

LAWYER

Seniors Law NSW

Lawyer, Seniors Law NSW

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join one of Australia's most successful public interest and social justice organisations. Justice Connect is a not-for-profit organisation with a vision of a fair and strong community in which people have a fair chance at a better life, the community sector is strong and vibrant and the legal/justice and non-legal social systems are fairer and better.

At Justice Connect, we believe everyone deserves a fair chance at a better life. That's why we use the law to help people and community groups left behind by an unfair and complicated legal system. Whether it's a single mother facing homelessness, a local community group struggling with overwhelming regulation or an older person dealing with family violence, real-life problems so often have legal solutions. That's why we connect people with legal help. We use the power of the law to open up the legal system for those locked out of it, and to change the system where it is broken.

The key to our impact is the passionate commitment of our people. We hold ourselves to the highest standards, driven by a desire to deliver real improvements in the lives of the people and communities we help.

Seniors Law NSW was established in 2016 to provide legal assistance to older people experiencing or at risk of abuse through the Health Justice Partnership (HJP) model, in which a lawyer is embedded in a health service to reach vulnerable people who would otherwise likely not access legal help. It builds on the work of Seniors Law Victoria, which has 10 years' experience designing and delivering legal services in health care settings. In 2017, Seniors Law NSW established an HJP with St Vincent's Health Network (SVHN), which consists of St Joseph's Hospital in Auburn and St Vincent's Hospital and Sacred Heart Health Service in Darlinghurst. In June 2019 we established a second HJP with War Memorial Hospital (WMH), a sub-acute hospital in Waverley with a focus on aged rehabilitation services and community-based care. Both HJPs involve our lawyers working on-site several days per week across the various health services. In November 2019 we also launched a Telehealth Pilot Project with SVHN, to examine how Justice Connect can use existing telehealth facilities to increase access to legal help for people experiencing or at risk of elder abuse.

The successful applicant will play an active role in all aspects of the work of Seniors Law NSW, but will predominantly be working within our HJP with SVHN. The successful applicant will have the opportunity to work closely with supportive health teams, older clients, pro bono firms and evaluators.

The role presents a unique opportunity to be part of an innovative, multi-disciplinary service for older clients experiencing or at risk of abuse. The successful applicant will be critical in building on our significant work with SVHN, and in working alongside our Telehealth Project Lead to deliver legal services to patients in rural and regional NSW. With high levels of trust between professionals in a HJP, there is a great capacity to collaborate to address legal and non-legal issues for older people experiencing abuse. This makes the HJP a highly effective model to address complex elder abuse matters, as well as provide opportunities for early intervention.

Not only will the successful applicant receive mentoring, training and support from Justice Connect to develop a specialisation working with older people and in HJPs, but they will also feel part of the supportive health teams within our HJPs, where they can develop their understanding of the health sector and improve both legal and health outcomes for clients who are experiencing significant disadvantage.

If you are enthusiastic, driven, organised, enjoy working with both older clients as well a broad range of stakeholders, and have a minimum of two years post-admission experience, we would like to hear from you. This is a fantastic opportunity to join a very committed team who share your vision of a fairer society.

We welcome and encourage applications for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



Applications close 9am on Friday 31 January 2020



Position description

Position title	Lawyer, Seniors Law NSW
Position reports to	Manager, Seniors Law
Employment status	Fixed term until 30 June 2020, with the possibility of extension subject to funding
Hours	30 hours per week (0.8 FTE)
Salary	Pro rata of \$84,226.79 per annum (lawyer level 1), plus 9.5% superannuation, annual leave loading and generous salary packaging options
Location	Justice Connect (CBD), War Memorial Hospital (Waverley), St Joseph's Hospital (Auburn), St Vincent's Hospital and Sacred Heart Health Service (Darlinghurst)
Closing date	9am on Friday 31 January 2020
For further information	Yvonne Lipianin, Manager, Seniors Law, (02) 8599 2111

Role purpose

Working alongside health professionals in the hospital setting, support older patients identified as experiencing or at risk of elder abuse through the provision of direct legal assistance, and by building the capacity of health staff to respond to the issue through education and secondary consultations. Demonstrate leadership in the design and delivery of our existing HJP with SVHN, working closely with health teams, older clients, pro bono firms and evaluators to deliver improved legal and health outcomes for older people experiencing or at risk of abuse.

Key responsibilities

- Provide secondary consultations on a broad range of legal issues to assist health professionals.
- Conduct intensive legal triage with clients experiencing, or at risk of, elder abuse and other legal issues associated with ageing.
- Provide targeted legal advice and discrete casework on-site at the health services — as well as at outreach locations in the community — and appropriate information, referrals and resources for older people.
- Oversee referrals to pro bono firms, including providing guidance to pro bono lawyers and responding to clients.
- Escalate risk and legal practice management issues to the Manager.
- Develop strategies to be visible within the health services and to engage with health professionals, such as attending case conference meetings with multi-disciplinary teams, aimed at supporting staff to identify potential legal issues and appropriate referral pathways.
- Identify casework trends and systemic problems impacting on older people and engage in various initiatives — including projects, law reform and advocacy activities — to address these problems.
- Develop and maintain collaborative relationships with key stakeholders, in particular, health professionals, pro bono lawyers, evaluators, other community services, networks and funders.



- Develop resources and deliver education promoting the legal rights of older people tailored for health professionals, pro bono lawyers and community members.
- Collect data to assist with monitoring and evaluation.
- Participate in working groups and committees focused on the legal rights of older people.
- Actively participate in promotion activities, including by representing Justice Connect in a range of public forums, delivering presentations and contributing to internal and external publications.
- Assist with the governance, fundraising, reporting and evaluation requirements of the program including reports for the Justice Connect Board and funders.
- Contribute to program and organisation-wide projects
- Perform other duties as directed and necessary to the proper performance of the role.

This job description outlines the current duties and responsibilities of the position. These will be reviewed on a regular basis with the position holder and are subject to change according to the needs and priorities of Justice Connect and our health partners.

Selection criteria	
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admitted or eligible for admission as a legal practitioner in NSW • Ideally, a holder of a NSW driver's licence
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two years' post admission legal practice experience, with a demonstrated understanding of areas of law arising in the context of elder abuse and issues associated with ageing • Experience working, volunteering or participating in the community sector • The following areas of expertise and skills considered an advantage: elder abuse; family violence; health justice partnerships; advocacy; project management
Knowledge, skills & attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interest in issues affecting older people, and sound knowledge of legal issues that commonly arise in the context of ageing and family violence • Sound understanding of legal professional obligations while working remotely in a non-legal setting and a demonstrated ability to comply with these obligations • High levels of motivation, drive, flexibility and a commitment to deliver a client-centred service • High level of communication and negotiation skills with a demonstrated ability to use those skills to build relationships with diverse stakeholders and clients • Public speaking skills to present at conferences and deliver professional development and community education • Excellent legal research skills and ability to give accurate and practical advice • Demonstrated ability to work independently as well as collaboratively within multi-disciplinary teams • Strong attention to detail and organisational skills



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated ability to stay focussed under pressure and appropriately prioritise competing demands • Sound computer skills within a legal practice environment • A commitment to Justice Connect’s objectives and values
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The successful applicant will need to undertake a national police check and working with children check, and provide satisfactory immunisation results prior to commencing work on-site at the hospitals.

Employee benefits

Justice Connect offers employment benefits including salary packaging (making part of your salary tax-free), flexible working arrangements, above-award annual leave provisions, and opportunities for professional development. Justice Connect is an organisation that strives to show leadership, operate sustainably, and demonstrate our effectiveness. You will be rewarded with a workplace culture that is professional, committed, collaborative and creative and where you can make a real difference through your work.

Important information

For further information about Justice Connect and its work please visit www.justiceconnect.org.au

The application process is as follows:

- Applications should be addressed to Yvonne Lipianin, Manager and Principal Lawyer, Seniors Law NSW and should comprise a cover letter, your resume, and a succinct statement outlining your suitability for the role with reference to the selection criteria
- Applications should be emailed to hr@justiceconnect.org.au as a **single word or PDF file** including “Lawyer, Seniors Law NSW via Justice Connect Website” in the email subject line.
- Applications close at 9am, Friday 31 January 2020.

Interviews for the position will most likely be held on Thursday 6 February 2020.

