

Duty Statement

Agency	Legal Aid NT	Work unit	Family Law Practice - Respondent Early Assistance Legal Service (REALS)
Job title	REALS Solicitor	Designation	Professional 2 (P2)
Job type	Full time	Duration	2 Years
Salary	\$92,910- \$110,781 plus Superannuation (salary packaging options available)	Location	Darwin
Position number	037832	Closing	8am Tuesday, 7 April 2026
Contact Officer	Human Resources on 08 8999 3000 or recruitment@legalaid.nt.gov.au		
About the agency	www.legalaid.nt.gov.au		
Apply online	Please submit applications to recruitment@legalaid.nt.gov.au		

Information for applicants

To be considered for this position, applicants must attach a resume, a statement addressing the selection criteria (maximum 2 pages), and copies of your tertiary qualifications.

Inclusion and diversity

Legal Aid NT values diversity. We encourage people from all diversity groups to apply for vacancies and accommodate people with disability by making reasonable workplace adjustments.

About Legal Aid NT

Legal Aid NT is an independent statutory authority established under the *Legal Aid Act 1990* (NT). Our purpose is to ensure people in the Northern Territory understand their legal rights and that people facing disadvantage have access to quality legal services, and to uphold a fair Northern Territory and national justice system.

The Respondent Early Assistance Legal Service (REALS) is a specialised service providing information, legal assistance and social support to clients, responding to allegations that they have used domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFSV) via a domestic violence application (DVO) brought against them under the *Domestic and Family Violence Act 2007* (NT).

REALS assists any DVO Respondent, most clients who require the assistance are male, particularly those from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.

REALS sits within Legal Aid NT's Family Law and Family Violence Division.

Primary objective

Under the supervision of the REALS Managing Solicitor, the position provides high quality legal advice, community legal education and legal assistance to REALS clients and contributes to related advocacy, policy and law reform work arising from service delivery.

Key duties and responsibilities

- In accordance with REALS guidelines, and to a high standard:
 - deliver duty lawyer and advice services to DVO Respondents in the Darwin Local Court, including the Katherine Local Court as required.
 - provide legal task assistance, advocacy, education, referrals and duty lawyer services to DVO Respondents with a priority focus on assisting vulnerable and/or disadvantaged people in family violence and limited family law matters.
- Provide legal advice, referrals, and support to assist clients in engaging with family law processes safely, including helping families transition between and manage matters across the Commonwealth family law, NT family violence, and NT child protection jurisdictions.
- Liaise and work with the Men's Support Worker contracted to work with Legal Aid NT as it relates to legal matters.
- Adhere to requirements under the FASS Project Agreement.
- Liaise and network with relevant organisations and individuals to ensure high levels of collaboration and minimise duplication of legal services.
- Liaise and work with Legal Aid NT's panel practitioners to ensure continuity of quality service to the community
- Identify and advise the REALS Managing Solicitor of wider policy issues arising from REALS services and develop strategies to advocate to relevant agencies in relation to those issues.
- Work with the REALS Managing Solicitor in the development and delivery of community legal education (CLE) resources and training.
- Maintain effective file and diary management systems, administrative systems and procedures and quality assurance procedures.

Selection criteria

Essential

- Admission or eligibility for admission as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory of Australia.
- Considerable post-admission experience in legal practice, including a demonstrated knowledge of DFSV and/or family law including practices and procedures and experience in advising and representing clients.

3. Experience in assisting and supporting vulnerable clients who may be at risk of, or are experiencing or are affected by trauma, alcohol and drug dependence, DFSV, homelessness, mental health conditions or cognitive impairments.
4. High level initiative including the ability to work as part of a team with minimal supervision in undertaking tasks and addressing challenges.
5. Ability to deliver high quality legal advice, community legal education and legal assistance and undertake related advocacy, policy, and law reform work.
6. Knowledge of current legal issues affecting disadvantaged people in the NT and the provision of legal services in the NT including the ability to acquire expertise in working with users of DFSV, in accordance with best practice.
7. Excellent oral and written communication skills, the ability to communicate with people from diverse backgrounds including the use of interpreters in legal service provision.
8. Good understanding of the organisation and management of legal practice well developed time management skills and the ability to manage client matters and meet deadlines.
9. Commitment to legal aid values and an understanding of Northern Territory justice issues and the legal assistance sector.

Desirable

1. A minimum of 2 years post-admission experience in legal practice, with at least 1 year in relevant civil or family law.
2. Understanding of the FASS program and evaluation, including an understanding of accepted best practice in working with users of violence to promote accountability for domestic, family and sexual violence.
3. Understanding of the practice and policy concerns relevant to providing legal assistance to clients responding to allegations of DFSV against them or with a history of using violence including an understanding of specific issues affecting people who have a history of using DFSV.

Further Information

- The successful applicant will be required to obtain and hold a Working with Children Clearance notice and undergo a criminal history check. A criminal history will not exclude an applicant from this position unless it is a relevant criminal history.
- The successful applicant must hold a current NT 'C' class driver's licence or the ability to obtain as per the requirements of the NT Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) Road Users' Handbook.