

## **Credit, Debt & Consumer Lawyer**

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**Sydney based**

**18 month contract, full time or part time**

**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. We also provide outreach services including through our health justice partnership.

### **2. Position Overview**

The Credit, Debt & Consumer Law Service provides legal advice and assistance to clients experiencing disadvantage in Redfern Legal Centre's local catchment, which includes Redfern, Waterloo and Inner Sydney. Common issues include debt matters, bankruptcy, credit cards and loans, problems with electricity, gas, water and telecommunications bills, difficulty paying fines, faulty goods or failure to provide services, problems with insurance and superannuation and motor vehicle accidents. The credit, debt and consumer law solicitor may also assist with other generalist law issues where appropriate.

The Credit and Debt solicitor provides advice directly and supervises volunteer solicitors to provide advice.

The solicitor will conduct outreach to local First Nations and non-First nations organisations to ensure our services are accessible and culturally safe and will work to strengthen relationships with local stakeholders and organisations. The solicitor will develop and deliver community legal education to build capacity for communities and people experiencing disadvantage.

The practice engages in law reform and policy work to effect systemic change, including through submissions and involvement in working groups with the sector, industry and government.

### **3. Position Responsibilities**

- Conduct advice and casework in credit, debt and consumer law, including drafting complaints to bodies such as the Australian Financial Complaints Authority, correspondence including letters of demand, applications for fines waivers and court documents including Statements of Claim and Defences, as well as in generalist law where appropriate.
- Coordinate and supervise volunteer solicitors to provide credit, debt and consumer advice, including induction, training and support.
- Conduct stakeholder engagement and outreach with local First Nations and other community organisations to identify credit, debt and consumer issues affecting the local community, encourage client referrals and work collaboratively to address issues impacting local communities.
- Conduct community legal education and create factsheets for community workers, clients and other stakeholders.
- Develop and drive policy and law reform on systemic issues identified from casework.

### **Knowledge, skills and experience**

1. Qualified to practice as a solicitor in NSW and holds or is eligible to hold a current practicing certificate with at least 2 years post-admission experience in credit, debt and consumer law.
2. Demonstrated ability to take initiative, accept responsibility, and work with limited supervision providing advice and conducting casework on a range of credit, debt and consumer issues.
3. Demonstrated ability to work with people experiencing disadvantage, particularly First Nations people, as well as people from non-English speaking backgrounds and people with disability.
4. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
5. Experience with stakeholder engagement, building relationships and working collaboratively with other organisations to achieve positive outcomes for clients and communities.
6. Demonstrated ability to conduct community legal education and develop and drive policy and law reform strategy and submissions to create change.

### **Conditions**

Salary and benefits: \$107,920 - \$128,804 p.a. (pro rata for part time) depending on qualifications and experience.

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

In addition to being a flexible workplace, Redfern Legal Centre offers a 35 hour working week, time in lieu options and a paid Christmas closure of 2 weeks (including public holidays) on top of 4 weeks annual leave.

## **Application**

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](mailto:recruitment@rlc.org.au).

Inquiries should be directed to Alexis Goodstone, Principal Solicitor, at [alexis@rlc.org.au](mailto:alexis@rlc.org.au).