



## Position Description

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### **Solicitor/Senior Solicitor, Strategic Litigation Aboriginal Child Protection**

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This is a fixed term position for approximately 15 months

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#### **1. The Public Interest Advocacy Centre**

The Public Interest Advocacy Centre is a community legal centre that works for social justice by driving changes to laws, policies and practices that cause or entrench disadvantage.

PIAC removes barriers to justice and fairness experienced by people who are vulnerable or facing disadvantage through strategic litigation and policy advocacy. Our current priorities are:

- Fair use of police powers
- Reducing homelessness
- Equal access to services for people with disability
- Justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Affordable energy and water
- Equal access to health care for asylum seekers
- Truth, justice and accountability for victims of conflict

Our work on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice involves close collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, communities, and organisations to protect and promote human rights in areas including policing, youth justice, child protection and truth-telling. We are guided by principles of respect and self-determination, as well as our Reconciliation Action Plan.

PIAC's Aboriginal child protection work advances a strategy developed in partnership with the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT and aims to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in the NSW child protection system.

#### **1. Position overview**

Reporting to the Principal Solicitor, the Solicitor/Senior Solicitor will work as part of PIAC's strategic litigation practice to lead policy work, and also undertake public interest litigation and casework. The Solicitor/Senior Solicitor's primary area of focus will be leading PIAC's work on Aboriginal child protection as part of our broader advocacy on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice. The Solicitor/Senior Solicitor may also work in other areas of focus for the strategic litigation team as required.

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander solicitors are strongly encouraged to apply.**

We are seeking a solicitor who will exercise initiative, judgment and have significant responsibility in managing their workload. The solicitor in this role must have a commitment to working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations, and the ability to manage a diverse range of stakeholder relationships.

Consistent with their experience, all PIAC solicitors and senior solicitors have responsibilities for developing and leading projects; supervising junior solicitors, interns and paralegal staff; and are expected to perform all accountabilities at a high level.

**2. Major accountabilities**

- Lead and continue to develop PIAC’s work on Aboriginal child protection in close collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders, consistent with the strategic priorities identified for the project;
- Develop relationships and liaise with key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other stakeholders relevant to the project;
- Develop and pursue innovative legal, policy and political strategies for achieving the strategic priorities of the project and in other areas of PIAC’s work as required;
- Identify opportunities and coordinate public interest litigation to effect systemic change as part of the broader priorities identified for the project and in other areas of PIAC’s work as required;
- Support and/or supervise junior solicitors, interns and paralegal staff;
- Research and develop policy positions related to PIAC’s work;
- Draft submissions, reports, articles and media releases to communicate PIAC’s policy positions to decision makers and the community;
- Provide regular reports for the PIAC Board and funders addressing outcomes and impact.

**3. Knowledge, skills and experience**

**Essential**

- Eligible for a practicing certificate in NSW.
- At least three years’ post-admission experience in legal practice relevant to PIAC’s legal practice areas.
- Demonstrated ability to work closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations in a respectful, culturally sensitive way and a commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice.
- Sound interpersonal skills and experience building strong, collaborative relationships and networks with a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Sound legal casework skills, including experience in litigation and the ability to undertake high quality legal research, draft effective briefs, advices and legal correspondence.

- Capacity to identify and develop innovative legal, policy and political strategies to address public interest issues.
- Excellent communication skills, including writing skills for the drafting of submissions, position papers, reports, other publications and legal documents.

#### **Desirable**

- Experience in child protection law or policy.
- Experience supervising other members of a legal team.

#### **4. Salary**

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

Salary range: \$86,093 - \$105,988 commensurate with experience, 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.

#### **5. Applications**

Your application should be no longer than 5 pages in total. An application should comprise:

- A cover letter;
- Your CV; and
- A succinct statement outlining your suitability for the role *addressing the knowledge skills and experience required for the position.*

Applications may be sent either by email to [jobs@piac.asn.au](mailto: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:

Camilla Pandolfini  
Principal Solicitor (Mon, Thurs, Fri)  
[cpandolfini@piac.asn.au](mailto:cpandolfini@piac.asn.au)

**Closing Date: 5pm Monday 28 September 2020.**