

**Job advertisement reference**

QLD/662068

**Role type**

Permanent Full Time

**Classification**

PO5

**Salary**

\$131,678 to \$141,002 a year full time hours

**Location**

Cairns

**Contact**Sue Jensen, A/Principal Lawyer Cairns  
(07) 4252 6804**Closing date**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025**Direct reports**

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**Our organisation**

Legal Aid Queensland's vision is to be a leader in a fair justice system where people are able to understand and protect their legal rights. Our purpose is to provide quality, cost effective legal services to financially disadvantaged people throughout Queensland.

**Our values**

- Social Justice
- Respect
- Quality
- Cost effectiveness
- Accountability

**The division**

Legal Aid Queensland has 13 regional offices across Queensland giving legal help and advice to financially disadvantaged people.

Our regional office staff play an important role in delivering high-quality legal services to rural and regional communities including at local courts, outreach locations and from our offices

# Senior family lawyer

**Cairns / Regional Services**

This is an outstanding opportunity for a legal professional to take on a position delivering high-quality family law services to vulnerable and disadvantaged Queenslanders. Legal Aid Queensland plays an important role in the state's justice system, providing specialist services in child support, child protection, domestic and family violence, social work, dispute resolution and family law matters. We represent the interests of children in family law and child protection matters and aim to resolve family law disputes through family dispute resolution processes before they go to court.

As a senior lawyer, you will represent the interests of legally aided clients in family law, domestic and family violence, child protection and related matters. The work is challenging, complex and rewarding.

**Key responsibilities:**

- Represent clients, including preparing matters, instructing counsel and personally appearing as an advocate in family law, domestic and family violence, child protection and related matters.
- If a member of the Independent Children's Lawyer and Separate Representative panels, you may act in the child's best interest in family law and child protection matters.
- Provide duty lawyer services, legal information, advice and referrals.
- Help the Principal Lawyer to coach legal work, train, guide and develop the legal skills of staff within the team, Legal Aid Queensland staff state-wide and external practitioners.
- Provide advice on and contribute to changes in policies, procedures and systems, and undertake operational reporting requirements, as required.
- Develop and provide continuing professional development to Legal Aid Queensland staff and preferred suppliers and contribute to community legal education of external stakeholders.
- Contribute to submissions and support the Principal Lawyer and directorate to lead Legal Aid Queensland's contributions to policy, procedure, law reform and legal service delivery initiatives.
- Help maintain networks with relevant external stakeholders.
- Contribute to operational and team planning and suggest improvements to work practices.

**To apply for this role submit your application online via Smartjobs. Please provide:**

- ✓ a cover letter (maximum 2 pages) addressing how you meet the Success criteria (Knowledge, skills and experience), in line with the "Key responsibilities".
- ✓ your resume/CV.

## Other responsibilities

- Ensure all work complies with quality and case management standards and meet all other professional and corporate responsibilities.
- Model the values of respect, quality and accountability.
- Maintain a high standard of practice through governance and risk management.
- Foster an inclusive workplace where inclusion, diversity and wellbeing are promoted and prioritised.

## Success criteria

### Knowledge, skills and experience

- You have knowledge and experience in preparing, representing and advocating in a diverse range of matters including complex family law, domestic and family violence, child protection and related matters.
- You have knowledge of and comply with the practice and procedure of the relevant areas of law and ethical standards.
- You communicate in a clear, concise and articulate manner, offer convincing rationale, negotiate persuasively and have the ability to engage effectively with stakeholders including clients with complex needs using the principles of trauma informed practice.

### Other competencies

Legal Aid Queensland applies the [Leadership competencies for Queensland](#). We recognise that leadership is a part of every role regardless of classification level or management responsibilities. This role is mapped to the “Team Leader” profile. The competencies most relevant to this role are:

- **Results-** You build and sustain relationships to achieve shared goals.
- **Results-** You support learning by providing coaching, constructive feedback and opportunities for development.
- **Vision-** You support social justice and demonstrate critical thinking.
- **Vision-** You demonstrate a growth mindset and build confidence within challenging environment.

## Mandatory requirements or special conditions

You must be:

- admitted or eligible for immediate admission as a legal practitioner in Queensland; and
- eligible for a current practicing certificate and entry in the High Court Register of Practitioners.
- A current “C” class Driver’s Licence will be highly desirable.

## More information

- This position is Permanent Full Time.
- Reimbursement or payment of relocation costs may be considered on appointment of successful applicant in accordance with the Domestic Travelling and Relieving Expenses Directive 13/23.
- You will be assessed against the Success criteria (Knowledge, skills and experience) and also the [Leadership competencies for Queensland](#).
- Applications will remain current for up to 12 months and may be considered for other vacancies (identical or similar) including with an alternative employment basis (permanent, temporary, full-time or part time).
- Legal Aid Queensland embraces diversity and encourages applications from people with disability. We are committed to making reasonable adjustments to provide a positive, barrier-free recruitment process and supportive workplace. Please contact [careers@legalaid.qld.gov.au](mailto:careers@legalaid.qld.gov.au) for support to ensure an equitable, barrier-free application process.
- A criminal history check and serious disciplinary history check will be undertaken for this position on the recommended applicant/s due to the nature of the work involved.
- The appointed applicants will be required to disclose relevant conflicts of interest prior to or on commencement and throughout their employment and disclose any employment as a lobbyist in the preceding two years.
- In this role you may be exposed to traumatic material or traumatic events. This may include reading, hearing, or seeing accounts, photos, videos or other material related to traumatic events. The material may be unexpected, confronting, explicit, graphic, distressing, and/or offensive. Staff may also be required to engage with people who have and may continue to experience traumatic events that may be confronting and/or distressing.
- Additional information, including our organisation structure and [Applicant Information Kit](#), is available from LAQ’s website.