

Public Interest Law and Court Programs combined team (PILCP) PLT POSITION DESCRIPTION

This document outlines the type of work you can expect from a PLT Public Interest Law and Court Programs Placement at Justice Connect.

1. Public Interest Law and Court Programs

The Court Programs and Public Interest Law teams at Justice Connect were brought together to form a new team in January 2021. The team's new strategy, aligned to Justice Connect's strategy, aims to scale services to reach more people, to strengthen our capacity to respond to emerging legal issues, and to carry out strategic work to address the drivers of unmet legal need and system-level issues.

The PILCP team connects people with the most appropriate legal support through our in-house specialist legal team and network of pro bono partners to:

- Provide tailored self-help tools and information to build the capacity of help-seekers to navigate the legal system
- Identify and refer public interest cases to our pro bono network when cases are likely to have an impact beyond resolving the person's legal issue
- Advocate for systems changes identified in our legal practice to make the legal system fairer for everyone.

The PILCP team focuses on helping people who cannot afford a lawyer to solve legal problems relating to work, financial stress or disasters. The recent bushfires, COVID-19 pandemic and the likely ongoing effects of man-made climate change are surfacing new legal needs. We are committed to responding to new legal needs arising from disasters, and will continue to do so where we have the right skills and capabilities to help.

We try to help people resolve or prevent these legal problems before they get to court, but also support them in court if they are there, so that people have an improved experience of our legal system and a fair chance at a better outcome. The PILCP team has a strong innovation focus and digital strategy to enable a multi-channel and multi-intensity approach to deliver our legal services.

2. What to expect from your placement with the Public Interest Law and Court Programs

Public Interest Law and Court Programs work exposes PLT students to:

- i. Taking instructions from potential help seekers who may be experiencing vulnerability
- ii. Engaging with legal professionals
- iii. Conducting intake of new online enquiries
- iv. Contributing to effective file management by maintaining accurate client information
- v. Providing supervised legal information to help seekers
- vi. Contributing to PILCP projects through legal research, and drafting for a wide variety of audiences
- vii. Assisting with referrals by liaising with barristers and lawyers, preparing referral memos, drafting counsel briefs and delivering briefs to counsel chambers
- viii. Exposure to the development of various digital platforms for legal service delivery