

FAMILY VIOLENCE SUPPORT WORKER

FAMILY ADVOCACY SUPPORT SERVICE (FASS) SUPPORT SERVICE 2

JOB DESCRIPTION

Position Description:	This position exists to support men who are affected by family violence or who have allegations of family violence against them who are currently in the family court system. It is a court based, case work service.
Reports to:	Manager, Centre/Program Manager
Staff under direct supervision:	Nil
Position Type	Various
Position Liaises with:	Externally: Legal Aid NSW duty lawyers and family Violence Support Workers, Internally: All programs as a referral point, in particular FDV program staff
Location:	Various: Sydney Court, Parramatta Court, Wollongong Court, Newcastle Court

Core Responsibilities

- Provide trauma-informed and high quality case work support to men affected by family violence.
- Conduct risk assessment and safety planning for men who have experienced family violence.
- Provide assistance (information and referrals) to men who may have family violence allegations against them in their family law matter that is informed by evidence and with attention to safety of all family members.
- Demonstrate safe work practices including identification and reporting of hazards/workplace incidents as they occur.

Key Tasks

- Make a comprehensive assessment of the client's needs utilising the Domestic Violence Safety Assessment Tool (DVSAT)
- Liaise with the registry and security staff about the implementation of the Court's safety plan for the client in relation to each Court event, as needed.
- Provide information, advocacy and court support for clients before, during and after court, as needed.
- Provide referrals for clients in relation to their social needs, and case coordination in relation to those services.
- Liaise with the Court to obtain copies of Court Orders and other notices from the Registry on behalf of clients.
- Advocate on behalf of the client with organisations such as NSW Police in Housing NSW, Centrelink and Victims Services as appropriate.
- Assist families to transition between, and manage matters across, the Commonwealth family law, State family violence and State child protection jurisdictions.
- Maintain client files and enter information into the WDVCAP database as directed by Legal Aid NSW.
- Adhere to the FASS Policy Statement at all times.
- Work collaboratively with the duty lawyers, the WDVCA in each registry, the FASS Project Officer, WDVCA, Domestic Violence Unit, Early Intervention Unit and Family Dispute Resolution Unit.
- Represent RANSW effectively and professionally in providing the service, and in building collaborative community networks to meet client needs.

Selection criteria

Essential knowledge and skills

- Tertiary qualifications in Social welfare, Social Science, Psychology, Humanities or equivalent knowledge and experience working in these areas
- Sound understanding of the dynamics of family violence and its disproportionate impact upon women and children.
- Sound understanding of the complexities of working with men who use violence including a capability in avoiding the reinforcement of attitudes which promote family

violence and in recognising and responding to men who use violence and present themselves as the primary victim in a family violence situation.

- Excellent client management skills including an ability to work with clients in a trauma informed way.
- Experience with and understanding of the legal process as it relates to Commonwealth family law, State family violence and State child protection jurisdictions as well as related social welfare issues.
- Ability to develop and maintain strong working relationships with key partners, particularly Legal Aid NSW duty lawyers, Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services (WDVCASs), Family Law Courts registry, security and child dispute services staff as well as judicial officers, other service providers in each registry, NSW Police Force, Legal Aid NSW Family Dispute Resolution Unit and appropriate local support services.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team.
- Good oral and written communication skills.
- Computer literacy including an understanding of database systems.
- Valid working with children's check and police check
- Current NSW drivers licence.

Desirable:

- Knowledge and understanding of community services especially those relating to family relationships and family domestic violence.
- Fluency in a community language other than English.
- Experience with clients from Culturally and Linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds
- Experience with Aboriginal clients.