



Engagement and Advocacy Manager

Position Title:	Engagement and Advocacy Manager
Reports To:	Executive Manager
Classification:	Part-time
Location:	Marrickville & Camperdown

About Addison Road Community Organisation

Addison Road Community Organisation (Addi Road) is a not-for-profit, independent organisation supporting arts and culture, championing social justice and caring for our environment. We manage a 9-acre Crown Land, heritage-listed, former army depot site, won for community use in 1976. Almost 50 years on, we still provide a safe hub for local community groups to gather and share cultures and stories. Addi Road has a dedicated volunteer workforce of approximately 400 individuals across multiple programs and both sites.

About the Role

The Engagement and Advocacy Manager is a senior leadership role that will shape and drive impactful advocacy, campaigns and community mobilisation to advocate and educate in sustainable, fair and resilient food systems. Central to this role is a genuine understanding of food systems thinking: the ability to critically analyse the structural drivers of food insecurity, and to champion agroecology, regenerative and alternative farming, and community-led food growing as viable, equitable alternatives to industrial agribusiness models. This approach draws on the work of international movements, NGOs and multilateral institutions, which advocate for diversified, agroecological and community-governed food systems in place of concentrated, input-intensive industrial agriculture.

Strategy and Vision

- 1. Recognise opportunities for innovative action and create an environment of allies where alternative viewpoints are welcome**
- 2. Set direction by prioritising and organising actions and resources to achieve objectives and contribute to national strategy development and policy critique and alternatives.**
- 3. Develop and organise activities to secure collaboration among sector actors to drive change**

Key Responsibilities

Build capacity and infrastructure for advocacy

- Develop, articulate and advance a clear, strategic framework addressing the structural drivers of food insecurity and failing food systems, informed by an understanding of agroecology, alternative farming and food growing systems, and their contrast with conventional agribusiness models.
- Advocate for meaningful systems change while elevating viable alternatives that prioritise equity, access and ecological sustainability.
- Provide high-level policy analysis and strategic advice to inform advocacy priorities and organisational positioning, drawing on food systems and agroecological frameworks.

- Lead the development and writing of evidence-based submissions, reports and sector communications drawing on program data and community impact.
- Research and maintain a strong understanding of relevant policy and legislation affecting food justice, sustainable agriculture and community services.
- Lead Addi Road's political engagement work and build a presence in local, regional and state policy conversations.
- Support Addi Road's Media Advisor and Communications and Engagement Manager with awareness-raising collateral, relevant policy pieces and sector news for media and communications outputs, such as mail-outs, press releases, web pages and other content.
- Prepare internal briefings, updates and policy advice for leadership and Board decision-making.

Strategic Leadership and Delivery

- Provide strategic leadership of community engagement with food systems transformation, ensuring alignment with organisational strategy, community priorities, and sector best practice.
- Develop, implement and continuously review an integrated Advocacy Strategy grounded in agroecological and alternative food systems principles, with responsibility for program sustainability, growth and impact.
- Coordinate and sustain systems-level work across food justice, environmental and social equity agendas.
- Provide regular strategic briefings to the CEO, leadership team and Board on advocacy progress, risks, and emerging opportunities.

Strengthen networks and collective power

- Map and engage key actors to build relationships across civil society, community groups, agroecology and alternative farming networks, and aligned movements.
- Build, establish and strengthen key alliances and networks, allowing Addi Road to actively participate in and influence existing movements rather than duplicating efforts.
- Represent the organisation in sector forums, peak bodies and cross-sector initiatives, contributing specialist expertise in food justice, sustainable food systems and community wellbeing.
- Contribute a distinctive cross-sectoral analysis to wider conversations, drawing connections between the political and economic systems that drive food insecurity, climate change, labour exploitation and environmental degradation, and the alternatives offered by agroecological and community-based farming models.
- Cultivate effective relationships with Government officials and stakeholders, external policy experts and civil society to progress food systems advocacy strategy.

Mobilise and activate communities

- Develop and implement a mobilisation strategy that identifies, engages and supports networks and allies to advocate for food systems change, including alternative and community-led farming and food growing initiatives.
- Work closely with program teams to ethically include lived experience and increase community agency.
- Support culturally safe and participatory consultation and engagement processes.
- Develop instructional education and communications materials and resources that empower communities to take action to address systemic barriers to food access and to understand alternatives to industrial agribusiness.

Financial and Resource Management

- Exercise delegated authority for financial planning, forecasting and budget oversight across the Food Justice Program.
- Ensure sound financial governance, risk mitigation and compliance with funding agreements.

Teamwork

- Collaborate and actively participate in staff meetings and events.
- Provide and facilitate content for reporting, communications and fundraising.
- Maintain and update organisational databases and record management systems and assist with data collection from various sources.
- Perform other duties as requested by your manager and be a proactive team member.

Skills, Knowledge & Experience

- Highly developed written and verbal communication skills, including preparation of high-level reports and submissions.
- A strong understanding of food systems, agroecology, and alternative and regenerative farming and food growing models, and how these compare with conventional agribusiness, in the tradition of frameworks developed by bodies involved in Sustainable Food Systems orgs and institutions.
- Understanding of grassroots campaigning including strategy, supporter mobilisation, and research & analysis to drive systems change
- Experience leading and supporting advocacy initiatives that influence government policy and sector reform.
- Proven ability to establish and maintain strategic relationships, alliances and networks across community organisations, civil society, peak bodies, movements, experts and other stakeholders.
- Experience developing and implementing monitoring, evaluation and impact reporting frameworks.
- Demonstrated experience identifying and managing operational and program risks.

Desirable

- A genuine passion for food justice, equity, agroecology and community empowerment.
- Experience working with or alongside communities experiencing disadvantage or food insecurity.
- Existing networks within the food justice, sustainable agriculture, social services, or not-for-profit sector.
- Strong understanding of relevant legislation, regulatory requirements, and policy frameworks impacting community services, food relief and sustainable agriculture.
- Familiarity with international food systems frameworks and literature, both nationally and internationally, and their application to local and community contexts.

Qualifications

A tertiary qualification in a relevant field such as agroecology, sustainable agriculture, environmental studies, public policy, social sciences, international development, or a related discipline. Candidates with equivalent professional experience and a demonstrated commitment to the not-for-profit sector and food systems change are strongly encouraged to apply.

Personal Attributes

- A collaborative and inclusive leadership style.
- Strong problem-solving skills and the ability to adapt in a dynamic environment.

- High level of initiative and the ability to manage competing priorities.
- A values-driven approach aligned with Addi Road's mission of social justice, environmental sustainability and community care.
- Sound judgement, professionalism and confidentiality.
- Ability to work collaboratively and independently.