

[SENIOR LEAD, RESEARCH AND IMPACT]

Centre for Just Places]

About Jesuit Social Services

Jesuit Social Services is a social change organisation working to build a just society where all people can live to their full potential. We do and we influence. We accompany people and communities to foster and regenerate the web of relationships that sustain us all – across people, place and planet; and we work to change policies, practices, ideas and values that perpetuate inequality, prejudice and exclusion.

Our Vision

Building a Just Society

Our Mission

Standing in solidarity with those in need, expressing a faith that promotes justice.

Our Values

- Welcoming – forming strong, faithful relationships
- Discerning – being reflective and strategic in all we do
- Courageous – standing up boldly to effect change

Our Purpose

We work to build a just society where all people can live to their full potential – by partnering with community to support those most in need and working to change policies, practices, ideas and values that perpetuate inequality, prejudice and exclusion.

Position details

POSITION TITLE: [Senior Lead, Research and Impact]

PROGRAM: [Centre for Just Places]

LOCATION: [Richmond, Victoria as well as remotely working from home with potential for some travel]

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS: [This position reports directly to General Manager, Centre for Just Places]

EFFECTIVE DATE: [September 2025]

Position Purpose [

This role provides strategic direction in shaping and delivering the Centre's research agenda and advancing its thought leadership, working directly with the General Manager Centre for Just Places, and key executive staff to drive high-impact projects that deepen understanding and awareness of locational disadvantage, community resilience, place-based approaches, and climate justice.

The Senior Lead, Research and Impact will work at the intersection of research, strategy, and advocacy, leading the design, coordination, and evaluation of qualitative and quantitative research initiatives across sectors and partnerships. Central to the role is maintaining strong relationships with funders and partners, and securing resources to sustain and grow the Centre's impact.

The position will have responsibility for managing high-quality research projects and leading knowledge translation activities that not only make complex findings accessible and actionable for practitioners, policymakers, and communities, but also highlight and share the real-world impact of this work through compelling stories and narratives that support learning, connection, and influence both internally and externally. The position also plays a pivotal role in supporting and mentoring staff to strengthen the Centre's research capacity and influence.]

Program Purpose

[Centre for Just Places

The Centre for Just Places was established by Jesuit Social Services in early 2021 with support from the Gandel Foundation and the Victorian Government to enable and support place-based approaches. Through our research, advocacy and practice, the Centre unlocks the relationship between social, environmental and economic justice. Our mission is to enable strong and resilient communities through three main areas of work:

- **Working in place** – our practice in Victoria, New South Wales and Northern Territory – we deliver a range of place-based initiatives to support community development, build capacity and provide flexible responses to community needs.
- **Enabling climate justice** – we partner with community service organisations, communities, and governments to shift systems, build local climate resilience and adaptive capacity.
- **Supporting strong, healthy, and equitable communities** – building on more than 25 years of research into locational disadvantage with *Dropping off the Edge*, we work with communities to know where people are struggling, to understand what is contributing to that struggle and how we can collectively enable communities to flourish.]

Duties of the position [

- Lead the design, delivery, and evaluation of rigorous qualitative and quantitative research projects, ensuring they are conducted to the highest ethical standards.
- Develop and maintain strategic relationships with funders, partners, and stakeholders to secure resources, shape research priorities, and strengthen impact (including coordination of advisory groups).
- Produce high-quality research outputs and knowledge translation activities that make evidence accessible and actionable for practitioners, policymakers, and communities.
- Support and supervise staff.
- Build organisational research capability around place-based initiatives by mentoring staff, fostering collaboration, and supporting a culture of evidence-informed practice.

- Pursue funding opportunities through the development of competitive proposals and contributions to strategic partnerships and initiatives.]

Key Selection Criteria [

- Postgraduate qualifications in social sciences or related discipline, with demonstrated expertise in research methods (qualitative and quantitative).
- Demonstrated experience designing, conducting, and managing research projects, with a strong grounding in ethical research practices. Experience and expertise in research relating to place-based approaches, locational disadvantage and climate justice will be highly regarded.
- Proven ability to generate high-quality research outputs and translate complex findings into accessible, actionable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and community stakeholders.
- Strong skills in building and maintaining relationships with funders, partners, and stakeholders to secure resources, shape research agendas, and drive collaborative initiatives.
- Experience developing competitive research and project funding proposals and successfully securing and managing external funding.
- Ability to support, guide, and mentor staff in research and evaluation, fostering a culture of evidence-informed practice and continuous learning.
- Highly developed written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to present research findings persuasively and contribute to public advocacy.
- Understanding and sympathy with the mission and ethos of Jesuit Social Services.]

Key Performance Indicators [

- Delivery of qualitative and quantitative research projects to the highest ethical and methodological standards.
- Production of research outputs and activities (e.g. reports, briefs, presentations, workshops) that meaningfully and positively inform and influence policy, practice, and community outcomes.
- Recognition of the Centre's research through citations, media coverage, sector engagement, or invitations to contribute to policy discussions.
- Research projects and outputs completed on time and within budget, with effective coordination across internal and external stakeholders.

Key responsibilities of Jesuit Social Services Employees

[Service delivery/ Practice Framework

- Engage and build positive and constructive relationships with internal and external stakeholders and program participants
- Deliver services consistent with program guidelines, relevant legislation and funding agreements
- Communicate clearly with others
- Manage competing priorities in a high-volume work environment
- Fulfil the reporting and administrative requirements associated with the position

- Other duties as required.

Team work and supervision

- Work effectively as part of a team, contributing to group outputs and reflective practice
- Actively participate in regular supervision with the line manager, staff meetings and professional development opportunities.]

Continuous Improvement and Professional Standards

- Demonstrate a commitment to own learning and development
- Commitment to risk management and continuous quality improvement processes
- Compliance with relevant legislation, Code of Conduct, policies and procedures of Jesuit Social Services

Diversity, inclusion and culture

- Demonstrate respect and acceptance of diversity at all times and provide culturally appropriate support to all including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and those who identify as LGBTQIA+
- Interact with staff, participants and other stakeholders in a manner that is inclusive, respectful and non-discriminatory

Mandatory Position Requirements

- Current National and International (where required) Police Check
- Current Employee Working with Children Check
- [Valid and current Australian Drivers Licence]
- Proof of eligibility to work in Australia

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Jesuit Social Services takes child protection seriously, we undertake a range of checks and processes to ensure safeguarding of children, and you are required to meet the behavior standard outlined in our Code of Conduct.

Conditions of Employment

Conditions of employment are in accordance with the current Jesuit Social Services Collective Agreement and Jesuit Social Services Policy & Procedures, including the Code of Conduct.

[Employee Acknowledgement

I, _____ (please print name) acknowledge that I have read and understood the contents of this position description.

Employee Signature:

Date: _____

Position Description Approved by:
GM or ED

Position Description Review Date:
2 years from effective date

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