

PRO BONO PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE JUSTICE AND EQUITY CENTRE



Justice and
Equity Centre

THE JUSTICE AND EQUITY CENTRE IS A SPECIALIST COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE THAT WORKS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE.

Established in 1982 as the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC), we work with people and communities who are experiencing marginalisation or disadvantage to tackle injustice and inequality through:

- legal advice and representation, specialising in test cases and strategic casework;
- research, analysis and policy development; and
- advocacy for systems change.






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OUR WORK

We actively collaborate and partner in our work and focus on finding practical solutions. We work across five focus areas:

-  **Disability rights:** challenging discrimination and making the NDIS fairer to ensure people with disability can participate equally in economic, social, cultural and political life.
-  **Justice for First Nations people:** challenging the systems that are causing ongoing harm to First Nations people, including through reforming the child protection system, tackling discriminatory policing and supporting truth-telling.
-  **Homelessness:** reducing homelessness and defending the rights of people experiencing homelessness through the Homeless Persons' Legal Service and StreetCare's lived experience advocacy.
-  **Civil rights:** defending the rights of people in prisons and detention, including asylum seekers; modernising legal protection against discrimination; raising the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14; advancing LGBTIQ+ equality; and advocating for open and accountable government.
-  **Energy and water justice:** working for affordable and sustainable energy and water and promoting a just transition to a zero-carbon energy system.



PARTNER WITH US ON STRATEGIC LITIGATION

The JEC uses test cases and strategic casework to drive changes to law and policy. Our current work areas include: policing, prisons and youth detention; the rights of asylum seekers in detention; the National Disability Insurance Scheme; the rights of people with disability to access air travel and other essential services; and driving regulatory change to achieve a just transition to a zero-carbon future in Australia's energy networks.

Co-counselling

The Strategic Litigation team runs complex civil litigation through its team of in-house lawyers. We enter into co-counselling arrangements with litigation teams at commercial firms to properly resource and run these matters for our clients. The structure of these arrangements – including which organisation is on the record – can vary depending upon a range of factors and we invite discussion about this with potential partners.

If you are interested in co-counselling arrangements, you can indicate your areas of interest or focus so that the JEC can keep this in mind for future matters.

Co-counselling arrangements require a firm to commit a litigation team (generally at least one Partner, Senior Associate and Lawyer or equivalent) who are willing and able to give JEC matters the same priority as commercial matters. We also value assistance with litigation-related document management, including discovery and related processes.

Litigation Secondees

The JEC also hosts secondee lawyers from partner law firms. Secondees provide valuable support to the Strategic Litigation team, increasing the JEC's ability to drive change across our project areas. These are also very rewarding placements for secondees who have the opportunity to work closely with a team of strategic litigators as well as policy, communications and campaigning experts.

To ensure the best experience for both the JEC and the secondee, full-time placements for a period of at least 3 months are ideal. Part-time placements for shorter periods can also be considered, depending on project needs at the relevant time. We can host secondees to work on specific projects, or to work with the team across all projects.

To learn more about supporting the JEC's Strategic Litigation team, please contact Principal Solicitors Ellen Tilbury at etilbury@jec.org.au or Jonathan Hall Spence at jhallspence@jec.org.au.



PARTNER WITH THE HOMELESS PERSONS' LEGAL SERVICE

The Homeless Persons' Legal Service ('HPLS') works to reduce homelessness and protect the rights of people experiencing homelessness. HPLS undertakes casework and representation, supporting clients throughout the legal process across a range of legal issues including tenancy, fines, credit/debt and victims' compensation.

HPLS includes a Women's Service which offers specialised, holistic support for women, encompassing both legal and non-legal assistance.

Become an HPLS partner firm

HPLS relies on its network of partner firms to deliver services to clients. Lawyers at HPLS partner firms prepare prospects advice for more complex matters and/or where prospects are unclear, casework and representation and prepare summaries of closed cases that identify any systemic issues or opportunities for law reform.

Firms who partner with HPLS are required to comply with a number of requirements related to supervision and training. Partner firms are also required to make a financial contribution to support the costs of running HPLS, the amount of which varies depending on the size of the firm.

Secondees to the HPLS in-house team

HPLS has an in-house team which performs a number of roles including conducting intake including assessing eligibility and prospects, engaging with stakeholders, delivering community legal education for community partners, training pro bono solicitors, supervising legal work undertaken by pro bono lawyers, delivering outreach services, providing legal information, advice, referrals to clients who are not eligible for ongoing legal support and preparing policy and law reform materials.

The in-house team relies on the support of secondees from firms. To ensure the best experience for both the JEC and the secondee, HPLS generally requires the secondee to be placed with the team for a minimum of two days per week for a three-month period.

To learn more about supporting the JEC's HPLS team, please contact Principal Solicitor Kira Levin at klevin@jec.org.au.



PARTNER WITH TOWARDS TRUTH

A world-first, award-winning project, [Towards Truth](#) tells the story of how laws and government policies have impacted First Nations people since 1788. Through parliamentary debates, analysis, articles, reports and case studies, Towards Truth demonstrates how those laws and policies have shaped First Nations communities over generations. The project has started by analysing NSW laws, with the potential to expand to other jurisdictions.

Towards Truth is both a profound act of truth-telling and a powerful resource that is being used across the community by First Nations people, teachers, researchers, students, policy makers, government and legal organisations to understand and contextualise our history. Research Support

Towards Truth receives significant pro bono support from partner law firms, including secondees into our research team. To ensure the best experience for both the JEC and the secondee, Towards Truth generally requires the secondee to be placed with the team for a minimum of two days per week for a three-month period.

Partner firms also support Towards Truth by undertaking in-depth research tasks in-house and making financial contributions towards the cost of the project.

To learn more about supporting the JEC's Towards Truth team, please contact Project Director Anna Harding at aharding@jec.org.au.

SUPPORT THE JEC'S POLICY WORK

The JEC works on a range of law reform issues, such as raising the age of criminal responsibility; modernising anti-discrimination, privacy and freedom of information laws; reforming the child protection system to reduce the numbers of Aboriginal children being removed from their families; improving protection against hate speech; and protecting LGBTQ+ students and teachers in religious schools against mistreatment.

You can contact Director of Policy and Advocacy, Alastair Lawrie at alawrie@jec.org.au to discuss options for pro bono support for the JEC's law reform research and submissions.



PARTNER WITH US ON ENERGY AND WATER JUSTICE

The Energy and Water Justice (EWJ) team works to accelerate a transition to a net zero-carbon energy system which also improves social equity. EWJ drives change to regulation and policy to ensure the energy and water systems work for all people, supported by consumer assistance and protections, particularly for households experiencing disadvantage.

Policy and advocacy secondees

The EWJ team's work is enhanced by the contributions of secondees to the project team, who can contribute research and drafting on regulatory and policy reform in this specialist area including by providing legal expertise and analysis.

In order to ensure the best experience for both the JEC and the secondee, EWJ generally requires the secondee to be placed with the team for a minimum of 2 days per week for a 3-month period.

If you would like to learn more about supporting EWJ, please contact Program Director Douglas McCloskey at dmcloskey@jec.org.au.



DONATE TO SUPPORT THE JUSTICE AND EQUITY CENTRE

Financial support from our corporate and pro bono partners plays an important role in our sustainability and is vital to the JEC's success. As a registered charity with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, all donations over \$2 to the Justice and Equity Centre are tax deductible.

Partnering with the JEC through an employee giving program allows your organisation and its people to be part of a community that is values-driven and committed to making a difference. To donate to a program that aligns with your interest, or to discuss workplace giving, contact Cris Parker, Head of Philanthropy and Relationships, at cparker@jec.org.au.

SPONSOR OUR SOCIAL JUSTICE DINNER

Each year, our Social Justice Dinner brings together over 400 people from across the legal, not-for-profit, Government and corporate sectors to celebrate our achievements and strengthen our shared commitment to fighting injustice and disadvantage.

The event is an opportunity to demonstrate your support for social justice and connect with decisions-makers, sector leaders, and like-minded people and organisations.

To sponsor the event or host a table at the JEC social justice dinner contact Briana Ewing, Relationships Coordinator at bewing@jec.org.au.

**We look forward to working with you at the
Justice and Equity Centre.**

