The Family Law Assistance Program (FLAP) is a specialised clinic dealing with family law matters. It is funded by the Attorney-General’s Department to facilitate “helping those who want to help themselves”. The program has been running since 2000 as a part of Monash-Oakleigh Legal Service (MOLS). On average, the service assists more than 50 clients a week at the Federal Circuit Court and at MOLS.

Professional Practice students will gain experience in a wide range of family matters including property division, child support, de facto matters and making arrangements for children following breakdown of relationships. Students interview clients and manage between ten to twelve client files over 17 to 19 weeks. During this period, students develop practical legal skills and learn to draft court documents and correspondence. Under supervision, students will also 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 client appointment sessions at MOLS, students attend the Family/Federal Circuit 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 are opportunities for students to appear in front of a Federal Circuit Court Judge on behalf of their clients as a protocol exists between the Court and the Faculty.

The breadth of experience at FLAP enables students to secure employment in all areas of private practice and public service.

How to apply:
Students are accepted on the basis that all the prerequisites have been met. Please refer to the unit guide for details.