

## Position Description

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### Senior Solicitor, Energy, Strategic Litigation

Fixed term 24-month contract  
Full time five days per week  
Sydney based

#### 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 rights; and the fair use of police powers.

#### 2. PIAC's work in Climate Change and Energy

Energy market institutions and governments are reforming complex regulatory and policy frameworks to meet international emissions targets. The transformation offers an opportunity to concurrently reduce domestic energy sector emissions and provide the community with sustainably affordable energy into the future. However, more urgent action is needed to limit global average temperature rises to 1.5°C while minimising the impact on the community.

PIAC develops legal and policy responses to climate change to mitigate its disproportionate effect on groups already experiencing disadvantage, and help ensure Australia's regulatory framework and policy settings deliver a just and fair transition to a zero- carbon energy system and society.

Our 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 limit disadvantage, and people can make meaningful choices in effective markets without experiencing detriment if they cannot participate.

#### 3. Position overview

Reporting to the Principal Solicitor, the Senior Solicitor will work both with PIAC's strategic litigation practice and PIAC's energy and water program to undertake public interest litigation and casework and contribute to policy development.

The Senior Solicitor will investigate potential consumer-led legal and regulatory interventions that support a rapid and just transition to a zero-carbon energy system that does not create or deepen disadvantage. The Senior Solicitor will also engage and collaborate with advocacy

partners to identify opportunities for legal intervention, provide advice and lead strategic legal actions.

PIAC's strategic litigation practice undertakes public interest litigation and strategic casework to seek systems change and achieve public interest outcomes consistent with PIAC's priorities.

PIAC 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.

#### **4. Major accountabilities**

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

#### **5. Knowledge, skills and experience**

##### **Essential**

- 5.1 Eligible for a practicing certificate in NSW.
- 5.2 At least five years' post-admission experience in legal practice, including experience relevant to climate change and/or energy law.
- 5.3 Sound legal casework skills, including experience in litigation and demonstrated ability to undertake high quality legal research and analysis.
- 5.4 Capacity to identify and develop innovative legal strategies to address public interest issues.
- 5.5 Demonstrated experience working with clients from a diverse range of backgrounds, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people living with disability, young people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- 5.6 Excellent writing skills for the drafting of legal documents, submissions, reports and other publications.
- 5.7 Sound interpersonal skills and experience developing formal and informal relationships and networks with clients and stakeholders.
- 5.8 Experience supervising other members of a legal team.
- 5.9 Demonstrated commitment to social justice.

##### **Desirable**

- 5.10 Knowledge of the regulatory environment relating to electricity and gas markets in Australia.
- 5.11 Litigation or corporate advisory legal experience in law relevant to energy markets, in competition law or in other regulatory processes.

## **6. Conditions**

Annual salary range: \$106,108 to \$110,538 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.

The position is offered five days per week, on a fixed term 24-month contract.

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](mailto:jobs@piac.asn.au)

Inquiries about the position should be addressed to:

Michelle Cohen  
Principal Solicitor  
[mcohen@piac.asn.au](mailto:mcohen@piac.asn.au)