

Lawyer (all levels)

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 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 and prioritises 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 Lawyer, and commensurate to your experience, you will:

In accordance with WCLC's strategic and operational objectives, the Lawyer (Junior to Senior level) contributes to the delivery of high-quality legal services across the Wheatbelt region. The level of responsibility and autonomy will vary according to the lawyer's experience, with appropriate supervision, support, or leadership duties as required.

Key Responsibilities:

1. Legal Practice

Depending on experience and in consultation with the Manager:

- Provide legal advice, referrals, casework assistance and, where appropriate, legal representation to vulnerable clients in priority areas of law.
- Undertake a varied case load, with support and supervision proportionate to experience.
- Contribute to and participate in regular case file reviews.
- Maintain strong working relationships with legal and non-legal colleagues; provide peer support where appropriate.
- Participate in outreach services to regional hubs, including attendance at Magistrates Courts and support for clients in those areas.
- Undertake relevant training, particularly in cultural awareness, trauma-informed practice, and other barriers to accessing justice.

2. Community Legal Education (CLE)

Working collaboratively with the legal services team and broader staff:

- Support the development, implementation, and delivery of CLE programs responsive to community needs.
- Contribute to the review and preparation of CLE content.
- Deliver or support delivery of CLE sessions, with increasing responsibility over time.
- Engage with community groups and stakeholders to identify legal education opportunities.

3. Professional Development

Participate in continuous professional development activities to stay up to date with legal changes, procedures, and justice sector developments.

- For junior lawyers: receive guidance and mentoring.
- For senior lawyers: provide informal mentoring or training to early-career colleagues, where applicable.

4. Stakeholder Engagement and Community Representation

Commensurate with level of seniority:

- Build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders including Legal Aid WA, Community Legal Centres WA, and relevant service providers.
- Represent WCLC at external meetings, networks or public forums as required.

- Contribute to raising WCLC's profile in the region through presentations, written contributions, and media opportunities.
 - 5. Administration and Compliance
 - Maintain accurate and timely client records, file notes and data entry for case management and funding compliance.
 - Use appropriate file and diary management systems.
 - Ensure quality assurance processes are followed and improvements suggested where relevant.
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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:

- Eligible to practise law in Western Australia (restricted practising certificate holders welcome)
 - Demonstrated experience in the provision 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.
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Position Details – Lawyer (all levels)

Reports to:	Principal Solicitor
Location:	This role is primarily based in Northam; however, flexible working arrangements may be considered, including commuting from Perth with the option to work from home one day per week.
Duration:	Permanent
Hours:	This is a full-time role (37.5 hours per week) being 1.0 FTE.
Salary:	<p>Base salary of \$85,000 - \$110,000 depending on experience, varying from junior to senior lawyer, plus superannuation.</p> <p>The employer offers salary sacrifice provision up to \$15,900 per annum.</p>
Classification:	Level 4 – Level 6 of the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010 (commensurate to experience).

Benefits

- Relocation expenses of up to \$5000 available, with the submission of receipts.
 - Subsidised shared employee housing (3 bed 2 bath) may be available for first 6 months (excluding electricity and any costs associated with the general maintenance of the property).
 - Access support for continuing professional development opportunities and Practising Certificate renewal.
 - Ideal for an early career, mid-career or senior Lawyer looking for development, a career change, or 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. Please specify if you are interested in a Junior, Mid-level or Senior position.

While this role offers flexibility, including the option to work from home approximately 1 day per week, 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, Wednesday 16th July 2025. 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: Tara Roopra on (08) 6244 3222 or by email at: recruitment@talenting.com.au
