



# Australian Government

## IP Australia



Thank you for considering IP Australia as your next career move. Our purpose is to enable Australians to benefit from great ideas by providing a world-leading intellectual property (IP) system. Trade, investment and commercialisation all depend on an innovation ecosystem that is modern, effective and efficient and this ensures Australian industry is resilient and internationally competitive.

Innovation and a commitment to customer service excellence underpin our operations. We harness data and technology (including AI), to continually improve the quality and effectiveness of our products and services. We are committed to adaptation, embracing change and finding new ways to meet the current and future needs of the IP system – including through our in-house innovation lab, IPA Ventures. This requires a culture of curiosity, and openness to feedback.

Our people are our greatest asset. We're a high-performing agency, invested in building staff capability, creating career pathways and shaping a positive and inclusive culture, where everyone

belongs. To ensure we attract the best and brightest minds, careers at IP Australia provide challenging opportunities to develop leadership and management skills, contributing to our position as leaders of IP rights administration in the region.

Our People Strategy and Diversity and Inclusion Strategy guide these commitments and set clear expectations for managers and employees, reinforcing the values and expected behaviours of all staff.

We recognise the benefits to individuals and teams of balancing work with everything else in life. We have a genuinely hybrid workplace and with this embedded flexibility, we

deliver a more agile and inclusive environment that attracts and retains the best talent and supports wellbeing.

I'm extremely proud of the vibrant and inclusive culture we have built, and the range of networks that support our people to thrive in the workplace. The work we do at IP Australia makes a difference. It directly benefits Australia's economic prosperity by rewarding creativity, promoting investment and encouraging technological advancement.

I hope you'll join us!

Michael Schwager  
Director-General  
IP Australia





## Message from the Director General

*Text version of the picture on the front page*

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Michael Schwager  
Director-General  
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# Candidate Kit

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<b>Position Title:</b>	Senior Communications Advisor
<b>Classification:</b>	APS Level 6
<b>Employment status:</b>	Ongoing and Non-ongoing for a period of up to 12 months
<b>Number of vacancies:</b>	One
<b>Employment type:</b>	Full-time
<b>Salary:</b>	\$95,395 – \$108,365 + 15.4% employer super contribution (pro-rated for part-time)
<b>Section:</b>	Public Education and Awareness
<b>Group:</b>	Customer Experience
<b>Location:</b>	Canberra (Ngunnawal Country) preferred; other locations considered.
<b>Security Classification:</b>	Not Required
<b>Contact officer</b>	Allyssa Sabbatucci 0262832097 <a href="mailto:allyssa.sabbatucci@ipaaustralia.gov.au">allyssa.sabbatucci@ipaaustralia.gov.au</a>

## Group Responsibilities

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The Customer Experience Group (CEG) is responsible for understanding the customer journey and identifying and implementing customer service improvements across IP Australia. This is achieved by ensuring sound processes are in place for IP Rights processing; management and administration of the customer contact centre and customer feedback channels; the delivery of communication services; and effective management of externally facing digital products.

CEG ensures IP Australia's education and awareness activities are aligned, targeted and effective to facilitate a broader understanding of the value of, and access to the intellectual property system among our customers and stakeholders. The Group plays a lead role in building customer-centric capability across IP Australia by providing insight and expertise to inform better decision making. This drives high quality, effective customer service to meet customer needs both now and into the future.

## Section Responsibilities

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The Public Education and Awareness Team at IP Australia strategically promotes the value of intellectual property (IP) and provide Australians with the tools and information they need to make informed business decisions that support business success and innovation.

Our team is responsible for informing, educating, and engaging Australian businesses, innovators, and researchers about IP.

Key activities for the Public Education and Awareness team include:

- Delivering proactive outreach programs designed to inform and educate Australians on IP, with a particular focus on small and medium-sized businesses, to encourage protection and commercialisation of ideas
- Establishing, building and leveraging strategic partnerships with government agencies, industry partners, and universities to amplify messaging and promote the value of the IP system
- Developing engaging and impactful communications materials and outreach initiatives, maximising reach through effective use of digital channels.

As a team we work collaboratively to ensure a consistent and cohesive approach to public education and awareness activities that meet agency strategic priorities. The team also identifies and defines key metrics and supporting methodology to ensure robust evaluation.

We deliver IP education through channels such as events, webinars, website and social media, podcasts and case studies. Our guiding principles are to be customer centric, evidence based and digitally focused.

# Our Opportunity

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We have a specific and important role in reaching Australian innovators and businesses to increase awareness of intellectual property (IP). We do this by uplifting understanding of the benefits of IP protection.

Our team is externally focused, and key activities include managing a network of partners, developing impactful communications materials, educational tools and resources, and designing and delivering engagement activities.

As part of the Public Education and Awareness team, the Senior Communications Advisor will:

- Develop and deliver accessible and engaging communications content (such as news articles, social media, presentation materials, factsheets/collateral and campaign management) for our partners and stakeholders to promote IP information and increase understanding of IP rights among industry, government and the university sectors
- Develop and manage relationships with existing partners and other external stakeholders to:
  - understand their IP education needs and/or those of their stakeholders, and
  - identify how we can help address those needs.
- Identify relevant events and the appropriate level of engagement to build IP awareness and uplift knowledge
- Plan, promote, and host or present online and in-person IP education sessions, in collaboration with strategic partners or IP Australia colleagues
- Develop, implement and evaluate stakeholder engagement activities, communication strategies and public education campaigns, using data to inform continued improvement
- Build and maintain collaborative working relationships with colleagues, managers and key stakeholders, working across the agency to develop and deliver engaging communications products for external audiences
- Support the Director and Assistant Directors on delivering objectives, and in meeting ad hoc demands.

We are looking to fill this position on an ongoing or non-ongoing up to 12 months basis. The position may be offered on an ongoing or non-ongoing basis.

Future positions may be offered on an ongoing or non-ongoing basis subject to operational requirements. Where a non-ongoing position is offered, the role will be filled for a specified term of up to 12 months.

At the end of the recruitment process, a merit pool of suitable candidates may be created. Those found suitable will be advised that they have been placed in the pool. The merit pool is valid for 18 months from the date the process was advertised. The merit pool may be used throughout the period to fill similar positions in the event positions become vacant.

Full-time and Canberra-based is preferred, but flexible locations and part-time arrangements will be considered.

## Job specific capabilities

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The skills required to support success in this role are adaptability, creativity, a can-do attitude, and the ability to thrive in a highly dynamic and sometimes reactive workplace.

The ability to pivot and make changes to meet the needs and preferences of our audience is critical, as are highly developed organisational skills.

A background in stakeholder engagement, marketing and/ or communications will be highly regarded.

The right person for this position will demonstrate the following experience and capabilities:

- Experience in public education, media, communications or stakeholder engagement
- Ability to source, write and edit accessible, engaging content for digital and traditional channels, including websites, social media and print
- Ability to work flexibly and collaboratively in a fast-paced dynamic environment
- Experience in managing and meeting the needs of internal and external customers
- Capacity to operate independently and as part of a team
- Ability to manage competing priorities and complete tasks within set timeframes
- A positive outlook and enthusiasm for the work, with a demonstrated commitment to high-quality customer service and a customer-centric approach
- Willingness to try new things, learn and contribute to continuous improvement
- Demonstrated ability to learn on the job and achieve outcomes
- Sound professional judgement.

Aligned with IP Australia's Capability Framework, the role requires:

- Integrated Leadership System (ILS): Shapes strategic thinking, achieves results, cultivates productive relationships, communicates with influence
- Core Capabilities: Innovative mindset, data literacy, digital literacy, and AI literacy
- Role-Specific: Strong stakeholder engagement, project management, and communication skills.

It is expected that all IP Australia employees:

- demonstrate attitudes and behaviours responsive to workplace change (including participate in and encourage others to participate in change and contribute to successful outcomes)
- improve organisational performance through effective engagement with and management of risk within relevant sphere of influence
- establish clear expectations and create an environment to achieve stated goals and objectives, take ownership and honour commitments
- uphold and maintain the APS Values and Code of Conduct
- maintain an understanding of their/worker responsibilities under the *Work Health & Safety Act 2011* (WHS Act) and a commitment to promoting a healthy and safe workplace.

To be successful in this role you must have:

- Demonstrated experience in public education, communications, or stakeholder engagement
- Ability to manage complex projects and deliver high quality outcomes in a dynamic environment
- Strong written, verbal and interpersonal communication skills.

Applicants are encouraged to refer to the attached Capability Framework documentation which outlines agency wide behavioural descriptors for the five core capabilities at this classification.

## Eligibility requirements for employment at IP Australia

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Under section 22(8) of the *Public Service Act 1999*, employees must be Australian citizens to be employed in the Australian Public Service (APS).

All applicants offered employment will be required to successfully undergo a pre-engagement screening check, even if they have a security clearance. The screening check involves reviewing your background & personal circumstances to minimise risks in giving access to IP Australia information/resources. This screening check is conducted in accordance with the Australian Government Protective Security Policy Framework requirements.

Some applicants may be able to obtain and maintain a security clearance at a specified clearance level – please check the vacancy information section for security clearance requirements.

The successful applicant must be willing to disclose all relevant and required information.

## How to apply

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Applications must be submitted through IP Australia's online recruitment system, IP Hire. If you have difficulties using IP Hire, please contact the Recruitment Solutions team on 02 6283 2567.

To apply for this vacancy, you are asked to complete the online application form which includes submitting:

- A one-page statement (max 750 words) outlining how your skills, knowledge, and experience make you the right person for the role. You should include details of relevant achievements/examples that demonstrate your suitability
- A current CV detailing recent employment history which is relevant to the advertised position
- The name and contact details of two referees.

Most of the communication you'll receive about this process will be via email so please take this into consideration when submitting your application. For example, it is best not to use a work email if you are going on leave as we cannot change the process to accommodate the non-receipt of emails.

## How you will be assessed

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IP Australia use competitive merit-based recruitment processes. Candidates will be assessed against the job specific capabilities and duties, so it is important you frame your response around these.

IP Australia has its own capability framework that provides clarity and consistency for a professional and highly competent workforce, now and into the future. There are five core capabilities, relevant to each classification, and a +1 technical capability which varies depending on the role.

IP Australia uses a range of assessment methods which may include application and resume assessment, interview and/or written assessment and/or psychometric assessment and the collection of a referee report/s.

## Diversity and inclusion

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We celebrate and champion diversity to ensure we reflect the community we serve, and pride ourselves on our inclusive culture. We welcome applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people of all genders, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, those who identify as LGBTQA+, mature aged employees and carers.

### **Reasonable adjustments**

We want you to be able to shine in the assessment process so if you require any personalised adjustments to assist you to participate fully in this recruitment process, please indicate this in your application form (or by contacting the Recruitment Solutions Team).

A member of either the Recruitment Solutions Team or the Selection Panel will contact you to discuss your needs. All reasonable requests for adjustments will be facilitated if possible. Personalised adjustments are also available to employees who commence with IP Australia to assist them to perform the duties of their role to the best of their ability.

Any information provided is private and confidential and will only be used to provide accommodations and will in no way determine the outcome of an application.

### **RecruitAbility**

The [RecruitAbility scheme](#) has been applied to this vacancy. RecruitAbility is a scheme which aims to attract and develop applicants with disability.

Applicants with disability who opt into the scheme; declare they have disability; and meet the minimum inherent requirements of the vacancy will be advanced to a later stage in the selection process. Merit remains the basis for engagement and promotion.



## About IP Australia

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IP Australia is the Australian Government agency responsible for administering Australia's intellectual property (IP) rights system, specifically patents, trademarks, designs, and plant breeder's rights. IP Australia also undertakes programs to educate and promote an awareness of IP, provides IP policy input to Government, develops legislation to support the IP system and contributes to bilateral and multilateral negotiations to improve IP protection internationally.

Australia's IP rights system supports innovation, investment, and international competitiveness. IP investment in Australia is valued at about 40 billion dollars.

We are an Australian Government agency with a passion for bright ideas, offering a great work-life balance, flexible working arrangements and rewarding career paths in the IP industry and/or Australian Public Service. IP Australia embraces flexibility, including hours and location. Most of our roles can be done from anywhere in Australia, as long as you have reliable internet connection and an appropriate office set-up. We have offices in Canberra (Ngunnawal Country) and Melbourne (Naarm) for employees who are located within a reasonable distance to the office and most employees work a mixture of days in the office and days from home. Employees who are not located near an office, work completely remotely.



- **FLEXIBILITY**  
Maintain a balanced lifestyle.
- **PRIDE IN THE WORK WE DO**  
Contribute to high quality outcomes every day.
- **A SENSE OF BELONGING**  
Enjoy a sense of belonging and purpose, rich with diversity.
- **PROFESSIONALISM**  
Use your expertise in a rewarding and fulfilling environment.
- **INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION**  
Work with world leaders in intellectual property.
- **THE AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SERVICE**  
Experience all the advantages of the APS, with the size and agility of enterprise.

## Working in the APS

Australian Public Service (APS) [Values](#) guide us through our working lives, setting expectations for shared behaviour that keep our workplace harmonious and productive. The values are also a promise to the people of Australia that we can be trusted to act with integrity, in their service and in accordance with the Public Service [Code of Conduct](#).

You can find out more about the APS's Employee Value Proposition here: [Work with us | APS jobs](#)



## CAPABILITY FRAMEWORK - RELEVANT TO APS 6



### Agility and innovation – create and deliver outcomes using agile and innovative approaches

- Model adaptability and flexibility in changing circumstances and diverse situations.
- Identify, capture and actively drive change activities, including supporting others to adapt to change and improve the broader team.
- Collaboratively provide input into the development of solutions for complex situations; question conventional approaches when developing alternative solutions and make recommendations.
- Strengthen the team's innovative problem solving through collaboration, consultation and inclusion.
- Demonstrate behaviours consistent with embracing change and new ideas; model and support staff to fail fast and apply learnings.



### Customer centric – create and deliver quality customer centric outcomes

- Maintain relationships with key customers to enable quality service outcomes.
- Manage activities and support the team to provide quality service outcomes.
- Respond to a broad range of service requests resolving complex issues with a solutions focus to meet customer needs.
- Work collaboratively across business groups to negotiate and manage service activities, achieving the best result for customers.
- Contribute to the development and evaluation of service standards. Apply these standards to resolve or escalate issues and give technical briefings to staff members and customers.



### Data literacy – create and deliver, appropriately use data

- Assist with research and analysis relevant to business needs and make recommendations to support decision-making.
- Be aware of the type of data created and used in own work area and have a basic ability to use the data systems and tools available.
- Ask questions to identify problems, and research the data to inform the audience of potential solutions.
- Adapt information in the appropriate medium, and then communicate and deliver data to the target audience.
- Manage resources in line with quality measures and align with performance expectations.



### Engages with risk – create and deliver positive risk behaviour

- Collaborate with colleagues and stakeholders to improve the way that risk is managed.
- Provide active oversight of risks, explore alternatives and show personal courage.
- Model a workplace where individuals and the team can take risks, accept failure, communicate openly and apply learnings.
- Identify risk information critical to making an informed decision.
- Manage tolerable risk and escalate as required.



### People, network and self-leadership – create and deliver authentic leadership behaviour

- Seek out feedback on own performance; respond proactively and make appropriate changes.
- Engage with the team to model behaviours including resilience, flexibility and persistence in changing and challenging environments.
- Develop and strengthen new and existing relationships across the business; support business objectives and make recommendations.
- Take responsibility for identifying development needs of your own staff through authentic performance conversations.
- Hold yourself and others to account when behavioural expectations are not met.



### Job Specific Technical Capabilities

- Researches, maintains knowledge of, interprets and applies relevant legislation.
- Provides advice and interpretation within technical or specialist area.
- Applies comprehensive knowledge of the technical field to address complex matters and/or undertake thorough analyses.
- Uses current methods or tools to explore and resolve complex issues.
- Finds and shares new ways to analyse and present information.
- Shares specialised knowledge and experience with others and assists others to develop technical skills and locate relevant information.