

Melanie Johnston CV

Criminal Investigator

Australian Taxation Office

melanie.johnston@ato.gov.au

I initially commenced working within Australian Taxation Office (ATO) Field Compliance, where I undertook taxation audits on a range of business types and dealt with a variety of taxation professionals, before joining Criminal Investigations where I have utilised my audit skills and ATO system knowledge to produce high quality investigation outcomes and successful prosecution cases.

In addition to completing case work, mentoring, and managing staff I actively engaged in the redesign and implementation of a simplified electronic Brief of Evidence (eBrief) tool, which was successfully rolled out nationally with interest from other business lines and government agencies to adopt a user friendly and adaptable resource. The use of the eBrief allows for large quantities of evidence files to be collated digitally and be readily available through an automated hyperlinking process using MS excel, negating the need for proprietary software to undertake such tasks, and complies with Prosecution and Australian Courts electronic brief requirements.

Prior to joining the ATO, I was an operational police officer in the Northern Territory Police Force where I specialised within the Criminal Investigations Branch, Major Crime area. I worked both as the OIC of complex investigations as well as a member of dynamic teams involved in the investigation and prosecution of serious and high-profile investigations. I led the Computer Crimes Unit for a period of time, specialising in computer forensics and the presentation and understanding of digital evidence within the courts, dismissing myths and mistruths leading to 100% conviction rate of predatory offenders involved in the creation, collection, and distribution of Child Abuse Material. I was involved in numerous joint agency investigations with Australian Federal Police and other Australian State Police jurisdictions, achieving successful outcomes for all agencies.

I back up my practical real-world experience with educational certification, having obtained a Bachelor Degree in Information Technology and certifications within Business, Financial Services, Accounting and Government Investigations.

I continue to maintain currency and proficiency, always seeking opportunities to develop my skill set with innovation to work smarter. The opportunity to share my knowledge with others furthers my development within a dynamic and changing environment.