

Position Description

Social Worker, Women's Homelessness Prevention Service

12-month fixed term contract
Part time three days a week
Sydney based

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.

2. Women's Homelessness Prevention Service

The Women's Homelessness Prevention Service (WHPS) is a new service as part of PIAC's Homeless Persons' Legal Service (HPLS), providing specialist, holistic support including both legal and non-legal assistance to women. It particularly seeks to reach victim-survivors of domestic and family violence who

- are at risk of being evicted, homeless, and/or facing other barriers to accessing and maintaining safe and stable housing and/or
- have been policed or charged with criminal offences.

The service is overseen and coordinated by a Senior Civil Solicitor and also includes a Criminal Solicitor, Social Worker, Paralegal and specially trained pro bono solicitors, working as part of HPLS. It is guided by an advisory group of women from diverse backgrounds with lived experience of homelessness and domestic and family violence.

The service provides legal and social work assistance in-person and by phone across a broad range of legal issues including tenancy, fines, Centrelink issues, credit/debt, victims support and criminal law. Through the service's casework and input from our advisory group, we also identify opportunities to advocate for systemic responses to issues of homelessness, domestic and family violence facing women.

3. Position overview

Reporting to the Senior Civil Solicitor WHPS, the Social Worker supports clients to achieve better outcomes through holistic service delivery. The Social Worker will provide direct client support, including through facilitated referrals, and assisting with non-legal issues.

Solicitors and the Social Worker will work together during the initial consultation to identify legal and non-legal issues connected to the client's homelessness or vulnerability to homelessness. They will work collaboratively with clients develop and deliver a plan to address these issues, including through appropriate facilitated referrals.

4. Major accountabilities

Direct Service Provision

Provide high quality social work support and advocacy for clients including:

1. Working with clients to identify their needs and goals and developing plans to address these
2. Triage/risk assessment around client safety
3. Providing clients with information and advice in relation to a range of non-legal issues, such as safety planning, family violence, housing, income and mental health support
4. Advocating for access to relevant services and making referrals
5. Offering brief periods of intensive support to women facing homelessness.
6. Liaising with court staff and supporting clients to navigate legal systems, including outreach where required
7. Delivering secondary consultations to HPLS pro bono lawyers about non-legal issues impacting on clients.

Engagement with key stakeholders

8. Develop and maintain strong working relationships with key stakeholders, including justice services staff, community lawyers, and community-based support and health services.
9. Contribute to resource development, educational activities, advocacy and law reform activities

Governance

10. Maintaining accurate case files and related documents, collect and record data, and assist with reporting, including for external funders and governance requirements.
11. Supporting the successful implementation of PIAC's Reconciliation Action Plan.

5. Knowledge, skills and experience

Essential

1. 4-5 year's experience in social work and an ability to work independently with limited supervision
2. Experience in trauma-informed service delivery.
3. Experience working with victims of domestic and family violence or sexual assault and/or with homelessness and housing service consumers.
4. Demonstrated ability to keep accurate records and maintain client confidentiality.
5. Demonstrated ability to build networks and partnerships.
6. Demonstrated commitment to working in a collaborative and co-operative manner to achieve outcomes for clients, as well as the ability to work independently and take initiative as required.
7. Demonstrated ability to manage a busy caseload and prioritise effectively.
8. Excellent interpersonal communications skills, with the demonstrated ability to communicate effectively with staff, clients, external stakeholders and organisations.

Desirable

9. Demonstrated knowledge of issues facing women involved in the legal system, including First Nations women, women with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women with disabilities and women from LGBTIQ+ communities.
10. Tertiary qualifications in welfare, social sciences or related discipline.
11. Membership to the Australian Association of Social Workers

6. Conditions

Annual salary range: \$89,790 to \$93,858 (pro rata) plus leave loading and superannuation. This is Level 5 on PIAC's salary scale. 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 part time for a fixed term of 12 months.

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:

Tara Imrie

Senior Solicitor

jobs@piac.asn.au