

Role Description

Solicitor IV, Civil Law



Cluster	Stronger Communities
Agency	Legal Aid NSW
Division/Branch/Unit	Civil Law
Classification/Grade/Band	Legal Officer Grade IV
ANZSCO Code	271311
PCAT Code	2118192
Date of Approval	18 February 2016- 24 July 2023
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 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 groups who may experience difficulties when enforcing and defending their rights.

Legal Aid NSW provides legal advice, information, minor assistance and legal representation in many areas of law. Legal Aid NSW also provides alternative dispute resolution services, community legal education programs, and publications on legal issues.

Primary purpose of the role

Provide high quality advice, minor assistance and casework services in areas such as consumer, mental health, human rights, employment, housing, immigration, social security, and/or coronial inquests, or other areas of civil law. Manage an efficient and effective legal practice including supervision of other staff.

Key accountabilities

- Provide high quality advice, minor assistance and casework services in areas such as consumer, mental health, human rights, employment, housing, immigration, social security, and/or coronial inquests, or other areas of civil law.
- Manage, supervise and support solicitors to ensure delivery of high quality, efficient and effective legal services in accordance with service delivery plans and strategic directions.
- Contribute to the planning and delivery of high-quality legal services.
- Contribute to law and policy reform.
- Conduct community legal education and assist in preparing promotional materials and/or information booklets and pamphlets.
- Work collaboratively with stakeholders and service delivery partners.

- Comply with the *Legal Aid Commission Act*, policies, guidelines, and practice management standards.

Key challenges

- Communicating with, taking instructions from, and effectively representing a wide range of clients including people from disadvantaged communities, when the legal concepts involved are complex and difficult for the client to understand.
- Balancing casework commitments with supervisory responsibilities.

Key relationships

Who	Why
Internal	
Senior Solicitor, SIC, Associate Director	Reports to this position, seeks support and guidance
Direct Reports	Supervise and support staff
Team	Provide guidance, direction and support Work collaboratively
Other teams across the Civil, Family and Criminal Law Divisions	To increase referrals, monitor systemic issues affecting Legal Aid NSW clients and work in partnership
External	
Clients	Advise and represent individual clients
Stakeholders	Communication, negotiation, coordination and collaboration

Role Dimensions

Decision making

The role operates with a high level of autonomy in respect of day-to-day work priorities and the coordination of work and resources to meet service levels. The role provides advice and decision making to solicitors reporting to the position.

Reporting line

Senior Solicitor V, Solicitor in Charge or Associate Director

Director reports

Solicitors I-III, allied professionals and / or paralegals

Budget / Expenditure

Not applicable

Essential requirements

Legal Qualifications

Provide a valid NSW Practising Certificate (unrestricted) prior to commencement in the role






Provide a Working With Children Check (WWCC) prior to commencement in the role
 Driver's Licence – this is an essential requirement for some roles within the Civil Law Division

Capabilities for the role


The NSW Public Sector Capability Framework applies to all NSW public sector employees. The Capability Framework is available at www.psc.nsw.gov.au/capabilityframework

Capability summary

Below is the full list of capabilities and the level required for this role. The capabilities in bold are the focus capabilities for this role. Refer to the next section for further information about the focus capabilities.

NSW Public Sector Capability Framework		
Capability Group	Capability Name	Level
 Personal Attributes	Display Resilience and Courage	Adept
	Act with Integrity	Adept
	Manage Self	Advanced
	Value Diversity and Inclusion	Intermediate
 Relationships	Communicate Effectively	Adept
	Commit to Customer Service	Adept
	Work Collaboratively	Adept
	Influence and Negotiate	Adept
 Results	Deliver Results	Adept
	Plan and Prioritise	Adept
	Think and Solve Problems	Adept
	Demonstrate Accountability	Intermediate
 Business Enablers	Finance	Intermediate
	Technology	Intermediate
	Procurement and Contract Management	Intermediate
	Project Management	Intermediate
 People Management	Manage and Develop People	Adept
	Inspire Direction and Purpose	Adept
	Optimise Business Outcomes	Adept
	Manage Reform and Change	Intermediate

Legal Professionals Capability Set

Capability Group	Capability Name	Level
	Statutory Interpretation	Level 2
	Legal Research	Level 2
	Legal Advice	Level 3
	Legal Drafting	Level 2
	Litigation and Dispute Resolution	Level 2
	Prosecution	not applicable
	Advocacy	Level 2
	Legislative Development and Drafting	not applicable

Focus capabilities

The focus capabilities for the role are the capabilities in which occupants must demonstrate immediate competence. The behavioural indicators provide examples of the types of behaviours that would be expected at that level and should be reviewed in conjunction with the role's key accountabilities.

NSW Public Sector Capability Framework

Group and Capability	Level	Behavioural Indicators
Personal Attributes Manage Self	Advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act as a professional role model for colleagues, set high personal goals and take pride in their achievement Actively seek, reflect and act on feedback on own performance Translate negative feedback into an opportunity to improve Maintain a high level of personal motivation Take the initiative and act in a decisive way
Relationships Communicate Effectively	Adept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tailor communication to the audience Clearly explain complex concepts and arguments to individuals and groups Monitor own and others' non-verbal cues and adapt where necessary Create opportunities for others to be heard Actively listen to others and clarify own understanding Write fluently in a range of styles and formats
Relationships Work Collaboratively	Adept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage a culture of recognising the value of collaboration Build co-operation and overcome barriers to information sharing and communication across teams/units Share lessons learned across teams/units Identify opportunities to work collaboratively with other teams/units to solve issues and develop better processes and approaches to work
Results Deliver Results	Adept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take responsibility for delivering on intended outcomes Make sure team/unit staff understand expected goals and acknowledge success

NSW Public Sector Capability Framework

Group and Capability	Level	Behavioural Indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify resource needs and ensure goals are achieved within budget and deadlines Identify changed priorities and ensure allocation of resources meets new business needs Ensure financial implications of changed priorities are explicit and budgeted for Use own expertise and seek others' expertise to achieve work outcomes
Results Plan and Prioritise	Adept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take into account future aims and goals of the team/unit and organisation when prioritising own and others' work Initiate, prioritise, consult on and develop team/unit goals, strategies and plans Anticipate and assess the impact of changes, such as government policy/economic conditions, on team/unit objectives and initiate appropriate responses Ensure current work plans and activities support and are consistent with organisational change initiatives Evaluate achievements and adjust future plans accordingly
Business Enablers Project Management	Intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform basic research and analysis which others will use to inform project directions Understand project goals, steps to be undertaken and expected outcomes Prepare accurate documentation to support cost or resource estimates Participate and contribute to reviews of progress, outcomes and future improvements Identify and escalate any possible variance from project plans
People Management Manage and Develop People	Adept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define and clearly communicate roles and responsibilities to achieve team/unit outcomes Negotiate clear performance standards and monitor progress Develop team/unit plans that take into account team capability, strengths and opportunities for development Provide regular constructive feedback to build on strengths and achieve results Address and resolve team and individual performance issues, including unsatisfactory performance in a timely and effective way Monitor and report on performance of team in line with established performance development frameworks