



## Expression of Interest Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania

### Commonwealth Family Violence and Cross Examination of Parties Scheme Register of Legal Practitioners

The Commonwealth Family Violence and Cross Examination of Parties Scheme (the scheme) begins in September 2019.

The Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania (LACT) is establishing a Register of Legal Practitioners willing to represent parties that come within the scope of the scheme.

Expressions of interest to be added to the register are sought from suitably qualified legal practitioners.

#### BACKGROUND

The *Family Law Act* 1975 was amended in March 2019 to ban the direct cross examination of parties in certain circumstances. When a ban is imposed, cross examination must be conducted by a legal representative - either privately retained or funded by the scheme. The new provisions apply from 10th September 2019

The scheme is funded by the Commonwealth Government and will be administered in Tasmania by the LACT. Current Legal Aid fees for preparation and appearance at the final hearing will apply.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

We invite expressions of interest from practitioners willing to be added to the Register to represent eligible parties in these proceedings before the Federal Circuit Court and Family Court.

To be eligible for inclusion on the Register practitioners will have:

- Three years post admission experience, including demonstrated experience in the family law jurisdiction;
- Recent family law trial experience including having conducted cross examination;

- The capacity to interact with persons affected by family violence and understand the issues impacting on these persons and their lives; and have undertaken CPD in relation to family violence within the last 2 years (or have registered to attend CPD prior to 10 September 2019)\*;

in addition to satisfying further criteria as set out in the Commonwealth Family Violence and Cross-Examination of Parties Scheme – Register of Legal Practitioners:

<https://www.legalaid.tas.gov.au/uncategorized/family-violence-cross-examination-of-parties-scheme-register-of-practitioners-expression-of-interest/>

## HOW TO APPLY

Practitioners are asked to address the eligibility criteria above and provide details of their experience, attaching any additional information to support the expression of interest on the Commonwealth Family Violence and Cross-Examination of Parties Scheme – Expression of Interest form on our website:

<https://www.legalaid.tas.gov.au/uncategorized/family-violence-cross-examination-of-parties-scheme-register-of-practitioners-expression-of-interest/>

Expressions of interest should be marked “Personal & Confidential” and sent to: [susie.winter@legalaid.tas.gov.au](mailto:susie.winter@legalaid.tas.gov.au) by 5:00 pm on 31 July 2019.

Practitioner’s names will be included on the Register until 30 November 2023 or until such time as a practitioner seeks removal of their name.

Further information regarding the scheme is available on the LACT website <https://www.legalaid.tas.gov.au/latest-news/family-violence-cross-examination-scheme/>

## ENQUIRIES

Please direct all enquiries in relation to the expression of interest to Kristen Wylie, Manager, Family Practice, [Kristen.wylie@legalaid.tas.gov.au](mailto:Kristen.wylie@legalaid.tas.gov.au).

*(\*Note: LACT will be offering a training opportunity in relation to this criterion prior to 10 September 2019 – to be advertised)*