

Position Description

Senior Policy Officer/ Policy Officer, Energy and water

1. The Public Interest Advocacy Centre

The Public Interest Advocacy Centre 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. Our priorities include reducing homelessness; First Nations justice; climate change and social justice; equality and non-discrimination; asylum seeker health rights; and the fair use of police powers.

2. Energy and Water Consumers' Advocacy Program

The Energy and Water Consumers' Advocacy Program (EWCAP) works for better regulatory and policy outcomes, so people's needs are met by clean, resilient, and efficient energy and water systems. We ensure consumer protections and assistance help address disadvantage, and people can make meaningful choices in effective markets without experiencing detriment if they do not participate. Since 2017 we have pursued an ambitious reform agenda with the goal of lowering average household energy bills by 25% by 2025.

PIAC's energy and water program is a peak voice for consumer organisations and the community in debates and decision-making regarding the provision and regulation of energy and water services in NSW, and energy services throughout the National Energy Market.

3. Position overview

The Senior Policy Officer/ Policy Officer works with consumer and community organisations, industry, regulators, government, and other stakeholders to develop and promote policies that deliver affordable and sustainable access to energy and water as essential services for NSW households.

The Senior Policy Officer/ Policy Officer will report to the Program Director, Energy and Water and be part of the EWCAP team, which currently comprises two senior policy officers and a project officer.

4. Major accountabilities

1. Contribute to the development and delivery of PIAC's energy and water advocacy in accordance with PIAC's strategic plan and EWCAP's funding agreement;
2. Develop policy positions to provide a basis for advocacy on behalf of residential energy and water consumers in NSW;

3. Research issues related to household energy supply to identify current and emerging issues;
4. Draft high-quality submissions, media releases and other documents to communicate PIAC's policy positions to decision makers and to the community;
5. Develop and maintain relationships with key stakeholders to exchange information and views, to exert influence and to raise community awareness of energy issues;
6. Assist with the planning, development and execution of PIAC's energy projects, meetings, forums and other events;
7. Support the successful implementation of PIAC's Reconciliation Action Plan.

5. Knowledge, skills and experience

Essential

1. Tertiary qualifications or relevant experience in social sciences, law, economics or engineering;
2. Experience in research and public policy development and / or advocacy
3. Well-developed interpersonal skills and the capacity to develop relationships and networks with consumers, government and other stakeholders;
4. Project management skills, including a demonstrated capacity to achieve outcomes individually and in a team environment and to produce quality results on time;
5. Capacity to write submissions to government inquiries, and prepare reports and other publications.

Desirable

6. Experience delivering presentations and conducting training to present technical information to a lay audience;
7. Experience in, or good knowledge of the energy and/or water industry;
8. Demonstrated understanding of the issues facing socially and economically disadvantaged people or experience in social or community advocacy;
9. Experience with the media and social media or online content development.

6. Conditions

Annual salary range: \$91,721 to \$110,538 (pro rata) plus leave loading and superannuation, depending on qualifications and experience. PIAC is a Public Benevolent Institution and is currently able to offer salary packaging subject to PIAC's Salary Sacrifice Policy.

The position is offered 3-5 days per week, with flexible working arrangements as negotiated with the successful candidate.

PIAC requires all employees to have up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination.

7. Applications

Your application should be no longer than 6 pages in total. An application should comprise a cover letter, resume, and a statement outlining your suitability for the role with reference to the selection criteria (see 'knowledge, skills and experience').

Applications should be sent by email to jobs@piac.asn.au

Inquiries about the position should be addressed to:

Douglas McCloskey
Program Director, Energy and Water
dmccloskey@piac.asn.au