

Position description

PIAC/The Shopfront Youth Legal Centre Aboriginal Social Justice Graduate Program



- Structured 2-year program for law graduates
- Financial support and paid Practical Legal Training
- Transition into solicitor role with professional mentoring
- Identified position for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Flexible work arrangements available

Overview

This is an exciting opportunity for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander law graduate to start their career working with two well-established and highly respected legal centres at the forefront of social justice.

The Aboriginal Social Justice Graduate Program combines support for achieving admission as a lawyer with hands-on legal experience, professional mentoring and training to provide the foundations for a successful career in the law.

About Shopfront and PIAC

The Shopfront Youth Legal Centre provides free legal advice and assistance for homeless and disadvantaged young people aged 25 years and younger. It is a *pro bono* project of Herbert Smith Freehills, in partnership with Mission Australia and The Salvation Army.

The Public Interest Advocacy Centre is a community legal centre, specialising in strategic litigation and systemic advocacy on human rights and social justice issues. PIAC's work combines legal advice and representation, research and policy development, training, media and political engagement.

Program components and structure

The program runs for a total of two years, in two phases. It can be tailored to suit the requirements of the different GDLP course structures on offer.

In phase one (6-12 months), the successful candidate will be supported to achieve admission as a lawyer in NSW, undertaking the Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice (GDLP, or equivalent qualification), while working part-time in a paralegal role at The Shopfront and PIAC to satisfy the requirements of practical legal training. This will involve:

- A bursary for course fees.
- Paid part-time employment plus living allowance, with study leave for examinations as required.
- Upon completion of GDLP coursework, full-time employment as a graduate, until admission as a solicitor.
- Payment of the fee for admission as a lawyer to the Supreme Court of NSW.

In phase two, the successful candidate will be employed full-time as a solicitor. The solicitor will provide individual casework assistance to clients of The Shopfront, while working at PIAC on strategic responses to issues arising in that casework – including the use of police powers against young people, the impact of child protection laws and policies and systemic responses to youth homelessness.

The successful candidate will be employed by PIAC and work at The Shopfront under a secondment arrangement.

1. Major accountabilities

You will:

- Assist solicitors to provide legal services to clients of The Shopfront and PIAC, including through research, drafting and paralegal support;
- As a solicitor, provide legal assistance under supervision, including advice and legal casework in criminal and civil law, to clients of The Shopfront and PIAC;
- Contribute to policy and law reform work, including through research and drafting submissions, reports and articles;
- Other duties as reasonably required.

2. Knowledge, skills and experience

Essential

- This position is open only to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.
- Completed LLB or JD law degree in Australia;
- Demonstrated ability to manage competing demands and deliver high-quality results on time;
- Legal research and writing skills;
- Demonstrated ability to achieve outcomes individually and/or in a team environment; and
- Well-developed interpersonal skills.

3. Remuneration

Remuneration will be negotiated with the successful candidate, with flexibility for GDLP course requirements and other commitments. As an indicative package:

Year one:

- \$65,258 (pro rata), plus superannuation.
- Anticipated 2 days per week during GDLP, plus living allowance \$200

Year two:

- \$75,259, plus superannuation.

PIAC is a Public Benevolent Institution and offers salary packaging.