

Justice Connect Practical Legal Training Placements – Public Interest Law and Court Programs combined team, Melbourne offices

Justice Connect's Public Interest Law and Court Programs combined team (PILCP team) is seeking two PLT students to work part time in our Melbourne offices. (Up to three days per week)

The placement is for a minimum of 50 days with a late April or early May start date.

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.

PLT students are a vital part of our work. Successful applicants will gain practical experience working alongside experienced lawyers and barristers, exposure to procedural and legal knowledge across various jurisdictions and practice areas, and be exposed to embedded digital platforms in our legal practices. The areas of law PILCP specialises in include employment law, bankruptcy, human rights, judicial review, and domestic building disputes. Further information is available at <https://justiceconnect.org.au/how-we-help/>

Tasks that PILCP team PLTs undertake include:

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

To be eligible for this position, you must:

- Have completed your law degree
- Be currently completing your Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice (through College of law or an equivalent institution)
- Undertake a minimum of 50 days of practical legal training at Justice Connect
- Lawyers will not be considered

Please note that PLT positions are unpaid

The Justice Connect Melbourne office is located in the Melbourne CBD.

Applications will be assessed based on demonstrated interest in and commitment to not-for-profit organisations and the community sector.

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 will be reviewed on a rolling basis until filled

How to Apply:

Applications should comprise of a single Word or PDF document including; a cover letter and CV.

Please ensure your cover letter includes:

- Your available start date
- Your preferred working days within a week
- How many days placement you can commit to
- Whether you can work in-person or remotely (noting that remote work will not involve direct client contact)
- The details of your GDLP provider

Applications should be emailed to plt.recruitment@justiceconnect.org.au as a single Word or PDF file including "PLT Application – PILCP – Melbourne" in the email subject line.