

Position description

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Position title | Managing Lawyer – Housing Justice |
| Reports to | Legal Director |
| Position type | Ongoing |
| Hours | Full-time |
| Salary Range | \$129,734 - \$135,159 |
| Award & classification | Social Community Home Care & Disability Services (SCHADS) Award, Level 7.1-7.3 |
| Location | 118A Carlisle St, St Kilda + flexibility to work remotely |

Position summary

The Managing Lawyer plays a critical leadership role in advancing our Housing Justice priority—championing the right to safe, secure, and affordable housing for people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.

Alongside providing high-quality legal advice and representation, the Managing Lawyer will lead, supervise, and support a small team, while working collaboratively across the broader legal practice.

The role also contributes to community legal education, systemic advocacy, and strategic initiatives, helping to drive sustainable, sector-wide impact and meaningful change for clients and communities.

Key responsibilities

- **Legal advice and representation:** Provide advice and representation in tenancy law and associated areas of law.
- **Nominated Person for the Legal Practice:** Act as a Nominated Person under the Risk Management Guide.
- **Team management and leadership:** Lead the day-to-day management of lawyers, secondees and volunteers, modelling and upholding Southside Justice’s values, goals and professional standards.
- **Supervision and capability building:** Provide regular supervision, coaching and development to team members, building their technical skills, reflective practice and capacity to contribute to Southside Justice’s goals.

- **Outreach and community engagement:** Manage and attend outreach locations and community organisations to deliver legal services and strengthen relationships with partner agencies.
- **Legal education:** Lead the development and delivery of legal education sessions for community members and partner organisations, ensuring content is legally accurate, accessible and responsive to needs.
- **Service quality and improvement:** Work alongside the Legal Director and senior staff to continuously review, refine and strengthen direct client service delivery in line with organisational strategy and community needs.
- **Stakeholder relationships:** Support the Legal Director and senior staff to strengthen Southside Justice's external partnerships and represent the organisation in key networks.
- **Team culture:** Lead a healthy, productive and supportive team culture where work practices, decision-making and behaviour reflect Southside Justice's values and commitment to trauma-informed, culturally safe practice.
- **Policy and systemic advocacy:** Collaborate with the Policy & Advocacy Director to identify and address systemic issues in the law, and support lawyers to meaningfully participate in policy, law reform and advocacy work.
- **Professional development:** Engage in ongoing professional development, supervision and reflective practice to maintain and strengthen legal expertise, wellbeing and service quality.
- **Organisational improvement:** Lead and support initiatives that enhance organisational systems, processes and impact, fostering a culture of innovation, accountability and service excellence.

Selection criteria

Qualifications

- Qualified lawyer with a current unrestricted practicing certificate in Victoria (or eligibility to obtain one).

Essential skills & experience

- Demonstrated ability to deliver high-quality legal services, ideally in tenancy or social justice matters.
- Strong understanding of the systemic and lived challenges faced by people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.
- Exceptional interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to build trust and engage effectively with diverse communities and stakeholders.

- Collaborative and adaptable, thriving in a team environment while confidently managing independent responsibilities.
- Driven by purpose, with a passion for using the law as a tool for positive social change through community education, advocacy and systemic reform.

Desirable skills & experience

- A minimum of five years post admission experience as a lawyer.
- Prior experience in tenancy law.

Benefits & culture

- 5 weeks paid annual leave (17.5% leave loading), plus bonus leave in between Christmas and New Year.
- 4% above the Award.
- 16 weeks paid parental leave, plus paid superannuation for 12 months.
- Salary packaging.
- Hybrid and flexible working conditions.
- With 100% of our team strongly agreeing that Southside Justice is a great place to work we can provide a culture of a values driven, inclusive and positive workplace.

Diversity & inclusion

We believe that a diverse organisation enhances our ability to serve our community and achieve our mission. We encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people identifying as LGBTQIA+, people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and people with lived experience of disability.

Other relevant information

To be eligible to apply for this position you must have the right to work in Australia (i.e., be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, permanent resident or hold a valid work permit or visa).

All appointments are subject to reference and pre-employment checks. A preferred candidate with an adverse employment history or criminal record will not necessarily be precluded from employment with Southside Justice and each application will be considered on its merits.



To apply

To be considered for this role, please apply via **EthicalJobs**. Please ensure your application specifically addresses the **key selection criteria**.

Applications close on **9am on Monday 20 July 2026**. We are aiming to interview successful applicants between 27 – 30 July 2026.

If you would like to discuss this role in more detail, please contact Maie Gibney, Legal Director via email at maie@southsidejustice.org.au

We recognise that applicants may use AI tools to support their applications. However, we encourage you to ensure your application reflects your own voice, experience and personality. We're keen to understand what you bring to the role.