

# Expression of interest for Legal Aid NSW Review Panel

## Expression of Interest

Legal Aid NSW is seeking to approve suitably qualified legal practitioners to the pool of persons to act as members of Legal Aid Review Panels. The Legal Aid Review Panels will be established by 1 December 2024.

We are inviting legal practitioners across New South Wales to submit an expression of interest. Legal Aid NSW encourages applications from all eligible legal practitioners including people with disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

To be eligible for selection, a candidate must be an Australian legal practitioner with at least seven years' post admission experience and must not be a current Legal Aid NSW employee.

Successful candidates will be appointed to the pool of persons to act as members of Legal Aid Review Panels for a term of up to three years. Legal Aid Review Panel members will be remunerated at a rate to be decided by Legal Aid NSW.

## Background

Legal Aid NSW must approve a pool of persons to act as members of Legal Aid Review Panels.

Legal Aid Review Panels are established under [Part 3 Division 3](#) of the *Legal Aid Commission Act 1979* (NSW) to hear and determine appeals in relation to the provision of legal aid. A Legal Aid Review Panel will be comprised of one member. Where an appeal raises a complex question of law or policy, the Panel will comprise at least two (2) members.

A Legal Aid Review Panel stands in the shoes of the original decision-maker and has the functions and discretions of that decision-maker. Most appeals must be determined within 14 days, although urgent matters may require a decision within a narrower timeframe. For the purposes of hearing and determining an appeal, a Legal Aid Review Panel must comply with approved Legal Aid NSW policies and guidelines.

Appeals are dealt with on the papers. There are no in-person hearings.

## Selection criteria

Suitable candidates will:

- be an Australian legal practitioner with at least seven years' post admission experience
- have civil law, family law or criminal law experience
- have a sound understanding of administrative law principles
- be able to competently apply Legal Aid NSW eligibility policies and guidelines
- be able to determine appeals within timeframes established by Legal Aid NSW; and
- have an understanding of the needs of socially and economically disadvantaged persons.

## Selection Process

All Expressions of Interest will be considered by a selection panel comprised of nominees of Legal Aid NSW, the Law Society of NSW and the NSW Bar Association. The panel may seek further information from a candidate and will contact referees.

The selection panel will make recommendations to the Legal Aid NSW Board. The decision approving appointment to the pool of persons to act as members of Legal Aid Review Panels will be made by the Board.

Candidates will be advised in writing of the outcome of their Expression of Interest.

## How to apply

Expressions of Interest must be no more than five pages and must include a curriculum vitae and the names and contact details of two referees. Candidates must address each of the selection criteria. Expressions of interest will be assessed against these criteria.

Expressions of interest should be emailed to Cherie Pittman, Director Legal Services at [cherie.pittman@legalaid.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cherie.pittman@legalaid.nsw.gov.au) by **5:00pm on Monday 5 August 2024**.

## Enquiries

Any enquiries should be directed to Pauline Chau, Manager In-house Counsel Unit, by email to [pauline.chau@legalaid.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pauline.chau@legalaid.nsw.gov.au) or (02) 5525 1645.