

Expressions of Interest for Junior Analysts to join the Mergers, Exemptions and Digital (MEAD) Division at the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

We are seeking expressions of interest for Junior Analyst positions within MEAD at the ACCC. Positions are available part time and full time, and are likely to suit those currently studying or recently graduated from law and/or economics degrees.

There are positions available in four branches within MEAD:

- the Policy, Coordination and Remedies Branch
- the Merger Investigation Branch
- the Competition Exemptions Branch
- the Digital Platforms Branch.

Below is a short description of the work of each branch and the types of tasks undertaken by a Junior Analyst in that branch.

The salary offered for the position will be \$54,910 - 60,889 per annum (pro rata) plus superannuation. The positions will be on offered on the basis of non-ongoing contracts for short term periods.

Policy Coordination and Remedies (PCR) Branch

The PCR Branch is responsible for four core functions:

- conducting pre-assessments of mergers
- advising and assisting on the drafting of remedies to address competition concerns that arise from a merger reviews
- providing advice and researching key policy questions affecting the division
- providing administrative support to the rest of the division.

The Junior Analyst will be recruited to fill vacancies in the Pre-assessment Team, Remedies Unit and/or Policy team. A short description of these areas are provided below.

Pre-assessments involve conducting initial assessments which triage the mergers and acquisitions notified to the ACCC. This work assesses whether these notifications can be cleared or need to be advance to a public review. Matters that are advanced to a public review are provided to the Mergers Investigation Branch for investigation.

The Remedies Unit considers the application of court enforceable undertakings and assesses the suitability of business assets to be divested to resolve competition concerns and the suitability of potential purchasers of those assets.

The Policy team researches and provides advice on questions of policy that impact the division. This work includes reviewing legal journal articles, publications, international jurisdictions, case law and internal documents from past matters to inform policy positions.

Some of the day to day tasks expected of the Junior Analyst placed in the PCR Branch include:

- Reviewing submissions provided by merger parties and other affected market participants
- Conducting research into industries relevant to merger review investigations
- Compiling file notes and attending to record keeping tasks
- Drafting correspondence addressed to parties external to the organisation
- Undertaking competition law analysis in accordance with the ACCC Merger Review Guidelines
- Conducting legal research and review of academic journals
- Reviewing internal documents and creating data bases to inform policy positions
- Summarising complex matters into concise internal written minutes.

Mergers Investigation Branch

The Merger Investigations Branch (MIB) assesses whether a proposed merger or acquisition will, or is likely to, result in a substantial lessening of competition.

MIB predominantly assesses proposed mergers or acquisitions through the public informal merger review process. This typically involves conducting market inquiries by meeting and calling interested parties. Once the investigation gathers sufficient relevant information from the merger parties and interested third parties, staff draft papers for the Mergers Review Committee to consider recommendations to oppose or not oppose the proposed merger or acquisition. When the investigation identifies that the proposed merger or acquisition is likely to result in a contravention of s.50 of the CCA if completed, the investigation team will either liaise with the merger parties to negotiate an appropriate remedy or otherwise prepare the matter for litigation.

Some of the day to day tasks expected of the Junior Analyst place in MIB include:

- Compiling file notes and attending to record keeping tasks
- Reviewing documents provided to the ACCC in response to s.155 notices or in response to voluntary requests for information
- Assist with drafting of written documents such as decision papers, media releases, executive briefs, and entries for the public register
- Drafting and preparation of external correspondence
- Reviewing submissions provided by merger parties and other affected market participants
- Conducting research into industries relevant to merger review investigations
- Conducting investigative steps in relation to contraventions of s.50 of the Competition and Consumer Act (CCA)
- Undertaking competition law analysis in accordance with the ACCC Merger Review Guidelines.

Competition Exemptions Branch

The Competition Exemptions Branch (CE) assesses whether proposed conduct or arrangements, which might breach the competition provisions of the CCA, should nevertheless be allowed because they are not harmful to competition and/or are likely to result in overall public benefits.

There are public statutory processes – called authorisation and notification – for assessing and exempting proposed conduct or arrangements. Authorisation involves seeking feedback from interested parties in relation to the application, issuing and consulting on a draft determination, and issuing a final determination. Notifications are similar but with reduced process steps.

The CE branch also has a role in reviewing certification trade marks (CTMs), focused on whether they raise any concerns from a competition or consumer protection perspective.

Some of the day to day tasks expected of the Junior Analyst placed in CE include:

- Processing documents for inclusion on the public register
- Compiling file notes and attending to record keeping tasks
- Assisting with drafting of written documents such as decision papers, media releases, executive briefs, and entries for the public register
- Drafting and preparation of external correspondence
- Reviewing submissions provided by applicants and interested parties
- Conducting research into industries relevant to authorisation applications and notifications
- Reviewing CTMs and preparing associated assessment minutes.

Digital Platforms Branch

The ACCC has set up a specialist Digital Platforms Branch to conduct further work related to digital platform markets. The Digital Platforms Branch is currently conducting a 5 year monitoring inquiry into a broad range of digital services. In addition, the Branch proactively scrutinises competition and consumer issues in relation to digital platforms, including bringing law enforcement cases where appropriate.

Other completed work conducted by the Branch includes the development of the recently legislated code of conduct to address the imbalance in bargaining power between digital platforms and news media businesses, and an 18 month inquiry specifically into ad-tech services.

Some of the day to day tasks expected of the Junior Analyst place in the Digital Platforms Branch include:

- Conducting research into digital platform products and services
- Undertaking competition and consumer law analysis
- Compiling file notes and attending to record keeping tasks
- Drafting correspondence addressed to parties external to the organisation
- Conducting legal research and review of academic and technical journals, as well as review of overseas case law and legislative developments
- Assisting with writing papers and minutes for decisions in relation to competition related matters.

What we are looking for?

We are looking for motivated individuals with an interest in competition and consumer law and/or economics. The successful applicant will be self-motivated, demonstrate initiative and be an excellent communicator.

At the ACCC/AER we are committed to diversity and inclusion. We know that workplaces that embrace diversity are high performing. We are a high performing organisation and encourage applications from people of all gender, sexuality, ethnicity, age, disability and other demographic groups.

The following will be an advantage:

- Completion of Competition Law units in undergraduate or postgraduate studies
- Completion of Consumer Protection Law units in undergraduate or postgraduate studies
- An understanding of basic economic principles relevant to competition analysis.

Applicants located in the following locations will be preferred but other locations in capital cities may also be considered for outstanding applicants:

- Sydney
- Canberra
- Brisbane
- Melbourne.

Successful applicants will be contractors and hired indirectly through a recruitment agency.

How to submit an expression of interest

(1) Submit an application on the [ACCC Contractor Employment Register 2021/22](#).

Please note that by submitting an application on the register, you may also be considered for other opportunities at the ACCC if you are not successful in this process.

In your application, please ensure you complete the following steps:

- a. Select that you are interested in working in MEAD
- b. Select that you are interested in APS 2 positions (you can select additional boxes also for future opportunities)
- c. When you upload your resume – include in a single document, a cover letter, your resume, a copy of your academic transcript.

(2) Email micaela.bassford@acc.gov.au and asher.kozma@acc.gov.au to let us know that you have submitted your application on the register.

Contact details

For any enquiries relating to this opportunity please contact Micaela Bassford at micaela.bassford@acc.gov.au or 02 9102 4069 or Andy Gallagher at andy.gallagher@acc.gov.au or 02 9230 9129.