



Health Justice Partnership Lawyer

Sydney based

One year contract, with the possibility of extension subject to funding, full time with part time considered

Supervision: Principal Solicitor

1. Redfern Legal Centre

Redfern Legal Centre is a non-profit community legal centre that promotes social justice and creates change. We provide free legal advice, legal services and education to people experiencing disadvantage in New South Wales. We drive innovation and change through policy and law reform work to address inequalities in the legal system, policies and social practices that cause disadvantage.

We provide effective and integrated free legal services that are client focussed, collaborative, non-discriminatory and responsive to changing community needs - to our local community as well as state-wide. Our specialist legal services focus on tenancy, credit, debt and consumer law, financial abuse, employment law, international students, First Nations justice, police accountability, and provide outreach services including through our health justice partnership.

2. Position Overview

This is a dynamic role that has strong engagement with local community organisations and Sydney Local Area Health District staff and an interesting and varied caseload. The role will work within Redfern Legal Centre's Health Justice Partnership team to provide legal advice, representation and casework to clients of the Sydney Local Area Health District (**SLHD**). Clients with mental health conditions and First Nations clients are a priority and a significant proportion of our Health Justice Partnership client base.

Our Health Justice Partnership team conducts legal outreaches at RPA Hospital, Sydney Dental Hospital, Common Ground Housing, the Professor Marie Bashir Centre for acute mental health patients and Redlink at Waterloo Social Housing. This role predominantly conducts outreach at RPA, Common Ground and the Professor Marie Bashir Centre for acute mental health patients. RLC's two HJP lawyers, however, will work as a team to meet the needs of clients from all outreach locations within the SLHD.

An important part of the role is undertaking stakeholder engagement activities to educate SLHD staff about the Health Justice Partnership and foster relationships to facilitate referrals and access to justice for SLHD patients. The Solicitor will also conduct community legal education for SLHD

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staff and develop and undertake law reform work arising from the issues identified in the legal practice.

3. Position Responsibilities

Advice/Casework

- Provide an advice, casework and referral service to patients and clients at RPA and other locations within the Sydney Local Area Health District, with a focus on people experiencing mental health conditions and First Nations people in:
 - Civil areas of law including child protection, tenancy, credit & debt, victims' compensation, abuse in care matters, domestic violence, guardianship and family law; and
 - Minor criminal matters, including appearance work, primarily seeking diversion for clients under section 14 or section 19 of the *Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020* (NSW).
- Engage with SLHD staff from relevant service areas to promote the service and encourage referrals.
- Prepare and present educational material for stakeholders, including local SLHD staff.
- Identify policy and reform issues arising from casework in consultation with stakeholders including First Nations SLHD staff and organisations and undertake law reform and policy work to address these issues.
- Contribute to Redfern Legal Centre generally through intake shifts, supervision of students and volunteers, attendance at staff and team meetings, attendance at stakeholder events, contribution to funding and board reports and our Reconciliation Action Plan.

4. Knowledge, skills and experience

Essential

1. Qualified to practice as a solicitor in NSW and eligible to hold a current practicing certificate with at least two years relevant post admission experience.
2. Demonstrated experience providing legal advice and representation in child protection, general civil and/or criminal law.
3. Experience working with clients experiencing disadvantage and delivering a trauma informed, culturally safe service, including communicating information in an accessible way and managing clients exhibiting challenging behaviours.
4. Excellent stakeholder engagement skills and capacity to foster professional relationships in a health setting.
5. Demonstrated ability to take initiative, accept responsibility and work with limited supervision providing stakeholder engagement and legal services.

Desirable

6. Experience conducting law reform and policy work.
7. Experience working in a health setting or health justice partnership.

8. Experience working providing trauma-informed and culturally appropriate services to First Nations clients.

5. Conditions

Salary and benefits: \$109,625 - \$130, 112.74 p.a. (pro rata for part time) depending on qualifications and experience.

This is a one year contract, with the possibility of extension subject to funding.

Superannuation and annual leave loading are paid in addition and salary packaging is available.

Redfern Legal Centre is a diverse and inclusive workplace with flexible conditions.

In addition to being a flexible workplace, Redfern Legal Centre offers a 35-hour working week, time in lieu options and a paid end of year closure of two weeks (including public holidays) on top of four weeks annual leave.

As a Public Benevolent Institution, Redfern Legal Centre is able to offer staff generous salary packaging options.

6. Applications

Applications close: **9am Monday 13 May 2024.**

Redfern Legal Centre is a diverse and inclusive workplace. We strongly encourage applications from First Nations applicants, people from diverse cultural backgrounds and people with disability.

Your application should be no more than six pages long and should include a cover letter, your resume and must include responses to the selection criteria included in the job description. Please send your application to recruitment@rlc.org.au.

Staff at Redfern Legal Centre must be fully vaccinated for Covid-19.

Enquiries should be directed to Catherine Hewett, Chief Operations Officer: catherine@rlc.org.au.