



Position Description

Principal Solicitor

1. The Public Interest Advocacy Centre

The Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) is an independent, non-profit legal centre. We use litigation, public policy development, communication and training to promote social justice in a practical and strategic way. For 35 years, we have been tackling difficult issues that have a significant impact upon disadvantaged and marginalised people, ensuring basic rights are enjoyed across the community. Achieving social justice is at the heart of what we do.

We have a reputation for effective advocacy that gets results for individuals and creates sustainable, systemic change. Our work addresses issues such as:

- homelessness;
- access for people with disability to basic services like public transport, education and online services;
- Indigenous disadvantage;
- discrimination against people with mental health conditions;
- access to energy and water for low-income and vulnerable consumers;
- the exercise of police power;
- the rights of people in detention, including the right to proper medical care; and
- government accountability including freedom of information.

2. Position overview

Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, the Principal Solicitor leads and manages PIAC's legal practice with a particular focus on strategic public interest litigation.

The Principal Solicitor also contributes to the overall management and leadership of PIAC as a member of the Senior Management Team.

3. Major accountabilities

- Lead the development and pursuit of innovative, strategic legal interventions and/or litigation in relation to existing and emerging public interest issues, consistent with PIAC's Strategic Plan.
- Supervise staff in the legal practice, including through regular performance and file reviews, to ensure the delivery of high quality legal services.
- Ensure compliance with the PIAC's insurance and regulatory obligations as a legal practice.
- Provide advice, supervise and conduct public interest casework to contribute to the core work of the legal practice.
- Contribute to and, as required, supervise policy and advocacy work (such as submissions, publications and media comment), to influence change in the public interest.

- Contribute to the management and senior leadership of PIAC, including through participation in Coordination Group meetings, providing advice to PIAC's Board, strategic planning and risk management.
- Identify and pursue strategies for securing and maintaining funding for the work of PIAC, to contribute to PIAC's continued financial viability.
- Deliver and contribute to the development of high-quality legal education and advocacy training.
- Develop and maintain relationships with key stakeholders to exchange information and views, to exert influence, and to identify opportunities for joint initiatives.
- Represent PIAC externally at meetings, forums, inquiries, conferences and in the media.

4. Knowledge, skills and experience

Essential

- Eligible for an unrestricted practicing certificate in NSW.
- A minimum of five years general litigation experience, including in superior courts, relevant to PIAC's legal practice.
- Demonstrated ability to manage a legal practice, including a strong understanding of professional and ethical obligations and risk management.
- Capacity to identify creative legal strategies and test cases to achieve public interest outcomes.
- Highly developed research and analytical skills.
- Strong management and leadership skills, including a demonstrated capacity to achieve outcomes individually and in a team environment and to produce quality results in a timely manner.
- Superior oral and written communication skills.
- Well-developed interpersonal skills and the capacity to develop constructive formal and informal relationships and networks.
- Demonstrated commitment to social justice.

Desirable

- Experience in working with clients from a diverse range of backgrounds, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with a disability, young people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

5. Salary

This position offered full-time, with part-time hours negotiable with the successful candidate.

Salary range: \$105,007 – \$109,133 plus leave loading and superannuation.

PIAC is a Public Benevolent Institution and is currently able to offer salary packaging subject to PIAC's Salary Sacrifice Policy.

6. Applications

Your application should be no longer than 5 pages in total. An application should comprise a cover letter, CV, and a succinct statement outlining your suitability for the role with reference to the selection criteria.

Applications may be sent either by email to jobs@piac.asn.au or to:

The Selection Panel
Public Interest Advocacy Centre
Level 5, 175 Liverpool Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Inquiries about the position should be addressed to:

Jonathon Hunyor
Chief Executive Officer
jhunyor@piac.asn.au
(02) 8898 6508

Closing Date: close of business 21 August 2017.