

Lawyer or Senior Lawyer - First Nations program

Position description

This role will help develop and implement EJA's program to support First Nations communities in Victoria to care for Country. You will work closely with First Nations individuals, organisations and communities to understand their legal needs and develop strategies to overcome the legal barriers that stop First Nations peoples from exercising their caring for Country rights and obligations. You will work with our Indigenous Community Engagement Officer to deliver the project.

This is an Aboriginal Designated Position, classified under 'special measures' of section 12 of the Equal Employment Opportunity Act 2010. Only Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are eligible to apply.

About us

Environmental Justice Australia is a leading public interest legal organisation. Our lawyers and campaigners act on behalf of people and community organisations to safeguard health; protect magnificent forests, rivers and wildlife; and tackle the climate crisis. We partner with communities and other social justice organisations because we are stronger together.

Using innovative approaches, we find the best legal solutions to climate and environmental issues. Our team works inside and outside the courtroom to make the system fair and just for all. We work on issues and in areas of Australia where we can have the most impact.

Our vision of healthy, empowered communities depends upon a broader vision of a reconciled, just and healthy Australia.

Our values

Collaboration: We work in partnership with community and other organisations because we are in this together.

Respect: We treat everyone with respect and we value different perspectives as we know we can learn something from everyone.

Ambition: We aim high and are at all times focused on achieving maximum impact for nature, climate and communities.

Positivity: We maintain hope and a positive approach because we believe we can change the world.

Justice: We are driven by our sense of justice – it's at the core of everything we do.



Responsibilities

Alongside a First Nations Community Engagement Officer person, this role will:

- Design and deliver the caring for Country project.
- Investigate and identify intersections between environmental and natural resource management laws and Indigenous interests in Victoria.
- Engage with First Nations communities to identify their legal needs around caring for Country and collaboratively develop options for responding to these needs.
- In conjunction with other EJA lawyers, deliver legal and/or policy strategies (litigation, law reform, other legal services) for clients and partners.
- Provide high-quality legal advice (both written and oral) and representation to Aboriginal individuals, organisations and communities in matters related to environmental law.
- Provide ongoing support to EJA's partners and clients in pursuing legal outcomes.
- Help deliver a series of presentations and written case studies to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations interested in our approach and outcomes.
- Represent EJA in meetings and the media, manage budgets, establish and maintain funding relationships, and provide program reporting.
- Support and supervise EJA team members to provide high-quality legal advice and representation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, partners and communities.
- Contribute to the EJA team and the running of the organisation and office, including volunteer supervision, and participate in all relevant aspects of EJA planning, review and reporting.

Selection criteria – skills, qualifications and experience required

Essential

- Currently admitted or eligible for admission to practise law in Australia.
- Post-graduation legal experience 3+ years (for the lawyer role) or 5+ (for the senior lawyer role) in Australia.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills including demonstrated ability to communicate legal concepts in clear language and to prepare written legal advice.
- Ability to work well under limited supervision.
- A strong understanding of the issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and a demonstrated commitment to justice for First Nations people.
- Initiative, self-motivation, the ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a collaborative team environment, and the ability to work to tight deadlines.
- Experience in planning, organising, and managing projects and events.
- Experience managing and supervising staff.

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Desirable

- Experience in public or administrative law, ideally environmental law.
- Volunteer management experience.
- Commitment to environmental and social justice issues.

Location

Naarm (Melbourne) preferred but other locations in Victoria will also be possible.

Terms and conditions

Terms and conditions for these roles will be negotiated based on the following:

- The position is full time, but 4 days a week will be considered.
- The role is fixed-term for 2 years, with the possibility of extension beyond this date depending on funding.
- The role is based in Naarm (Melbourne) at our office in Carlton but other locations in Victoria are also possible on a work from home basis..
- The role will require travel in Victoria and interstate.
- Out of hours work is required occasionally.
- The position reports to a Senior Specialist Lawyer.
- Terms and conditions of employment are based on the Community Legal Sector Multi-Business Agreement with competitive over-agreement salary and conditions. Salary range is dependent on experience - \$96,200 to \$101,900 for the lawyer role or \$107,600 to \$113,800 for the senior lawyer role (plus superannuation).

How to apply

Applications should be submitted to jobs@pipelinetalent.com.au with the subject line “Enviro Justice – First Nations Lawyer”.

Your application should include:

- a cover letter (maximum 3 pages) detailing why you want to work for Environmental Justice Australia, responding to the 8 selection criteria as detailed above.
- an up-to-date CV of no more than 5 pages which clearly details your relevant skills and experience.

For more information contact Lesina Gibbs-Manuatu, Talent Acquisition Team Leader, Pipeline Talent

Email: lesina@pipelinetalent.com.au

(M) 0408 027 880 or (Ph) 02 8001 6603

