**Family Law Trial Counsel Development Program – July 2025**

## Junior counsel key selection criteria

* Demonstrated interest in developing a career as a family law trial advocate, particularly representing the Independent Children’s Lawyer promoting the best interests of children.
* Thorough knowledge and experience in the practice of family law, particularly in matters involving complex (legal or factual) or high-risk issues involving children.
* Thorough knowledge and understanding of the law and procedure in family law matters.
* Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to liaise and negotiate with Counsel, self-represented parties, police, child protection and other agencies along with the ability to work both independently and as part of a legal team, the ability to communicate effectively with parties who are from culturally diverse backgrounds, are socially and economically disadvantaged, and/or have complex needs.
* Commitment to developing your legal and advocacy skills through active participation in family law trials, and a willingness to engage in an effective and self-reflective mentoring relationship with lead counsel.
* Have undertaken or are willing to undertake the national accreditation training program for Independent Children's Lawyers. Successful candidates who are yet to undertake the training will be subsidised by Victoria Legal Aid to complete the training.