



Position Description

Senior Solicitor, Strategic Litigation: A Fairer NDIS

This is a fixed term position for 12-months with possible extension

1. The Public Interest Advocacy Centre

The Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) is a leading social justice law and policy centre. We build a fairer, stronger society by helping to change laws, policies and practices that cause injustice and inequality.

Our work combines

- legal advice and representation, specialising in test cases and strategic casework;
- research, analysis and policy development; and
- advocacy for systems change and public interest outcomes.

We actively seek to collaborate and partner in our work to maximise its impact.

PIAC responds to emerging public interest issues and proactively identifies need and opportunities for change. Our current priorities are:

- Equality and non-discrimination
- First Nations Justice
- Reducing homelessness
- Climate change and social justice
- A fairer NDIS
- Truth-telling and government accountability
- Fair use of police powers
- Equal access to health care for asylum seekers
- Sustainable, affordable energy and water for households

2. Position overview

Reporting to the Principal Solicitor, the Senior Solicitor will work as part of PIAC's strategic litigation practice to undertake public interest litigation, casework and policy work related to PIAC's 'A Fairer NDIS' work. PIAC's A Fairer NDIS work seeks to improve outcomes under the National Disability Insurance Scheme, to ensure the scheme lives up to its promise of providing choice and control for participants.

Specifically, the Senior Solicitor will lead a new strategic litigation project designed to deliver better outcomes and decision-making under the NDIS for participants requesting specialist

disability accommodation (SDA). The Senior Solicitor will provide strategic legal assistance to NDIS participants who have had their request for specialist disability accommodation funding declined in circumstances where they meet eligibility criteria. The Senior Solicitor will work with PIAC's partners to identify appropriate test cases, run litigation and drive systemic change.

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

3. Major accountabilities

- Contribute to the planning and lead the delivery of PIAC's SDA project;
- Engage with PIAC project partners to identify meritorious matters to be appealed to the AAT, and select appropriate matters to be run on appeal to the Federal Court;
- Lead casework and strategic litigation in the AAT and Federal Court, including appearances at the AAT;
- Engage with relevant stakeholders and PIAC's pro bono partners to support the project and deliver project outcomes;
- Support and supervise junior solicitors, interns and paralegal staff;
- Research and develop policy positions related to PIAC's 'A Fairer NDIS' 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 project reports for the PIAC Board and the SDA project funder, addressing outcomes and impact.

4. Knowledge, skills and experience

Essential

- Eligible for an unrestricted practicing certificate in NSW.
- At least **five** years' post-admission experience in legal practice relevant to PIAC's NDIS work, including administrative law.
- 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 relationships and networks with clients and stakeholders.
- Experience supervising other members of a legal team.
- Demonstrated commitment to social justice and an understanding of issues affecting people with disability.

Desirable

- Demonstrated experience in managing appeals casework or litigation, preferably in the AAT or Federal Court. Experience with, or understanding of, the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* (NDIS Act).

5. Salary

This position is offered full-time, for a fixed-term of 12-months with a possible option to extend.

Salary range: \$103,520 - \$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

Applications from people with disability are encouraged.

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:

Annie Barker
Executive Assistant
abarker@piac.asn.au