# Position Description

# Solicitor, Strategic Litigation

This is a fixed term position to 30 June 2018

public interest
ADVOCACY CENTRE

## 1. The Public Interest Advocacy Centre

The Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) is an independent, non-profit legal centre. We use litigation, public policy development, communication and training to promote social justice in both practical and strategic ways. For 35 years, we have been tackling difficult issues that have a significant impact upon disadvantaged and marginalised people, ensuring basic rights are enjoyed across the community. Achieving social justice is at the heart of what we do.

We have a reputation for effective advocacy that gets results for individuals and creates sustainable, systemic change. Our work addresses issues such as:

- homelessness;
- access for people with disability to basic services like public transport, education and online services;
- Indigenous disadvantage;
- discrimination against people with mental health conditions;
- access to energy and water for low-income and vulnerable consumers;
- the exercise of police power;
- the rights of people in detention, including the right to proper medical care; and
- government accountability including freedom of information.

## 2. Position overview

Reporting to the Principal Solicitor, the Solicitor will work as part of PIAC's strategic litigation practice to undertake public interest litigation and casework, as well as having input into policy work.

## 3. Major accountabilities

- Work closely with senior lawyers and the Principal Solicitor to provide advice and undertake public interest litigation;
- Plan and manage/contribute to the planning and management of projects to achieve systemic outcomes consistent with PIAC's strategic priorities;
- Research and develop legal and policy positions related to PIAC's work;
- Draft submissions, reports and, as required, articles and media releases to communicate PIAC's policy positions to decision makers and the community.

## 4. Knowledge, skills and experience

**Essential**

- Eligible for a practicing certificate in NSW.
- A minimum of 18 months post-admission general litigation experience relevant to PIAC's legal practice.
- Demonstrated research and analytical skills.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Demonstrated commitment to social justice.

**Desirable**

- Experience in 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.

## 5. Salary

This position offered full-time, with part-time hours negotiable with the successful candidate.

Salary range: $78,175 - $89,198 (dependent 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.

## 6. Applications

Your application should be no longer than 5 pages in total. An application should comprise a cover letter, CV, and a succinct statement outlining your suitability for the role with reference to the selection criteria.

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:

Laura Lombardo
Principal Solicitor
llombardo@piac.asn.au
02 8898 6500

**Closing Date: close of business Monday 25 September 2017.**