



Environmental Defenders Office

Senior Solicitor / Special Counsel – International Program - Position Description

EDO relies on our people to use their skills and experience to provide the best possible support to our clients and other staff. While this job description aims to outline the fundamental reason the role exists, the role may evolve as EDO evolves.

If you see a way to play to your strengths in a way that achieves EDO outcomes, please don't be limited to this list. We have important work to do and need everyone to be operating at their best.

Job title: Senior Solicitor / Special Counsel – International Program

Reporting to: Manager - Safe Climate – International Program

Purpose of the position

Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) is the largest environmental legal centre in the Australia-Pacific, dedicated to protecting our climate, communities and shared environment by providing access to justice, running ground-breaking litigation, and leading law reform advocacy.

The Senior Solicitor/Special Counsel – International Program will engage with legal issues surrounding environmental protection, indigenous rights, human rights and climate change in the Pacific.

Our International Program operates at the critical intersection of indigenous rights, human rights, and environmental protection. We centre indigenous perspectives in the work that we do.

Our International Program is focused on strengthening public interest environmental law in the Pacific, particularly in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji. This involves working hand in hand with lawyers in the Pacific to run cases in local courts, analyse policy and law, and conduct community outreach training. It also requires collaborating with international donors, environmental lawyers, journalists and human rights organisations to maximise the impact of our work.

Key responsibilities & duties

Reporting to the International Program Manager, the Senior Solicitor / Special Counsel will work with a high level of autonomy and self-direction to develop and implement planning for the program. This may include leading on media work, seminars, and publications, as well as having carriage of litigation, law reform and advice work.

Within the role as Special Counsel, we expect you to carry out the responsibilities and duties of a Senior Solicitor as well as supervise legal staff in delivering advice and litigation work.

The role involves providing legal advice, representation and education to clients on public interest environmental law issues and disputes relating to forestry, mining, indigenous rights, human rights and climate change, among others.



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Working collaboratively with the International Program Manager, International Program team members, partners and other stakeholders, the Senior Solicitor / Special Counsel will develop and implement the strategic goals of the International Program.

This role is principally a litigation role, however, there may be opportunities to engage in program management, policy and outreach work, depending on the needs of the organisation and also on the skills, experience and areas of interest of the person in the role. Accordingly, duties may include:

Program management

- Collaborate with international and regional partners to develop strategies to maximise the impact of our work.
- Networking, identifying potential partners and building relationships.
- Participate in and support EDO fundraising by assisting with, task such as, identifying potential funding sources, preparing grant applications, developing and managing relationships with international donors and leveraging Australian Government support, including developing Australian volunteer placements with partners across the Pacific.
- Deliver legal services in a culturally competent manner and work with clients from a wide variety of backgrounds.
- Supervise the work of volunteers who undertake tasks such as legal research, document preparation, etc.
- Always comply with professional obligations.

Legal representation and advice

- Conduct litigation to achieve EDO's strategic outcomes.
- Respond to telephone and written inquiries from partners and clients.
- Provide written advice to partners and clients.
- Undertake legal administration tasks, such as the preparation of reports, as required.
- Contribute to the development of the organisation's litigation strategies as appropriate.

Policy and law reform

- Engage in policy and law reform work, including participating in government policy processes and developing and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders.

Outreach and communications

- Undertake public education and outreach, including developing online resources



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and fact sheets, preparing and presenting papers, and conducting workshops or seminars.

- Participate in conference and education work with Pacific Island partners.
- Writing plain English educational materials.
- Preparing articles for EDO publications.
- Undertake media work when required.

General

All staff have a responsibility to:

- Develop and maintain a good knowledge of EDO's role and policies.
- Represent EDO in a positive and effective manner by actively demonstrating EDO Values.
- Attend, and contribute actively and constructively at staff meetings.
- Maintain appropriate records, assist with office administration, such as files, computer and precedent systems.
- Seek opportunities for personal and professional development, particularly related to the team and the position's specific areas of responsibility.
- Respond to requests by clients and fellow staff in a knowledgeable, professional, constructive and respectful manner.
- Provide accurate and timely data and information for reporting, fundraising and communication purposes.

Commitment to EDO's Values:

Commitment

- We are committed to; a united organisation, to each other, to collaboration, to justice, to our communities, and to creating a world where nature thrives.
- We are committed to providing excellent legal services and resources, informed by the best available science, in order to empower clients and communities.
- We are committed to improving our planet and society.
- We care for EDO's clients and stakeholders.
- We are fearless in the face of adversity, and care for each other as we face this adversity.

Diversity

- We are respectful of and welcome diversity of staff, volunteers, offices, environmental regions, communities, stakeholders.
- We respect First Nations Peoples' knowledge and experience, and work with them to protect their country and culture.
- We acknowledge that the law has not always been just.
- We dedicate ourselves to understanding the diversity of our people and culture.
- We welcome and respect our own differences, learn from them and collaborate to achieve our greatest potential.
- We are great lawyers and great people, with open hearts and open minds.
- We respect the different places our stakeholders come from and strive to help them, even if their worldviews don't align completely with ours.

Integrity

- We work effectively, efficiently, strategically, professionally and ethically; "justice is in our nature".



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- We are truthful with ourselves and others.
- We are nonpartisan and inspire trust in our clients, stakeholders and government.
- We respect the world's resources and make maximum productive use of the resources entrusted to us.

Vision

- We lead change and environmental empowerment using innovation, creativity, and courage.
- We expand the boundaries with creativity and skill, pioneering new legal pathways to a healthier, safer world and inspiring others.
- We are inquisitive, curious and persistent: exploring new ideas and embracing change.
- We boldly challenge the status quo while providing solutions to our most pressing challenges.