



Position Description

Solicitor/Senior Solicitor, Strategic Litigation

This is a fixed term position for 12 months

1. The Public Interest Advocacy Centre

The Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) is a community legal centre that works for social justice by driving changes to laws, policies and practices that cause or entrench disadvantage, through strategic legal casework and systemic policy advocacy.

For 35 years, we have been successfully tackling difficult issues that have a significant impact upon people who are marginalised or facing disadvantage, ensuring basic rights are enjoyed across the community.

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

- homelessness;
- access for people with disability to basic services like public transport, education and online services;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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.

2. Position overview

Reporting to the Principal Solicitor, the Solicitor/Senior Solicitor will work as part of PIAC's strategic litigation practice to undertake public interest litigation and casework, as well as contributing to policy work.

PIAC solicitors and senior solicitors exercise initiative, judgment and have significant responsibility in managing their workload. Consistent with their experience, they 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.

The solicitor/senior solicitor in this role will undertake work primarily on the rights of people in detention, including as part of our Asylum Seeker Health Rights project, and in discrimination law.

3. Major accountabilities

- Undertake public interest litigation to effect systemic change;
- Identify/contribute to identifying innovative legal strategies for achieving public interest outcomes;
- Support and/or supervise junior solicitors, interns and paralegal staff;
- Research and develop policy positions related to PIAC's work;
- Contribute to submissions, reports, articles and media releases to communicate PIAC's policy positions to decision makers and the community;
- Lead or contribute to the planning and management of projects to achieve outcomes consistent with PIAC's strategic priorities;
- Support the successful implementation of PIAC's Reconciliation Action Plan;
- Provide regular reports for the PIAC Board addressing outcomes and impact.

4. Knowledge, skills and experience

Essential

- Eligible for a practicing certificate in NSW.
- At least **four** years' post-admission experience in legal practice relevant to PIAC's legal practice areas.
- 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 strategies to address public interest issues;
- Demonstrated experience 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.
- Excellent writing skills for the drafting of legal documents, submissions, reports and other publications;
- Sound interpersonal skills and experience developing formal and informal relationships and networks with clients and stakeholders;
- Experience supervising other members of a legal team;
- Demonstrated commitment to social justice.

Desirable

- Litigation experience in discrimination law, public law or personal injury claims.

5. Salary

This position is offered full-time.

Salary range: \$95,696 - \$107,842 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.

6. 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 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:

Michelle Cohen
Principal Solicitor (Tues, Weds, Thurs)
02 8898 6535
mcohen@piac.asn.au