

Solicitor - Domestic and Family Violence (DFV)

YAC values diversity in all its forms and welcomes applications from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people; those from ethnically diverse communities; and LGBTIQ+ persons.

Position overview

Award: Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services (SCHCADS) – Level 7

Purpose: provision of legal advice to young people in relation to DFV matters – the DFV Solicitor will provide face-to-face DFV legal advice for young people (within geographical area covering Caboolture to Southport) and telephone advice across Queensland. The DFV Solicitor will collaborate with Youth Justice to provide DFV legal advice to young people in detention across the three Youth Detention Centres in Queensland.

Location: Brisbane based – South Brisbane office location

Hours: 38 hours per week

Applicants should note:

- The role involves working with young people and families with significant and complex issues. YAC supports the wellbeing of its staff who are encouraged to access regular supervision, including external supervision if staff consider that is appropriate
- The role includes significant travel (use of a car is available)
- There is an expectation that staff will be reliable and punctual, both within the office and in responding to young people and their families, and support diversity and respect in the work place and their practice.

Role and responsibilities

Your accountabilities include:

- Provide legal advice, referral, legal representation and advocacy in relation to family and domestic violence issues for those aged 10-17
- File management in relation to the above.
- Monitor and identify needs of young people under 18 in the Family and Domestic Violence Sector. This includes:
 - needs analysis regarding demographic
 - analysis of appropriate responses both social welfare and legal
 - review of suitability of current systems and processes for young people, including any ramifications of breach proceedings
- Development of community legal education materials or activities in relation to family and domestic violence with the Community Legal Education Officer and legal team.
- Strategic use of any available brokerage to purchase necessities (school uniform or books; the uniform for a sporting activity etc) or otherwise support implementation of the case plan where such costs cannot be resourced from elsewhere
- Being a strong advocate for young people, and their families where appropriate, in relation to their needs and interests and ensuring that their voices are heard.
- Completion of all administrative recording and reporting in relation to the above to ensure accountability to the funding body
- Other duties as reasonably required

Required skills & qualifications

Prerequisites

1. Admitted as a Legal Practitioner within the State of Queensland and holder of (or be eligible for immediate acquisition of) a current Practising Certificate
2. 2 years post admission experience (PAE)
3. a current positive Working with Children check ("Blue Card")
4. a clean driver licence which allows you to drive in Queensland
5. Australian citizenship or permanent residency or hold a visa which would allow you to work as advertised

Essential

Demonstrated:

1. Good understanding of Queensland family and domestic violence laws, systems and processes
2. Strong advocacy skills
3. Previous experience of working with 10-18 year olds in the legal system and an understanding of the particular issues which put them at increased risk of ongoing involvement in the system
4. High level oral communication and interpersonal skills, particularly with respect to young people with complex needs, including young people from diverse backgrounds
5. High level ability to apply effective case management techniques, including assessment, plan development, referral, and networking/engagement with relevant stakeholders
6. Cultural competency in relation to being able to work effectively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and their families
7. Ability to work with minimal supervision, be self-motivated and manage own time efficiently
8. Ability to work collaboratively with team members and external stakeholders
9. Excellent time management and record-keeping skills with proven competence using computer programs and data bases
10. Commitment to social justice and human rights principles, particularly in relation to children and young people.

Desirable

1. Experience in Domestic and Family Violence matters
2. Experience of working with young people in the youth justice system .
3. Sound knowledge of the youth justice and child protection systems (including court processes)
4. Duty lawyer accreditation in the Domestic and Family violence and/or the Childrens Court
5. Youth Justice accreditation
6. Previous experience of working with 10-18 year olds in the legal system
7. Sound knowledge of the criminal justice system, court and bail
8. Knowledge of the child protection system and/or education system
9. Vaccination against COVID-19 as evidenced by COVID-19 Digital Certificate (or medical exemption)

Framework and practice principles

Client centred - staff will be flexible in terms of meeting with young people and their families, going to where they may feel most comfortable. Staff may need to be available before and after formal office hours.

Strengths based – the Service will draw on the strengths and resources of the individual and community to address the challenges they face.

Trauma informed - the Service will be trauma informed, recognizing the impact of early year's trauma on brain

development and the need to identify trauma informed behaviours.

Culturally competent – the Service will align with the Australian Institute of Criminology’s National Crime Prevention Framework’s best practice guidelines for preventing involvement in crime for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Persistent - means being visible to young people and showing that you are available to support in a non-paternalistic or patronising manner. Responses will include continuing to work collaboratively with services within the local service system and being visible to groups or at places until rapport is established. It also means being persistent in advocating for the needs of the young person where that intervention is agreed.

Reliable - is another fundamental: many vulnerable and disadvantaged young people feel let down by the adults around them. Building rapport with young people means showing that you are reliable in your support: staff must be where they say they will be when they say or do what they say they will do.

Practical - will be a key part of the case plan developed with the young person. This also means that responses must be realistic. A young person must feel that they are moving forward and effecting change in their lives and this means strategies and outcomes must be practical and achievable.

Comprehensive - recognised that a holistic response to young people’s life challenges is the only way to effect change.

Additional Information for Applicants

This is a great opportunity to join a well-respected community legal and social welfare agency and play your part in helping young people and their families to get their lives back on track!

YAC is a community legal and social support agency that provides free and confidential support to young people who are involved in or at risk of being involved with the youth justice system, child protection system, or homelessness in Queensland.

Vision

Young people achieve their full potential through the community accepting collective responsibility for their importance, empowerment, rights, well-being and humanity.

Mission

To increase young people’s access to legal and social justice by actively supporting and speaking out with and for young people.

Philosophy

- Unconditional commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Confidential, professional and honest engagement with young people
- Respectful engagement with stakeholders and others for the benefit of young people
- Holistic responses to address the interconnected and interdependent issues in young people’s lives
- Advocacy for young people collectively as well as individually
- Collective responsibility as a staff for working as a team and upholding and delivering on YAC’s mission and philosophy

Applicants seeking a greater understanding of YAC’s right based framework and young people’s rights in the legal system may consider undertaking YAC’s on-line learning course

<https://learn.yac.net.au/courses>

Also see:

<https://yac.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/YAC-Annual-Report-22-23.pdf>