

Junior Lawyer

Wheatbelt Community Legal Centre

About Wheatbelt Community Legal Centre

Wheatbelt Community Legal Centre (WCLC) is small but dynamic Legal Centre offering legal advice, representation, and advocacy to disadvantaged and vulnerable people living in the Wheatbelt. We are seeking a passionate and experienced Junior Lawyer to join our team and to deliver on our strategic focus – to provide quality, responsible and accessible legal services to the Wheatbelt.

Working and living in Northam

Located just over an hour's drive from Western Australia's Capital, Perth, along the Great Eastern Highway, Northam stands as the largest inland town in Western Australia. Nestled in the picturesque Avon Valley, Northam is a vibrant blend of cultural heritage, natural beauty, and adventure, making it an ideal destination for both business and tourism.



About Northam

Northam, with a population of approximately 7,000 people, is located in the heart of the picturesque Avon Valley. It has been an important hub since its establishment and is the largest inland town in Western Australia. The Traditional Owners of Northam are the Ballardong Noongar people, who maintain a strong connection to the land and its rich cultural heritage. Northam is a vibrant community offering a blend of historical charm and modern amenities. It features a range of recreational facilities, scenic parks, and heritage sites, making it an attractive destination for both residents and visitors. The town is also known for its beautiful Avon River, home to Australia's only colony of white swans, and its exciting events like the annual Avon Descent.

What's it like living in Northam?

Northam boasts a relaxed, country-town vibe with all the conveniences of a larger town. It has a strong sense of community, with residents actively participating in local events, markets, and recreational activities. The town is home to various community groups and offers numerous sports and recreation facilities, including parks, walking trails, and a well-equipped recreation centre.

Overall, Northam offers a balanced lifestyle with the benefits of both rural and urban living, making it an attractive place for professionals, families, and anyone looking to enjoy a peaceful yet active community environment.

What is it like to work for the Wheatbelt Community Legal Centre?

Working for the WCLC offers a rewarding experience for those passionate about providing legal assistance and advocating for community justice. The team at WCLC are collaborative and supportive. Staff members often work closely together to provide comprehensive services to clients. The centre values teamwork and the sharing of knowledge and resources, creating a collegial atmosphere.

Is there access to schools, hospitals, stores and supplies?

Northam provides a range of educational facilities, including primary and secondary schools, as well as a TAFE campus for further education. Healthcare services are readily available with a local hospital, medical centres, and various health professionals. The town also features a good selection of shops, cafes, and restaurants, catering to everyday needs and offering a taste of local produce and cuisine.

What's the weather like?

Northam experiences a hot-summer Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters. Summer temperatures often exceed 30°C (86°F), while winters are cooler with averages around 17°C (62°F) and the most rainfall occurring from June to August. Spring and autumn offer mild and pleasant conditions, ideal for outdoor activities. Overall, Northam enjoys a diverse climate with distinct seasonal variations.

What are the transportation options and road conditions?

Northam offers various transportation options, including the AvonLink train service to Perth and local bus routes. The road network, particularly the Great Eastern Highway, is well-maintained, and the local government ensures regular updates and maintenance to keep roads in good condition.

As a Junior Lawyer you will:

- Undertake the provision of professional, high quality legal advice and representation to clients in areas of family law, family violence matters, minor criminal, minor civil and criminal injuries compensation matters;
- Undertake travel to various communities within the Wheatbelt to carry out legal assistance and education on a regular basis (may include overnight stays on occasion); and
- Keep up to date with relevant legal developments and procedures by attending professional legal education programs and maintain an understanding of issues impacting the justice system and provide guidance and leadership to Wheatbelt community/stakeholders.

Key Responsibilities:

In accordance with Wheatbelt CLC's strategic and operational plans, provide advice, referrals, casework assistance, legal representation, law reform and community legal education, throughout the Wheatbelt region the Junior Lawyer is responsible for:

- To appear as solicitor and counsel in all courts as required.
 - To work with the Principal Lawyer to ensure that all legal work undertaken by Wheatbelt CLC complies with the requirements of the Legal Profession Act 2008, Legal Profession Conduct Rules WA 2010, Professional Indemnity Insurance requirements and Wheatbelt CLC's policies and practice standards.
 - Keep up to date with relevant legal developments and procedures by attending professional development programs and maintain an understanding of issues impacting the justice system and members of the Community.
 - Contribute to the collaborative relationship between Legal Aid WA, Community Legal Centres WA and other community organisations with whom Wheatbelt CLC interacts.
 - Maintain effective file and diary management systems, administrative systems and procedures and quality assurance procedures as well as maintain statistics and other records required by funding bodies; and
 - Maintain and facilitate Wheatbelt CLC's role within the community and public profile through the preparation of media releases and articles, presentation at meetings, seminars and conferences, and represent Wheatbelt CLC in public forums.
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What we're looking for?

Your unique strengths and experiences are what we value most. We are searching for individuals who can meet most of the following:

- Hold an unrestricted legal practice certificate in Western Australia.
- Demonstrated 2 + years' (post admission) experience in the provision of all aspects of legal service delivery including representation, casework and advice in community-based areas of law, specifically the areas of family law, family violence, criminal law, minor civil and criminal injuries compensation.
- Well-developed interpersonal skills including the ability to communicate sensitively and effectively with clients and other persons from diverse backgrounds.
- Experience in working collaboratively and effectively within a small team environment as well as with other community service providers.
- Proficiency in the use of MS Office (MS Word, Excel, Outlook) to a legal practice and the capacity to quickly acquire competency in the use of Wheatbelt CLC's client database.
- Current driver's licence (class c); and
- National Police Clearance and Working with Children Check and working rights in Australia.

Position Details – Junior Lawyer

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| Reports to: | Principal Solicitor |
| Location: | This role is based in Northam. |
| Duration: | Permanent |
| Hours: | This is a full-time role (37.5 hours per week) being 1.0 FTE. |
| Salary: | Base salary of \$85,000 - \$92,000 depending on experience plus superannuation |

The employer offers salary sacrifice provision up to \$15,900 per annum.

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| Classification: | Level 4 of the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010. |
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Benefits

- Subsidised housing (3 bed 2 bath) available for first 12 months (excluding electricity and any costs associated with the general maintenance of the property);
 - Relocation expenses of up to \$5000 available, with the submission of receipts.
 - Access support for continuing professional development opportunities and Practising Certificate renewal; and
 - Ideal for a Junior Lawyer wanting to work in a mission-driven organisation with a collaborative team, while maintaining a healthy work-life balance and experiencing a rural lifestyle just an hour's drive from a major city.
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Application Process

If you are interested in applying for this position, please submit a copy of your current resume and a cover letter of no more than two (2) pages outlining your suitability for the position in the context of the role.

While this role offers flexibility, including the option to work from home, the majority of responsibilities must be performed in person. Therefore, it would not be suitable for someone seeking a fully remote position.

Applications close by 11.59pm, Friday 29th November 2024. Interviews may commence prior to the closing date, and an appointment be made, so early applications are encouraged.

For further information, please download the Job Description from the Talenting website using the following link: <http://www.talenting.com.au/careers/>.

If you have any questions about the position, please contact our recruitment partner @ Talenting: Leanne Elia on (08) 6244 3222 or by email at recruitment@talenting.com.au
