Criminal/Generalist Lawyer

First Step Legal (a unique Health Justice Partnership)

**If you are committed to equal justice for people battling mental health and addition issues, we have a compelling opportunity for you to contribute to the success of health justice partnerships in Victoria.**

About First Step Legal

**First Step Legal** (FSL) operates as a Health Justice Partnership (HJP) within First Step, a not for profit mental health and addiction clinic in St Kilda. FSL is a unique Community Legal Centre providing pro bono, legal advice, casework and representation to among the most marginalised in the community, in way that is truly innovative.

FSL scaffolds support around clients struggling with mental health and addiction, by achieving legal and court outcomes supportive of their continued recovery and rehabilitation in the community. HJPs such as FSL deliver their clients the benefit of co-location, clear and simple referral pathways and truly integrated case management.

A holistic approach and our continuing efforts to champion HJPs and therapeutic, compassionate legal practice via law reform and advocacy opportunities uniquely positions us to embark on two new outreach programs with The Alfred (MH Outpatients) and Star Health (Family Violence Program).

This period of expansion has already seen FSL’s small team, grow to include a principal lawyer, legal case manager, project lead, family lawyer and a legal administrator plus several volunteer paralegals (see the FSL organisational chart). FSL will continue to work with impact predominately in relation to criminal law and family violence matters. Assistance is now also able to be provided with family law, infringements, debt and other matters on an ad hoc basis.

About the Role

You will be delivering excellent criminal law and general law services across all programs under an HJP model both at First Step, as well as at FSL’s outreach projects. You will therefore work collaboratively with the existing FSL team lawyers, legal volunteers and health professionals. You will also inform our policy and advocacy work.

To learn about First Step Legal, visit <https://www.firststep.org.au/first_step_legal>

Please see the attached position description. **For further information** please contact Michelle Goldberg at [michelle@firststep.org.au](mailto:michelle@firststep.org.au) .

Salary and Conditions

This is a **Part-time position** (0.6-0.8 FTE, 22.5-30 hrs per/week subject to negotiation) for a fixed term of two years. The continuation of this role is contingent on securing ongoing funding and is subject to a 6 month probationary period. Conditions are set out under the SCHADS Award. Salary is negotiable, subject to skills and experience.

Applications

Applications can be made by apply by forwarding a cover letter, CV and responses to the key selection criteria contained in the position description to **Emel Ramadan** by email: [emel@firststep.org.au](mailto:emel@firststep.org.au)

Applications close midnight on **10 March 2021.**