

PROMOTION STAKES

Promotion seems to be elusive for many members of today's police force. The need for both experience in the field and higher educational qualifications appears to be at cross purposes. After all, how can a police officer or a prison officer who does shift work be expected to further their education? And what of officers who work at country stations ... or those who are frequently transferred around the Melbourne metropolitan area?

Now there's an answer for officers who cannot afford the time to attend traditional classes — Distance Learning. Prison Officers, Police Officers and people working in related fields often find it difficult to further their education due to work and distance restrictions. In years gone by, an officer was promoted on his or her experience in the field. These days an advanced education and that all important "piece of paper" is necessary to gain promotion in their workplace. With the majority of Police Stations and Prisons being country based, most officers find it very difficult to attend traditional classes. Even those in the Metropolitan Stations suffer because of the inconvenience of shift work or the possibility of transfers.

New Opportunity for Members

For the first time, interstate officers as well as those within Victoria, can take part in a course being offered in a Distance Learning mode. The programme offers maximum flexibility and participants will be able to handle the work load at their own pace, studying during their off-shift periods. If an officer is transferred, he or she simply takes the study to their new post.

The course offered is the Criminal Justice Administration Programme which began in classroom format in 1992. Students in the new programme will cover the same areas as the class attendance students, that is, psychology, sociology, criminology, police studies, judicial studies and much more.

The two year course comprises a sequence of four certificates each semester. Each certificate covers four subjects over 13 weeks. Students are assessed during the semester and there are formal examinations at the end of each semester. More than 100 students sat the end of year examinations in 1992. The pass rate was 97% and although the programme is not intended as a preparation for further study, 25% of participants successfully applied for various courses at TAFE and university level.

Most first year students re-enrolled in the second year of the Criminal Justice Administration course. They will complete the sequence of four Certificates by the end of 1993. Those who successfully complete the full sequence receive an additional certificate which acknowledges this achievement.

Part of a Range of Professional Programmes

The Certificates in Criminal Justice Administration are part of a range of certificate programmes available from Technisearch, the commercial arm of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. All are professional development programmes designed to boost skills and aid the career interests of people in employment or those seeking employment in their relevant fields.

History of the Course

Course coordinator, Dr Geoff Asher, is also course coordinator of the prestigious RMIT Bachelor of Arts (Criminal Justice Administration) taught at the RMIT Coburg Campus (formerly the Phillip Institute of Technology). The course has proven to be so popular, it was decided to present the subject on a commercial basis through Technisearch. So far the demand has exceeded expectations.

Exemptions for Serving Officers

Exemptions are available to serving police officers and other staff employed in the areas of criminal justice, welfare and related fields, who have undertaken equivalent studies as assessed by the course co-ordinator.

Both classroom and distance education formats of the course meet the conditions of a structured training programme as defined in the Training Guarantee Act 1990. Fees may also be tax deductible, so interested officers should consult a tax adviser.

For further information about this course contact Mrs Bette Sutton, the project manager at Technisearch, on (03) 660 5172.



Are you seeking career training in Criminal Justice Administration but don't have the time to go back to school?

This two year, class attendance course is also presented in a distance learning mode to meet the needs of people working in areas such as the police force, courts, prison system & security. Developed by the same people who teach the prestigious RMIT B.A. (CJA) this Certificate course presents a unique opportunity to develop skills in preparation for employment in a demanding career. Students are thoroughly assessed to high standards by Faculty staff and receive certification of their academic achievement.

For further information and commencement dates phone the Technisearch bookings line on **(03) 663 6853.**

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