

Legal Aid NSW provides legal services to the community with an employed workforce of lawyers and in partnership with [panel practitioners](#) who receive funding from Legal Aid NSW to assist economically and socially disadvantaged people to understand and protect their rights in the legal system. Private lawyers are a crucial enabler of our ability to deliver legal aid efficiently and effectively across the state and deliver over half of all legal representation funded by Legal Aid NSW.

## Grants of Legal Aid

The Grants Division was established in 2001 and is responsible for receiving, determining, assigning and managing applications for grants of legal aid in criminal, family and civil matters. In the 2022-23 Financial Year 53,181 grant applications were received. Legal Aid NSW has [policies](#) that limit grants of aid to particular matters and proceedings. These policies usually impose a [Merit Test](#) on any application for aid and a [Means Test](#) that assesses the financial resources of the applicant.

## Project Delta

In 2023 Legal Aid NSW secured funding to replace our outdated grants management system and redesign how we administer grants of legal aid. This digital transformation project will deliver a clear and consistent experience for Legal Aid NSW clients, with a system that works seamlessly for Legal Aid NSW staff and the private practitioners doing legal aid work, ensuring:

- Eligible clients receive the legal support they need when they need it; and
- Applying for, administering, and providing legal aid in a way that is simple, quick, and transparent; and
- Clients understand the process and feel supported and private practitioners want to do business with us.

Work is now well underway redesigning the new grants management system and the new processes and policies that accompany it. In the first half of 2025 we will build and test the new system, which is planned to launch in the second half of the year.