

Position description

AGS Indigenous Seconded Lawyer or Law Graduate Public Interest Advocacy Centre



This is an exciting opportunity for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander law graduate or junior lawyer with an interest in human rights and social justice to work at the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) in Sydney.

PIAC is an independent, non-profit legal centre. 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. We use litigation, public policy development, communication and training to promote social justice in a practical and strategic way.

The Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) is pleased to support this position as a secondment to PIAC, as part of its commitment to reconciliation and *pro bono*.

It is a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in strategic litigation, community outreach and law reform work with professional mentoring and training.

This is a full time paid position for a 12-month period. Flexible work arrangements may be considered.

1. Employment status

This position will be a pro bono secondment arrangement between AGS and PIAC. You will be employed directly by AGS (a group within the Attorney-General's Department) and will be reporting to the AGS National Manager Pro Bono Services. You will also attend AGS for training and other events from time-to-time.

2. Position overview

You will work at PIAC advising clients primarily through PIAC's Indigenous Justice Program (IJP) and Homeless Persons' Legal Service (HPLS). You will also have opportunities to undertake related policy development work and strategic litigation.

You will be accountable to PIAC's Principal Solicitor, with day-to-day supervision and mentoring from other Senior Solicitors at PIAC.

Because you will be employed by AGS, certain restrictions will apply to the work you can do at PIAC to avoid conflicts of interest.

3. Major accountabilities

There is some flexibility in the position, and the focus of your work may vary according to your interests and the needs of PIAC. As a guide, it is expected you will:

- Undertake legal casework on behalf of HPLS and IJP clients, under the supervision of the relevant Senior Solicitor;
- Assist the IJP to develop relationships throughout NSW, encouraging referrals to PIAC and identifying public interest issues for strategic litigation;
- Support the HPLS Senior Solicitor to undertake case work and to supervise work by pro bono lawyers;
- Develop responses to policy issues, including by assisting to draft submissions, reports and articles;
- Help deliver PIAC's Training and Community Legal Education Program, including by preparing resources and training materials; and
- Report to the AGS National Manager, Pro Bono Services on issues relating to the secondment.

4. Training and mentoring

The Graduate/Lawyer will have the opportunity to participate in training and development provided by AGS. The Lawyer will also be able to participate in all training offered to PIAC and HPLS solicitors.

The Graduate/Lawyer will have access to an internal mentor (at PIAC or the AGS) and an external mentor (an Aboriginal or Torres Strait person in the community legal sector).

5. Knowledge, skills and experience

Essential

- This position is open only to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people and is intended by AGS and PIAC as a special measure to promote substantive equality.
- Completed an LLB or JD law degree in Australia;
- Demonstrated ability to manage competing demands and deliver high-quality results on time;
- Legal advocacy and writing skills;
- Demonstrated ability to achieve outcomes individually and/or in a team environment; and
- Well-developed interpersonal skills and the ability to form relationships with stakeholders.

Desirable

- Admitted or eligible for admission as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of NSW;
- At least one year's experience (pre- or post-graduation) in areas relevant to PIAC's legal practice;

6. Remuneration

Salary will be negotiated with the successful applicant, depending on their skills and experience. The successful applicant will be covered by the Attorney-General's Department Enterprise Agreement 2016.