

Position Description

Policy Lawyer/Senior Policy Lawyer

Fixed term 1 year contract

Full time

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 strategic litigation practice

PIAC's Strategic Litigation practice is its largest team. It undertakes strategic legal casework, specialising in test cases, and brings legal expertise to systemic policy and law reform issues. The team both leads and contributes to priority projects that seek social justice and systems change.

3. Position overview

Reporting to the Principal Solicitor, the Policy Lawyer/Senior Policy Lawyer will work as part of PIAC's Strategic Litigation practice to deliver effective legal and policy advocacy.

We are seeking an experienced policy lawyer who will exercise initiative, judgment and have significant responsibility in managing their workload. The person in this role must have the ability to manage a diverse range of stakeholder relationships, and a commitment to working in partnership with a variety of stakeholders, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations, and people with disability and disability rights organisations.

The Policy Lawyer/Senior Policy Lawyer will contribute to delivering projects including PIAC's Aboriginal Child Protection Project and 'A Fairer NDIS' work.

4. Major accountabilities

- 4.1 Develop and deliver policy and advocacy strategies for achieving PIAC's priorities.

- 4.2 Draft submissions, reports, articles and media releases to communicate PIAC's policy positions and influence decision makers and the community.
- 4.3 Work with lawyers from the Strategic Litigation team to:
- provide legal advice and assistance to Project partners; and
 - identify and develop opportunities for public interest litigation to effect systemic change as part of the broader priorities identified for the Project and in other areas of PIAC's work as required.
- 4.4 Maintain and develop relationships with key organisations and other stakeholders relevant to PIAC's projects, including Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander organisations and disability rights organisations.
- 4.5 Support and/or supervise policy officers, junior solicitors, interns and paralegal staff.
- 4.6 Provide regular reports for the PIAC Board and funders addressing outcomes and impact.
- 4.7 Support the successful implementation of PIAC's Reconciliation Action Plan

5. Knowledge, skills and experience

Essential

- 5.1 A law degree and at least 4 years' experience working in law and policy.
- 5.2 High level strategic analysis and policy development skills with the capacity to identify and develop innovative strategies to address public interest issues.
- 5.3 Demonstrated understanding of legislative, law reform and political processes.
- 5.4 Exceptional communication skills, with experience drafting submissions, position papers, reports, other publications and advocating evidence-based policy positions to government and other decision-makers.
- 5.5 Demonstrated ability to work effectively with clients and stakeholders from a diverse range of backgrounds, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people with a disability.
- 5.6 Strong project management skills, including a demonstrated capacity to achieve outcomes individually and/or in a team environment and to produce quality results on time.
- 5.7 Sound interpersonal skills and experience building strong, collaborative relationships and networks with a diverse range of stakeholders.
- 5.8 Capacity to provide effective supervision of policy officers, junior solicitors, interns and volunteers.

6. Conditions

Annual salary range: \$93,920 to \$115,623 depending on 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.

This position is offered full-time on a fixed term 1 year 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

Inquiries about the position should be addressed to:

Jonathan Hall Spence
Acting Principal Solicitor
jhallspence@piac.asn.au