

Role Description

Mental Health Worker, Domestic Violence Unit

Role Description Fields	Details
Cluster	Stronger Communities
Department/Agency	Legal Aid NSW
Division/Branch/Unit	Domestic Violence Unit, Family Law Division
Classification/Grade/Band	Clerk 6/7
ANZSCO Code	272511
PCAT Code	1119192
Date of Approval	14 July 2022
Agency Website	www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au

Agency overview

Legal Aid NSW is the largest legal aid agency in Australia, comprising a Central Sydney office and 28 regional offices in metropolitan and regional centres across NSW including the two satellite offices located at Walgett and Bourke and a number of specialist services and advice clinics. It was established under the Legal Aid Commission Act 1979 as an independent authority to assist economically and socially disadvantaged people to understand and protect their rights in the legal system. People with disabilities, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women and children, Indigenous people and people with mental illness are some of the groups who may experience difficulties when enforcing and defending their rights.

Working in partnership with private lawyers, Legal Aid NSW provides legal information, legal advice, minor assistance and legal representation to eligible people in many areas of law. Legal Aid NSW also provides alternative dispute resolution services, community legal education programs, and publications on legal issues.

Legal Aid NSW is committed to providing culturally safe workplaces, actively engaging in culturally safe practices and to delivering culturally safe services to Aboriginal people and communities. Legal Aid NSW strives to be an organisation where Aboriginal people want to work, where we value Aboriginal voices and culture, and take a zero-tolerance stance on racism and discrimination.

The Domestic Violence Unit

The Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) was established in 2015 and is a specialist family and domestic violence service at Legal Aid NSW. The DVU is a state-wide interdisciplinary team of lawyers, specialist domestic violence case workers, mental health workers and financial counsellors who work together to provide trauma informed services to clients by helping them with their legal and non-legal needs. The DVU provides advice, duty services, minor assistance, limited complex case work and community legal education in a range of locations.

Primary purpose of the role

Support and assist eligible clients to make, and be involved in, decisions about their mental health to

minimising the negative impacts and re-traumatisation associated with engaging in family law matters involving family violence. Provide support, referral assistance, risk assessment, safety planning, support in attending Court as well as other services and clinical expertise.

Key accountabilities

- Engaging with clients who are victims of domestic and family violence and experiencing mental health issues to discuss and clarify their preferences and wishes to develop evidence-based, strengths focused, recovery – oriented plans.
- Provide information about the mental health system and assisting a person to understand their rights and to act on them
- Engaging directly with a person’s treating team, support people or other services, or providing support and coaching for a person to self-advocate
- Provide letters of support and other documents that can assist the client’s referrals.
- Provide a consultancy service to legal officers within the Domestic Violence Unit about the management of, and service provision to, victims of domestic and family violence experiencing mental health issues.
- Undertake risk assessments of victims of domestic and family violence with mental health issues and complex socio-legal needs.

Key challenges

- Handling complex and challenging client situations where few precedents exist and/or services are available.
- Working in a high volume work environment with strict deadlines and a range of competing demands.

Key relationships

Internal

Who	Why
APS Team Leader, Domestic Violence Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide assistance and receive guidance.
Colleagues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate to ensure the delivery of high-quality client services
Solicitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulting and assisting in the identification and servicing of clients with socio-legal needs.
Allied Professional Practice Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer support, sharing of expertise, professional training and development

External

Who	Why
Peak bodies, community based, non-government agencies across the state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and foster effective relationships to facilitate client service provision

Role dimensions

Decision making

The role operates with autonomy in respect of day-to-day priorities and the co-ordination of work and resources of the team to meet service levels

Reporting line

APS Team Leader, Domestic Violence Unit

Direct reports

Nil

Budget/Expenditure

Nil

Essential requirements

- 5 years minimum relevant experience
- Diploma Level 5 and above (2 years min study)
- **Or** Professional qualification and registration **or** eligibility for registration for Occupational Therapist, Social Worker, Registered Nurse, Psychologist, or Bachelor of Health Science
- Working With Children Check
- Must hold valid NSW drivers license

Capabilities for the role

The [NSW public sector capability framework](#) describes the capabilities (knowledge, skills and abilities) needed to perform a role. There are four main groups of capabilities: personal attributes, relationships, results and business enablers, with a fifth people management group of capabilities for roles with managerial responsibilities. These groups, combined with capabilities drawn from occupation-specific capability sets where relevant, work together to provide an understanding of the capabilities needed for the role.

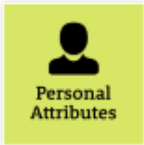
The capabilities are separated into focus capabilities and complementary capabilities

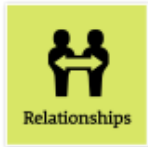
Focus capabilities

Focus capabilities are the capabilities considered the most important for effective performance of the role. These capabilities will be assessed at recruitment.

The focus capabilities for this role are shown below with a brief explanation of what each capability covers and the indicators describing the types of behaviours expected at each level.

Focus capabilities

Capability group/sets	Capability name	Behavioural indicators	Level
	Display Resilience and Courage Be open and honest, prepared to express your views, and willing to accept and commit to change	Be flexible, show initiative and respond quickly when situations change Give frank and honest feedback and advice Listen when ideas are challenged, seek to understand the nature of the comment and respond appropriately Raise and work through challenging issues and seek alternatives Remain composed and calm under pressure and in challenging situations	Adept



Communicate Effectively

Communicate clearly, actively listen to others, and respond with understanding and respect

Tailor communication to diverse audiences

Adept

Clearly explain complex concepts and arguments to individuals and groups

Create opportunities for others to be heard, listen attentively and encourage them to express their views

Share information across teams and units to enable informed decision making

Write fluently in plain English and in a range of styles and formats

Use contemporary communication channels to share information, engage and interact with diverse audiences



Work Collaboratively

Collaborate with others and value their contribution

Build a supportive and cooperative team environment

Intermediate

Share information and learning across teams

Acknowledge outcomes that were achieved by effective collaboration

Engage other teams and units to share information and jointly solve issues and problems

Support others in challenging situations

Use collaboration tools, including digital technologies, to work with others



Deliver Results

Achieve results through the efficient use of resources and a commitment to quality outcomes

Seek and apply specialist advice when required

Intermediate

Complete work tasks within set budgets, timeframes and standards

Take the initiative to progress and deliver own work and that of the team or unit

Contribute to allocating responsibilities and resources to ensure the team or unit achieves goals

Identify any barriers to achieving results and resolve these where possible

Proactively change or adjust plans when needed



Plan and Prioritise

Plan to achieve priority outcomes and respond flexibly to changing circumstances

Understand the team and unit objectives and align operational activities accordingly
Initiate and develop team goals and plans, and use feedback to inform future planning
Respond proactively to changing circumstances and adjust plans and schedules when necessary
Consider the implications of immediate and longer-term organisational issues and how these might affect the achievement of team and unit goals
Accommodate and respond with initiative to changing priorities and operating environments

Intermediate



Technology

Understand and use available technologies to maximise efficiencies and effectiveness

Display familiarity and confidence when applying technology used in role
Comply with records, communication and document control policies
Comply with policies on the acceptable use of technology, including cyber security





Foundational

Complementary capabilities

Complementary capabilities are also identified from the Capability Framework and relevant occupation-specific capability sets. They are important to identifying performance required for the role and development opportunities.

Note: capabilities listed as 'not essential' for this role are not relevant for recruitment purposes however may be relevant for future career development.

Capability group/sets	Capability name	Description	Level
	Act with Integrity	Be ethical and professional, and uphold and promote the public sector values	Intermediate
	Manage Self	Show drive and motivation, an ability to self-reflect and a commitment to learning	Intermediate
	Value Diversity and Inclusion	Demonstrate inclusive behaviour and show respect for diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives	Intermediate
	Commit to Customer Service	Provide customer-focused services in line with public sector and organisational objectives	Intermediate
	Influence and Negotiate	Gain consensus and commitment from others, and resolve issues and conflicts	Intermediate
	Think and Solve Problems	Think, analyse and consider the broader context to develop practical solutions	Foundational

	Demonstrate Accountability	Be proactive and responsible for own actions, and adhere to legislation, policy and guidelines	Foundational
	Finance	Understand and apply financial processes to achieve value for money and minimise financial risk	Foundational
	Procurement and Contract Management	Understand and apply procurement processes to ensure effective purchasing and contract performance	Foundational
	Project Management	Understand and apply effective planning, coordination and control methods	Foundational