

## **Information Pack 2018**

### **What is the Rights Advocacy Project (RAP)?**

RAP is a passionate community of human rights activists and lawyers working to defend human rights and effect social change in Australia. Launched in 2013, RAP has had incredible success with innovative law reform projects that have tackled serious injustices within our community. We've influenced decision-makers and changed laws.

In short, RAP works like this: program volunteers are placed in one of three human rights-themed teams for a bit over a year, from March 2018 to April 2019. Working in these teams, volunteers have the opportunity to tackle human rights issues they are passionate about. Experienced human rights advocates supervise each team and work with volunteers to provide guidance for their projects. Our supervisors this year include barristers, human rights lawyers and experienced human rights advocates.

Our volunteers also receive training sessions throughout the program in areas such as strategic advocacy and social media to help shape the way they develop their projects, and to strengthen their advocacy skills.

RAP is part of Liberty Victoria, one of Australia's leading civil liberties organisations. It was formerly known as Young Liberty for Law Reform before the name change to RAP in 2017. Our volunteers work closely with Liberty Victoria committee members to ensure our volunteers produce rigorous human rights advocacy projects, and many RAP supervisors are also members of Liberty Victoria's policy committee.

To see examples of our human rights advocacy and our volunteers' past projects, visit: [rightsadvocacy.org.au](http://rightsadvocacy.org.au)

### **What do we aim to achieve?**

RAP aims to achieve social change through practical, reform-oriented advocacy, and to train the next generation of strategic human rights advocates in Victoria.

It gives volunteers an introduction to the skills needed to be strategic law reform advocates, through specific training and guidance.

### **What is Liberty Victoria?**

Liberty Victoria is one of Australia's leading civil liberties organisations and has been working to defend and extend human rights and freedoms in Victoria since 1936.

Liberty Victoria is an independent non-government organisation that is run primarily by volunteers who are barristers, academics or civil liberties advocates and who contribute to

advocacy and law reform on human rights issues in their spare time. The current President of Liberty Victoria is Jessie Taylor.

Members of the public support the work of Liberty Victoria through an annual membership fee. The organisation is managed by two voluntary committees – the Policy Committee and Management Committees.

For more information, see: [www.libertyvictoria.org.au](http://www.libertyvictoria.org.au)

## **How do I apply?**

The application form and instructions for applying will be available on the RAP website from Monday 15 January 2018.

We particularly encourage applications from members of the LGBTI+ community, persons with disabilities, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Please complete the online application form and email your CV to [rap@libertyvictoria.org.au](mailto:rap@libertyvictoria.org.au).

Applications close at midnight on Friday 9 February 2018.

We will be conducting 10 - 15 minute phone interviews with shortlisted candidates, between Monday 19 February and Friday 2 March. Successful applicants will be notified by email on 14 March 2018.

## **How does the program work?**

### Teams

Volunteers will be placed in a team, focusing on a particular human rights theme. Each team is comprised of 4-6 volunteers and 2 supervisors, who work to develop and execute advocacy projects.

The 2018 program will involve three, or possibly four, teams. Criminal Justice; Refugees and Asylum Seekers; and Equality and Accountability are our existing teams, which will continue in 2018. We are currently consulting with community groups about whether an Indigenous rights team could add positive value. At the moment, we are taking expressions of interest for all four teams.

Volunteers and their supervisors will meet monthly to workshop ideas, discuss progress and finalise work, at times decided by each team.

Teamwork is largely self-directed and team members are responsible for shaping, driving

and producing their work.

Supervisors will provide guidance and advice, including assistance to identify topical issues or particular areas for reform, and reviewing and approving work.

A member of the RAP steering committee will act as your contact point throughout the program and can help you with any queries you have about the program along the way.

### Training sessions

At the start of the program we will run one all-day training session on strategic advocacy. This training session is **compulsory** and will run from around 10am until 4pm on Saturday 7 April 2018. There will be further training sessions throughout the program (see key dates below).

The training sessions are a great opportunity for volunteers to share their ideas with the presenters and other volunteers and receive guidance on their current projects.

Volunteers are provided with a practical checklist and other resources to manage the different phases of project development and strategic human rights advocacy.

### Projects

Over the 13 month program, volunteers are encouraged to produce one or more 'projects' that address a human rights issue within their designated theme.

Volunteers are asked to:

- clearly identify the problem and the proposed solution;
- think strategically about how they might achieve change on their chosen issue;
- develop key messages about the human rights problem they want to solve;
- think creatively about how to communicate those messages to a particular target audience, through a variety of platforms; and
- ensure that they are inclusive of people with lived experience of the issues they work on.

Each team is required to provide two reports to the Steering Committee on their progress: a six-month progress report and a final report. The written reports will also be distributed to Liberty Victoria committees.

### **What kind of volunteers are you looking for?**

We are looking for people who are passionate about human rights, motivated, enjoy group work, are clear communicators, and have a demonstrated ability to engage in rigorous

analysis of law or policy. Relevant experience or related skills might include legal, political or communication studies or work, human rights advocacy, writing law reform submissions, managing events, producing publications, running social media campaigns or making educational videos.

RAP values fresh ideas and people who can think strategically and creatively about law reform and human rights issues, and ways to communicate a message to a wide audience.

## Time commitment

As a volunteer, it is expected that you will commit to a 12- 13 month period of volunteering, from March 2018 until April 2019. This takes into account monthly meetings with your team, identifying law reform projects, delivering those projects and attending RAP events/training sessions throughout the year.

The time commitment can vary significantly over the 13 month program depending on the nature of the projects undertaken. The program is designed to be self-directed and flexible so that it can be balanced with other commitments. However, we expect that volunteers will contribute **on average approximately 5 hours per week** to RAP.

We are seeking people who are committed to and engaged with the program, but we are also very mindful that you will have other important commitments!

Key dates for the 2018 program are set out in the table below. Before you apply, make sure you can fit these deadlines and events around your other work, study or volunteer commitments. All RAP events will generally be held in the evenings in the CBD, except the full training day which is likely to be held at the Abbotsford Convent.

<b>Applications open</b>	15 January 2018
<b>Applications close</b>	9 February 2018
<b>Shortlisted Candidates notified</b>	14 February 2018
<b>Successful applicants notified</b>	14 March 2018
<b>2018 RAP Training and Program launch</b>	7 April 2018 (full day)
<b>Training Session</b>	22 May 2018 (after work hours)
<b>Training Session</b>	24 July 2018 (after work hours)
<b>6 month progress report due</b>	23 September 2018
<b>Training Session</b>	23 October 2018 (after work hours)

Final report due	March 2019
2018 RAP celebration	April 2019

## What kind of projects have volunteers undertaken in the past?

Previous RAP volunteers have worked on a range of projects, from events to submissions to videos. Previous projects have included:

- The Myki Fines [website](#) which allowed commuters to understand their rights when it comes to Myki fines;
- Writing and presenting a [briefing paper](#) to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights on the legal protections in Australia for Human Rights Defenders;
- A report called 'Operation Secret Borders', which highlighted the issues with the *Border Force Act* and Whistleblower provisions, which was launched at a sold-out panel discussion at the Wheeler Centre; and
- Advocacy through a [video](#) for the better rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners in Victoria.

Visit the RAP [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for more details.

## I missed out on being selected for the program this year.

### What can I do?

Liberty Victoria is also always on the lookout for volunteers to contribute to the organisation. If you've got some spare time and would like to know more about ways you can help, please register your interest with [info@libertyvictoria.org.au](mailto:info@libertyvictoria.org.au). Also note that we would welcome your application to the RAP program next time around!