisational policies and legal requirements, and supports project monitoring and evaluation (e.g. focus groups, data collection and workshops).
- **Systemic advocacy:** Advocates for young people experiencing systemic injustice, contributes to law reform aligned with the project's goals, including policy submissions, stakeholder meetings and research projects as required.
- **Education & supervision:** Supervises social work students during placements and works collaboratively to develop education, training and resources to address relevant issues for young people.
- **Youthlaw's vision, values & purpose:** Centres Youthlaw's vision, values and purpose in their work, including social work decisions and client care.
- **Reflective practice & learning:** Engages in supervision with Line Manager and Social Work Supervisor, reflective practice and continuous learning opportunities.
- **Culture & wellbeing:** Integrates trauma-informed and therapeutic models into client work and engages in ongoing critical reflection.
- **Cultural safety & anti-oppression:** Engages with diverse young people using a culturally safe and intersectional lens, and identifies barriers to cultural safety, accessibility, equity and inclusion in our services and programs.
- **Organisational engagement:** Takes part in staff and planning meetings, supervision and development review processes, undertakes professional development / trainings, supports with fundraising / Youthlaw events as required, and other duties as directed.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

- Commitment to social justice and Youthlaw's values (fearless advocacy, human rights, collaboration & youth agency).
- At least 2 years relevant experience as a social worker with a client caseload.

- Experience working with marginalised young people and understanding of barriers to justice, including ability to build and provide social work services flexibly and creatively, to respond to multiple and complex needs of young people in contact with the justice system.
- Proven ability to identify risk factors, support needs, and systems related issues when working with vulnerable young people and respond appropriately.
- Excellent interpersonal skills including ability to collaborate, work across disciplines, and build relationships with stakeholders, as well as the ability to independently and take initiative.
- Strong verbal / written communication and IT skills.
- Eligibility for or membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers (or another relevant professional body).

HIGHLY DESIRABLE

- Knowledge of and experience working in community legal centres and non-profit organisations.
- Experience working with young people living in or leaving out-of-home care and understanding of the unique complexities of this sector.
- Experience supervising social work students on placement, or ability and willingness to do so.
- Victorian driver's license and ability to drive to outreach locations / court as required (own vehicle or Flexicar).

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor or Master of Social Work.
- Eligibility for or current Working with Children Check.

LOCATION, TRAVEL AND WORK FROM HOME

The role will be based at Youthlaw's office 106-108 Victoria St, Carlton VIC. Youthlaw supports hybrid and flexible work, however due to the need for in-person appointments with young people this role will likely involve a minimum of 1-2 days per week onsite. It will involve some travel to other locations (e.g. courts across the Melbourne metro area and outreach locations) and occasional out of hours work may be required as part of responsive work.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

Please provide one document with a cover letter addressing the key selection criteria (no more than 2 pages) and your CV.

If we can adjust our recruitment process to make it more accessible, please let us know.

Please send your application to apply@youthlaw.org.au with "Social Worker" in the subject line.