

JOB DESCRIPTION FORM

Position title/number:	Social Worker (16400501 & 16400502)		
Classification:	Specified Calling Level 2		
Roster:	Full-time (37.5 hours per week)		
Division:	Civil Law		
Business Unit:	Civil Law Practice		
Reports to:	Coordinator L5 - Elder Rights WA (16400205)		
Direct reports:	0 FTE	Office location:	Perth

Job Description

Operating within the Elder Rights Western Australia (ERWA) team, with a high degree of autonomy, the Social Worker is responsible for working alongside Legal Aid WA Lawyers to provide outstanding support to vulnerable older clients, who present with complex overlapping legal and social issues, to help achieve beneficial outcomes for the clients and reduce risk throughout the legal process.

This role will be responsible for working within a multidisciplinary integrated service delivery model which requires the Social Worker to work concurrently and collaboratively with the ERWA Lawyers to conduct client assessments, provide guidance to legal and non-legal staff, and develop plans to address the client's overlapping issues to improve client outcomes. As the risk factors for elder abuse are complex and varied, the Social Worker will have the relevant experience and advanced skillset to understand and manage risk factors such as, social isolation, abusive relationships, disability and cognitive impairment, and misusing enduring appointments and coercive behaviours, with sensitivity and care.

About us

Legal Aid WA has one purpose: to see that the law protects all Western Australians regardless of poverty or disadvantage. We provide legal assistance services across Western Australia and the Indian Ocean Territories. We deliver those services through our offices in the metropolitan area and regional WA, Virtual Offices, outreach locations, and private lawyers across the State on our panels. We are funded by the State and Federal Governments, are governed by a Board of Commissioners, and we are accountable to the Western Australian Attorney General.

We are guided by our vision of providing equitable access to justice to support a fair and safe community, and we are driven by our values:

- Client centred
- Integrity
- Making a difference
- Innovation
- Respect

Scope of Duties

- Independently delivers specialised non-legal social work services which includes but is not limited to:
 - Screening, assessment, intervention and evaluation at an advanced level of practice to complex clients experiencing, or at risk of, Elder Abuse, utilising evidence-based practice theories and frameworks to ensure effective supports are provided.
 - Advanced social work clinical consultation and practice guidance to legal and non-legal staff within ERWA; and
 - Advanced psychosocial assessment, trauma-informed interventions and case management for clients with complex legal and cognitive, psychological and health needs within a multidisciplinary legal context.
- Collaborates with the ERWA legal team to formulate and implement integrated responses for clients with complex legal and non-legal issues, including clients with impairments.
- Actively prioritises, coordinates, and manages own caseload and participates in team case discussions.
- Engages with internal and external stakeholders to deliver education and community engagement activities relating to elder abuse.
- Liaises with external agencies and organisations to provide culturally appropriate services to CALD and First Nations clients, advocating for clients and facilitating referrals, where appropriate.
- Engages in ongoing professional development and contributes to continuous improvement of the social work function within Legal Aid WA.
- Reporting to, and consulting with, the ERWA Managing Solicitor and/or ERWA Coordinator, as required, regarding high-risk client situations to assess and support appropriate interventions.
- Ensure social work service provided aligns with the Australian Association Social Workers practice guidelines and Code of Ethics.
- Any other duties as required.

Selection Criteria

Only the criteria in bold must be addressed in applicant's written application and resume. These and the remaining selection criteria will be assessed through interview or alternative selection methods.

Essential

- **Demonstrated extensive social work experience and knowledge with advanced skills in risk assessments, planning and evaluations with vulnerable client groups.**
- **Demonstrated ability to plan, develop, coordinate, implement and evaluate social work services including provision of relevant statistics for funding reporting.**
- Demonstrated high level time management, administrative and organisational skills when planning, providing and monitoring social work services.
- Demonstrated advanced interpersonal, written and verbal communication.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively in a multidisciplinary team setting with advanced case presentation skills.
- Demonstrated knowledge of Western Australian community-based advice/support services.

Desirable

- Previous experience working with older persons and persons at risk of, or experiencing, abuse.
- Previous experience working with people with reduced or impaired capacity.
- Ability to provide training.
- Proven ability to establish and maintain good stakeholder engagement.

Essential Core Competencies

These are essential criteria for appointment to all Legal Aid WA positions. Refer to the [Core Competencies Matrix](#) on our website.

- Committed to the principles of social justice
- Values people, partnership, and teamwork
- Willingness to learn and share knowledge with others
- Outcome and service focused

Qualifications/Licences

It is important that you set out clearly in your application a summary of your qualifications and attach a copy of relevant qualifications with your application.

- Completion of a tertiary qualification in Social Work. (Essential)
- A member of, or eligible to receive membership to, the Australian Association of Social Workers. (Essential)
- Completion of a qualification in counselling (Desirable)

All appointments to Legal Aid Western Australia are subject to satisfactory National Police Certificate and 100 Point Identification Check.