

Senior Lawyer

Homeless Law

Senior Lawyer, Homeless Law

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join one of Australia's most successful public interest and social justice organisations. In the face of rising levels of unmet legal need, Justice Connect designs and delivers high impact interventions to increase access to legal support and progress social justice.

We are committed to taking an impact-focused approach, applying research and design principles to develop our products and services to ensure they make a tangible difference for our clients and sector peers. We deliver services that assist both people and community organisations. Those we assist often struggle to navigate the law, are unable to use the law in their daily lives and experience the impacts of harsh and unjust laws. We aim to prevent and to solve legal problems so that we can prevent the negative impacts on people's lives and organisations and empower the community to use the law as a force for good.

Given the scale of the challenges we address, we use digital innovation to extend our reach and impact, supporting us to be more efficient and accessible, while helping us capture and use data to better understand legal need and underlying systemic issues. We harness the extraordinary pro bono contributions of over 50 member firms and the barristers we work with across the country. We channel pro bono effort through our innovative service models to ensure that pro bono hours deliver real impact for the community.

We develop strategic interventions to help address the system-level drivers of legal problems and barriers people face when engaging with the legal system. By addressing root causes of flawed or unfair laws and poorly designed systems, we prevent the long-term challenges that people and organisations continue to face. Our creative and passionate staff drive us forward with a commitment to evaluation and iteration that ensures our impact increases year on year.

Homeless Law is our specialist legal service for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness across Victoria. We work closely with pro bono lawyers to provide hundreds of people with legal representation, advice and information. Our services are outreach based and client centred, and we don't just focus on legal issues. Homeless Law's social workers and our relationships with the homelessness and wider-community sector build our capacity to holistically understand and respond to clients with a diverse range of needs.

As the **Senior Lawyer, Homeless Law**, you'll play a leadership role in delivering a range of client-centred, integrated legal services that make a real difference to the lives of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. You will also significantly contribute to high-impact project, advocacy and engagement work, which will be focussed on progressing social justice for people in or exiting prison facing housing insecurity.

If you have extensive knowledge of the legal issues faced by homeless or at risk Victorians, experience in delivering and supervising high-quality legal services, including by motivating and developing staff and volunteers, and excellent interpersonal, project-based and communication skills, we would like to hear from you. This is a fantastic opportunity to join a committed and impactful team who share your vision of a stronger community.

We know our team and our organisation is stronger with a diversity of backgrounds and experience, including lived experience of the issues we work on. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people of colour, people from culturally and linguistically diverse and refugee backgrounds, people with diverse religious beliefs, gender diverse people, LGBTIQ+ people and people living with a disability are strongly encouraged to apply.



Applications close 9am on Friday 3 December 2021.



Position description

Position title	Senior Lawyer
Position reports to	Principal Lawyer, Homeless Law
Position works in close collaboration with	Manager – Advocacy and Projects, Homeless Law; Homeless Law legal administrators, digital and data lead, social workers, and lawyers
Employment status	12-month fixed-term contract (potential extension subject to funding)
Hours	Full-time @ 37.5 hours per week (1.0 FTE)
Salary	\$95,117.48 per annum, plus 10% superannuation, annual leave loading and generous salary packaging options
Location	Level 17, 461 Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000 (remote during COVID-19)
Closing date	9am on Friday 3 December 2021
For further information	Cameron Lavery, Homeless Law Manager and Principal Lawyer, on (03) 8636 4412 or cameron.lavery@justiceconnect.org.au

Role purpose

The Senior Lawyer, Homeless Law will play a leadership role in delivering integrated and holistic legal services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The role will also make significant contributions to Homeless Law's impactful project, advocacy and engagement work, particularly focussed on progressing social justice for people in or exiting prison facing housing insecurity.

Key responsibilities

- Contribute to the supervision and leadership of Homeless Law's casework and risk management, including by delivering high-quality legal advice and representation to Homeless Law clients and help-seekers.
- Supervise, mentor and offer legal guidance to Homeless Law in-house lawyers, secondees, practical legal trainees and Homeless Law pro bono lawyers.
- Undertake collaborative project management and engagement work related to Homeless Law's Closing the Revolving Door Prison Project and our innovative project related to post-release legal need.
- Develop and maintain collaborative relationships with key stakeholders of Homeless Law, in particular participating Justice Connect member law firms and community partner agencies involved in our work with people in or exiting prison facing housing insecurity.
- Develop and deliver training programs for pro bono lawyers, caseworkers and clients in relevant areas of law and practical legal skills, including those related to the legal needs of people in or exiting prison.
- Prepare and revise plain-English digital resources for lawyers, advocates and consumers.
- Actively contribute to Homeless Law's legal practice management and risk escalation.
- Undertake systemic advocacy work, including contributing to submissions on areas of law or policy related to Homeless Law's clients and advocacy priorities, particularly those related to breaking the cycle between prisons, the justice system and homelessness.



- Work with the Principal Lawyer, Homeless Law to identify and pursue strategic litigation opportunities that further the aims and objectives of Justice Connect and Homeless Law.
- Actively participate in the promotion of Homeless Law activities, including by contributing to internal and external publications.
- Help with the governance, reporting and evaluation requirements of Homeless Law, including reports for the Justice Connect Board and external funders.
- Contribute to Justice Connect's Reconciliation Action Plan Activities.
- Assist with Justice Connect's organisation-wide projects and processes as necessary, including undertaking quality assurance measures and legal process improvement work.
- 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 Homeless Law.

Selection criteria

Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian legal practitioner eligible to practice in Victoria and hold an unrestricted practising certificate
Technical expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five years unsupervised legal practice (other prior relevant legal experience also considered) • Understanding of legal issues commonly faced by people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including expertise in least one of the following areas of law: tenancy and housing, infringements and fines, consumer debt, and/or human rights
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in supervising and delivering high-quality, holistic legal services, including by motivating and developing staff and volunteers • Experience in risk escalation, preferably in an integrated practice and/or not-for-profit context • Experience in engaging-in systemic advocacy work (desirable) • Experience in project management (desirable)
Knowledge, skills & attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated knowledge of the legal assistance and pro bono sectors in Victoria • Excellent interpersonal and communication skills • Demonstrated ability to successfully manage stakeholder relationships and projects, including in collaboration with Homeless Law clients, the pro bono legal profession, the legal assistance and community sectors and government • Demonstrated ability to develop training and digital resources towards legal service delivery • Excellent time and task management skills • Highly motivated, diligent, and strategically-minded • A commitment to Justice Connect's strategy, vision and values, and an interest in social justice and human rights issues



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 **Cameron Lavery, Manager and Principal Lawyer, Homeless Law** 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 “**Senior Lawyer, Homeless Law via Justice Connect website**” in the email subject line.
- Applications close at 9am on Friday 3 December 2021.
- Interviews will be held by Zoom on Monday 6 December 2021 (9.30am–1.30pm) and Wednesday 8 December 2021 (9am–1pm).

