



## **ALHR Environment and Human Rights Committee Youth-Chair Position Description**

### **ALHR's Thematic Committees**

ALHR utilises thematic committees and has adopted a co-chair management structure within them as a means to improve the impact of our advocacy and deliver efficiency and accountability.

ALHR now has a total of 11 committees, including:

- Refugee Rights
- Disability Rights
- Freedoms
- Human Rights Act(s)
- Indigenous Rights
- Business and Human Rights
- LGBTI Rights
- Women and Girls' Rights
- Children's Rights
- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Environment and Human Rights

A focus on thematic human rights areas has engaged our members allowing them to concentrate on particular human rights issues and enabling ALHR to deliver a key promise to our paid membership by offering them a voice on human rights and law reform in Australia. This thematic focus also serves to increase the impact of our strategic advocacy and enables ALHR to efficiently target areas of critical focus for Australian human rights practice.

### **About the Environment and Human Rights Committee (EHR Committee)**

The EHR Committee is overseen by two Senior Co-Chairs responsible for leading ALHR's work in the environment and human rights space at a national and international level. They are lawyers who are passionate about the topic and have significant knowledge, experience and expertise in business and human rights.

ALHR's EHR Committee engages locally, nationally and internationally with a diverse range of stakeholders in order to facilitate research, coordinate submissions and comprehensive advocacy on environment and human topics, and to present this to key legal and political figures in order to keep the thematic area at the forefront of public discussion.

In particular the Committee

1. Undertakes advocacy to stand up for recognition of the right to a safe, clean and healthy environment; and sustainable environmental governance.
2. Highlights the need for decisions about the environment to be made from within a human rights framework.
3. Promotes awareness of the growing body of international discourse on human rights and the environment and adherence to the Framework Principles.
4. Promotes awareness of human rights issues raised by environmental issues such as climate change.
5. In recognition that young people are a key group amongst those most likely to suffer the long term future human rights impacts of climate change and environmental neglect, the subcommittee specifically engages with and offers a voice to children and young people.

### The Role of EHR Committee Youth-Chairs

The Youth-Chairs will work with the support and supervision of the Senior Co-chairs in leading ALHR's work in the environment and human rights space.

The successful applicants will be young lawyers or law students who are passionate about the topic and have some knowledge and experience in environment and human rights law. For example, this may include some knowledge or experience of current domestic and international developments. Applicants will also have:

- An ability to network with key legal, political and public figures in order to engage the general public on the environment and human rights.
- The capacity to engage in campaign work, contribute to social media communications and act as a media spokesperson when required.
- Legal research and drafting skills
- A commitment to ALHR's aims and objectives.

In recognition that young people are a key group impacted by human rights violations in this space, the Youth-Chair will work with the Committee to specifically seek to engage with environment and human rights issues impacting children and young people.

ALHR Youth Co-Chairs are supported, guided by and accountable to their Committee Co-Chairs, ALHR's National Committee and Executive Management Committee.

### The BHR Committee Youth-Chairs will be expected to:

1. Attend meetings of the committee (usually scheduled bi-monthly).
2. Work collaboratively with the subcommittee on drafting of submissions, press releases, letters, position statements and other like documents by the subcommittee and submit them to the National Committee or Executive for approval.
3. Act as a media spokesperson on behalf of ALHR on environment and human rights when this is approved by the Executive.
4. Attend meetings with external organisations and stakeholders and appear from time to time as a speaker at events.

5. Undertake research in environment and human rights
6. Engage with members of the EHR Subcommittee
7. Consistently attend the monthly meetings of the National Committee to report back on the subcommittee's activities and attend the Annual General Meeting and Annual Planning Weekend. Where a co-chair arrangement is in place co-chairs are expected to work together to ensure that there is at least one chair present at meetings of the National Committee.
8. Liaise with ALHR's state and territory convenors to support their local advocacy efforts in the thematic area and organise events.
9. Collaborate with ALHR's other thematic committees where human rights issues are intersectional, for instance the Women and Girls' Rights Committee where EHR issues raise a gender lens, the Business and Human Rights Committee where the conduct of business has an environmental impact that engages human rights.
10. Respond to enquiries received from members of the subcommittee in a timely manner
11. Comply at all times with ALHR's policies and procedures.

It is the duty of youth-chairs to carry out and fulfil the responsibilities specified to the best of their abilities, supported and guided by ALHR's National Committee.

#### [EHR Subcommittee Youth-Chair's Responsibility to ensure they are performing their role](#)

ALHR recognises that as a volunteer organisation, we are dependant on people and people's capacity to be actively engaged can fluctuate. Chairs and Youth-Chairs are responsible for communicating with the executive and their National Committee colleagues if their capacity to contribute will be reduced for a period of time.

If an individual is aware that they will be unable to contribute for a significant period of time (i.e. two months or more), they should discuss this with the ALHR Executive. The executive will determine whether another member should be recruited to assist with duties for that time.

If unable to contribute for a period of time longer than six months, they should either resign or, depending on the individual circumstances, the National Committee may resolve to make arrangements to have an acting Youth-chair take over.

If the National Committee has concerns about a capacity to adequately engage and perform the above outlined responsibilities, in the first instance an office bearer will discuss this with the individual and set agreed goals for the next three months. If these goals are not met, the National Committee can resolve to remove subcommittee chair and appoint a new one.

Where a Youth-Chair consistently fails to engage with the National Committee and perform the above outlined voluntary responsibilities for a prolonged period of time without explanation or discussion with an office bearer, the National Committee can resolve to remove them and appoint a new Youth-chair.