

Joel is Teaching what He's Learned: A Victoria Police Mobility Story

Joel was a member of Victoria Police for three and a half years, doing general duties, before resigning and pursuing a variety of careers, including setting up a consultancy, and undertaking investigations for organisations including AFL Victoria, Essendon District Football Club, Traffic Accident Commission and Worksafe Victoria. He worked as a youth worker while obtaining teaching qualifications and then as a teacher and education coordinator, before returning to Victoria Police, and undertaking refresher training. This is his story.

Joel reflects on why he left VicPol ... *joining at 19 I was too young in terms of life experience and education. You may not necessarily need a degree, but it helps down the line to give you some credibility and backing. I'd say it would be very helpful to have, but I think life experience is the most important thing.*

Joel left and obtained both a degree and life experience, pursuing investigations before becoming a successful teacher ... *I was a high school teacher for three years and then moved into a leadership spot, in charge of student management, engagement with youth and keeping them out of trouble.*

Joel saw the transferability of his skills - both into and out of Victoria Police... *Now that I'm back in Victoria Police I use my teaching experiences to come up with better solutions. Having to work full-time and also study full-time, my time management got better.*

Joel is currently at the Victoria Police Academy, completing his refresher training and as squad leader, has found many opportunities to apply the skills he acquired ... *I've had to use communication quite a bit, and time*

management to make sure everything is done by the time it needs getting done by, and also making sure everyone else has stuff done by the time they need to be done by.

Joel sees how existing skills can be used in a variety of roles ... *I haven't got any intentions to go into a youth resource role, but I think just going out to jobs that I'll be going out to, and interacting with the community, trying to build that rapport with young people so they feel comfortable speaking to police, that's something I would be doing.*

The beauty of having that teaching background is that it doesn't just apply to youth. It can apply to older people, teaching people of the same age and in the same job can be helpful as well.

Ultimately, Joel would like to follow the detective stream into counterterrorism ... *coming in with those skills that I've learnt from teaching, and those skills that I learnt from investigating, I think that will help me, and what I've learnt here*

is more specific to what VicPol wants. So I think all three combined will help a lot.

He sees changes in himself mirrored in changes in Victoria Police ... *The first time I was in VicPol I don't think it was as professional as what it is now, that might have been myself as well, I don't think I was as professional as I am now. Coming back to VicPol I think standards have changed again, which is really good, I think it's a lot more professional now. You can't get away with some of the stuff you used to get away with, which is a good thing.*

He has found his networks are still useful ... *with the investigation stuff the people who were investigating were 90% ex VicPol, quite a few of them have a lot of experience ... just discussing what they have done previously, helped me when I was investigating. With teaching, the connection with local providers, the council, knowing how they work and how they can help you, where to find help is the thing I learnt through teaching. I think I'll be able to use these networks, they will be a good resource.*

Turn over to see Joel's career map...

A Victoria Police Mobility and Capability Map

