

# FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

## Position description

This role will help develop and implement EJA's program to support First Nations communities in Victoria to care for Country. You will work closely with First Nations individuals, organisations and communities to understand their legal needs and develop strategies to overcome the legal barriers that stop First Nations peoples from exercising their caring for Country rights and obligations.

This is one of two roles for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates that will be recruited at the same time to work together to deliver the project. The other role will be a Lawyer. We will be looking for a balance of seniority and skills across the two roles, with one of the roles taking on the project leadership – see details under 'Responsibilities' below and contact us if you want to find out more about leading the project. You will be given support and training as needed to help you succeed in this position.

This is an Aboriginal Designated Position, classified under 'special measures' of section 12 of the Equal Employment Opportunity Act 2010. Only Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are eligible to apply.

## About us

Environmental Justice Australia is a leading public interest legal organisation. Our lawyers and campaigners act on behalf of people and community organisations to safeguard health; protect magnificent forests, rivers and wildlife; and tackle the climate crisis. We partner with communities and other social justice organisations because we are stronger together.

Using innovative approaches, we find the best legal solutions to climate and environmental issues. Our team works inside and outside the courtroom to make the system fair and just for all. We work on issues and in areas of Australia where we can have the most impact.

Our vision of healthy, empowered communities depends upon a broader vision of a reconciled, just and healthy Australia.

## Our values

**Collaboration:** We work in partnership with community and other organisations because we are in this together.

**Respect:** We treat everyone with respect and we value different perspectives as we know we can learn something from everyone.

**Ambition:** We aim high and are at all times focused on achieving maximum impact for nature, climate and communities.

**Positivity:** We maintain hope and a positive approach because we believe we can change the world.

**Justice:** We are driven by our sense of justice – it's at the core of everything we do.

## Responsibilities

This role will:

- Work alongside the EJA First Nations Lawyer.
- Contribute to the design and implementation of the caring for Country project.
- Act as a key point of contact to develop relationships with potential First Nations clients, organisations and communities.
- Nurture relationships with First Nations groups we are working with to improve our services. This includes liaising with internal and external stakeholders to facilitate introductions and improve collaboration and partnerships.
- Talk to First Nations communities to identify their legal needs around caring for Country and collaboratively develop options for meeting these needs.
- Provide ongoing support to EJA's partners and clients in pursuing legal outcomes.
- Organise and help deliver a series of presentations to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations interested in our approach and outcomes.
- Contribute to the EJA team and the running of the organisation and office, including volunteer supervision, and participate in all relevant aspects of EJA planning, review and reporting.

If the candidate is suitable for the program leadership role, the following responsibilities are also applicable:

- Lead the caring for Country program at EJA including representing EJA in meetings and the media, managing budgets, establishing and maintaining funding relationships, and program reporting.
- Support and supervise team members to provide high quality legal advice and representation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, partners and communities.

## Selection criteria - skills, qualifications and experience required

### Essential

- Experience in community consultation and outreach.
- Experience in building and maintaining strong and successful relationships with communities, partner organisations and other stakeholders.
- Organised, with experience in managing projects and planning events.
- A strong understanding of the issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and a demonstrated commitment to justice for First Nations peoples.
- A demonstrated ability to work collaboratively and communicate effectively with and within First Nations communities, to achieve defined outcomes.

If the candidate is suitable for the program leadership role, the following experience is also required:

- Initiative, self-motivation, the ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a collaborative team environment, and the ability to work to tight deadlines.
- Experience managing and supervising staff.

This is an Aboriginal Designated Position, classified under 'special measures' of section 12 of the *Equal Employment Opportunity Act 2010*. Only Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are eligible to apply.

### Desirable

- An understanding of environment or natural resources management issues.

## Location

Naarm (Melbourne).

## Terms and conditions

Terms and conditions for these roles will be negotiated based on the following:

- The position is full time, but 4 days a week will be considered.
- The role is fixed-term for 2 years, with the possibility of extension beyond this date depending on funding.
- The role is based in Naarm (Melbourne) at our office in Carlton.
- The role will require travel in Victoria and interstate.
- Out of hours work is required occasionally.
- The position reports to the program lead (or to the co-CEOs if you are the program lead).
- Terms and conditions of employment are based on the Community Legal Sector Multi-Business Agreement with competitive over-agreement salary and conditions. Salary range is dependent on experience – \$70,300–\$75,250 for a team role, \$90,740–\$98,060 for the program leadership role (plus superannuation).

## How to apply

Send us your brief application comprising:

- your curriculum vitae; and
- a statement of no more than 3 pages detailing why you are interested in the position and, addressing the selection criteria outlined above.

Email your application to [recruitment@envirojustice.org.au](mailto:recruitment@envirojustice.org.au)

Enquiries: Elizabeth McKinnon and Nicola Rivers, co-CEOs, 03 8341 3112 or by email to [recruitment@envirojustice.org.au](mailto:recruitment@envirojustice.org.au)

**Closing date: Sunday 31 October 2021 at 11.59pm (AEST)**