

Just Healthy Families

A Health Justice Partnership

Solicitor



POSITION DETAILS

Employment Status	Part Time (3 days per week)
Classification	with Reference to SCHADS Level 5 - 6 (to be determined)
Reports To	Principal Solicitor, Women's Legal Service Tasmania, and Safe at Home Practice Manager, Tasmania Legal Aid

Women's Legal Service Tasmania (WLST) and Tasmania Legal Aid (TLA) have collaborated to offer Tasmania's first Health Justice Partnership – **Just Healthy Families** (JHF)

Both WLST and TLA run programs with a family violence focus, with WLST also being able to provide integrated social supports to clients experiencing family violence through financial counselling and social work. You can read more about each organisations approach to community legal assistance through their strategic plans found on their websites and through the following links - [WLST Community Legal Service Plan 2019-2022](#) and [Legal Aid For Tasmanians Strategic Plan 2020-2023](#).

Just Healthy Families was initially a pilot project funded through a grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund, to employ three solicitors for two years to work with health provider partners statewide –Child Health and Parenting Services (CHAPS), Child and Family Centres, general practitioners, shelters, and other allied health professionals. More information about how Health Justice Partnerships operate can be found through the [Health Justice Australia](#) website.

In its first twenty-one months the JHF program assisted more than 3500 women, children, and service providers across Tasmania with legal advice, legal assistance, referral, information, and secondary consultation. The program has also secured funding, in partnership with the Hobart Women's Shelter, to employ a lawyer based out of the shelter three days per week to provide legal advice, legal assistance and casework representation to residents.

The JHF program provides assistance across a range of legal areas including family law, child protection, family violence, housing, debt, and victims of crime compensation and aims to reduce the impact of family violence on all Tasmanians. We offer a unique and holistic service response to clients across the State with the goal of improving the safety and wellbeing of Tasmanian families and achieving gender equity. Our lawyers specialise in family violence and trauma informed practice.

POSITION OBJECTIVE

We are now looking for a part time solicitor to work three days per week in the JHF program – t n can be based in the South, North or North-West of Tasmania and would involve providing legal advice, legal assistance, information, referral and secondary consultation services to clients and service providers

across your region. The role will involve face to face outreach to the Child and Family Learning Centres and other partner sites in your region and some intra-State travel.

The successful applicant will develop and provide community legal education and information sessions to identified health, education and social service partners and groups of clients as well as providing timely advice and referral via our State-wide 1800 number.

This role requires excellent communication and organisational skills and an ability to build close working relationships with a range of health and social service partners. This is an exciting opportunity for someone who enjoys a changing working environment, working out in the community and diversity in daily tasks.

The Solicitor will:

- Contribute to the operational objectives of the pilot program to provide outreach based legal services to women experiencing family violence and seek sustainable changes whilst securing safety of the client.
- Visit identified Child and Family Learning Centres in their region and deliver timely and responsive legal services and information to the clients and staff of those Centres.
- Work effectively both independently and in a team to contribute to the achievement of the program and our organisational objectives.
- Demonstrate a high level of interpersonal skills, specifically in respect of managing and organizing workload to consider the schedules of clients, nurses, early childhood educators, GP's and other health and social service partners.
- Ability to reflect on practice and to amend work practices to accommodate feedback.
- Ability to work in a flexible, adaptable and creative way to meet the funded deliverables.
- Exercise initiative in a dynamic and changing work environment.

If you are interested in contributing to improving the safety of women and children in Tasmania, and contributing to reducing the impact of family violence on Tasmanian families then this role is for you.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Work collaboratively with health and social services as a representative of Just Healthy Families within a set geographic region.
- Work to the project plan and deliver the educational needs of the project, including identifying opportunities for collaboration with health and other allied professionals.
- Oversee file management and support referrals to either WLST or TLA for all clients seen through the project, including referrals to WLST financial counsellors and social workers.
- Record and maintain data related to the legal, referral and information services provided through the project, ensuring compatibility with the differing WLST and TLA data systems.

ESSENTIAL SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Admitted, or eligible for admission, as a Solicitor in the Supreme Court of Tasmania and the Federal Court of Australia, with at least two (2) years post-admission experience.
2. Demonstrated personal attributes consistent with the philosophy of WLST, and the principles of social justice, access and equity.
3. Comprehensive understanding of legal issues affecting women, including barriers to justice.

4. Understanding of Family Law principles and court structures, and an understanding of family and domestic violence legislation in Tasmania.
5. Demonstrated ability to work independently, outside of a normal legal office environment, as well as the ability to work within a team to achieve team goals. A strong level of organisational skills and initiative.
6. Proven strong level of written and verbal communication skills, including:
 - a. Demonstrated ability to present complex legal information in simple language.
 - b. Demonstrated ability to respond sensitively and appropriately to the non-legal needs of clients, including appropriate referral.
 - c. Demonstrated ability to communicate with a wide range of people, such as health professionals, other members of the legal profession, and representatives of government and non-government agencies.
7. Commitment to professional and personal development, and willingness to develop further professional skills relevant to the workplace.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

8. Aptitude in using Apple computers and Microsoft Office programs (such as Word and Excel).
9. Aptitude in use of Actionstep or similar data entry system.
10. Hold a current unrestricted or P class drivers license.