



Family Law Assistance Program (Professional Practice)

The Family Law Assistance Program (FLAP) LAW5218 is a specialised community legal service dealing with Family Law matters. The program has been running for 10 years as a part of Monash Oakleigh Legal Service and has federal funding. On average, the service assists more than 50 clients a week at court and at the Monash Oakleigh Legal Service. Similar to other community legal services, there is a strong emphasis on resolution of family disputes through family dispute resolution and self-help.

Students who participate will gain experience in a wide range of areas including property division and making arrangements for children. Students will also interview and assist clients as well as drafting court documents and correspondence. Under supervision, students will have the opportunity to negotiate with other parties and their lawyers. If matters proceed to litigation, some students in the past have also instructed barristers in court. This includes attending conciliation conferences and final trials.

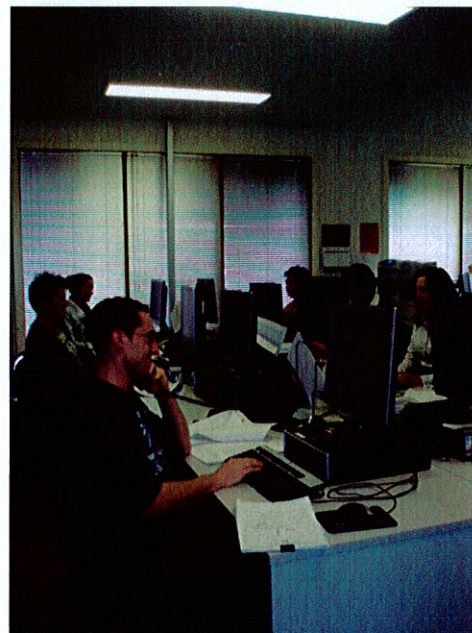
In addition to sessions at Monash Oakleigh Legal Service, students attend the Family/Federal Magistrates Court at Dandenong on a fortnightly basis to assist unrepresented litigants. These are interesting days where students can observe what happens in court, become familiar with court processes and assist in preparing urgent cases. There may even be opportunities for students to appear in front of a Federal Magistrate on behalf of their clients as a protocol exists between the Court and the Faculty.

How to apply:

Students are accepted on the basis that all the prerequisites have been completed. Students must have either completed Professional Practice Law 5216, or a clinical placement from one of the Faculty of Law family law units (Introduction to Family Law; Parents Children and the State; Family Property).

In limited situations, students who have not completed the prerequisites will be allowed to enrol in the Family Law Assistance Program if they can show appropriate experience

in interviewing clients and dealing with client files (for example, they may have worked extensively as a law clerk in a family law firm). The final decision as to whether such students would be accepted into the program lies with the Director of the Family Law Assistance Program.



Students at the Family Law Assistance Program



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