

Position Description

Research Assistant – Towards Truth

Identified Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander position

12-month contract initially, 2-3 days/week

Location: Sydney, with flexible working supported

1. The Public Interest Advocacy Centre

The Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) is a leading social justice law and policy centre. We build a fairer, stronger society by helping to change laws, policies and practices that cause injustice and inequality.

Our work combines:

- Legal advice and representation, specialising in test cases and strategic casework;
- Research, analysis and policy development; and
- Advocacy for systems change and public interest outcomes.

We actively seek to collaborate and partner in our work to maximise its impact. Our priorities include reducing homelessness; First Nations justice; climate change and social justice; equality and non-discrimination; asylum seeker health rights; and the fair use of police powers.

2. Towards Truth Project

Towards Truth is a collaboration between PIAC and the Indigenous Law Centre (ILC) at UNSW that responds directly to the call of the Uluru Statement from the Heart for truth-telling.

We are building a database and accessible website that will provide an accurate, detailed map of the ways in which Australian laws and policies have impacted upon the lives of First Nations people throughout Australian history.

The truth-telling process called for in the Uluru Statement from the Heart is to be overseen by the Makarrata Commission and will be closely connected with the process of moving towards treaty making. Towards Truth is designed as a tool that can be used by the Makarrata Commission, as well as by a broad cross-section of the community, to engage in truth-telling.

This is a bold and ambitious project that is the first of its kind – nationally or internationally.

3. Position overview

The Research Assistant will report to the Project Director – Towards Truth at PIAC, and work under their supervision and direction. The Research Assistant will work closely on a day-to-day basis with the Project Coordinator and Project Officer. The Research

Assistant will support the Project team to develop the legal and policy research and entries in the law and policy database.

This position is open only to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people. It is intended by PIAC and the ILC as a special measure to promote substantive equality.

4. Major accountabilities

1. Research, analyse and input research on specific subject areas into the Towards Truth database.
2. Develop and review research requests for pro bono lawyers and interns under the direction of the Project Coordinator.
3. Provide input into database design and modifications and eventual website design.
4. Substantive review of material entered into the database by pro bono lawyers and interns.
5. Other duties as required, including administrative assistance to support the project.

5. Selection criteria

Essential

6. Demonstrated understanding of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander history, culture and society;
7. Demonstrated research and analytical skills;
8. Demonstrated organizational skills;
9. Good interpersonal skills and the capacity to develop formal and informal relationships and networks in order to engage and build rapport with stakeholders;
10. Proven ability to establish and maintain relationships with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations;
11. Understanding of the law;
12. Understanding of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and a commitment to its implementation; and
13. Demonstrated ability to work cooperatively as part of a team.

Desirable

14. Law degree, or an advanced stage of legal studies.

6. Conditions

Annual salary range: \$68,060 to \$72,971 (pro rata - Level 3 on PIAC's salary scale) 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.

The position is offered 2 to 3 days per week or up to 22.5 hours per week, with an opportunity to negotiate hours and flexible working arrangements with the successful candidate.

PIAC requires all employees to have up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination.

7. Applications

Your application should be no longer than 6 pages in total. An application should comprise a cover letter, resume, and a statement outlining your suitability for the role with reference to the selection criteria (see 'knowledge, skills and experience').

Applications should be sent by email to jobs@piac.asn.au

Inquiries about the position should be addressed to:

Daniela Gavshon
Program Director, Truth and Accountability
dgavshon@piac.asn.au