

## **JD 10 Year Anniversary**

Pay Respects to Traditional Custodians

Acknowledge VIPs

This is a great law program at RMIT, and I'm not just saying that because I did my law course at this institution, probably before many of you were born!

The JD at RMIT prides itself on innovation and collaboration as well as instilling in students a sense that they can make a real difference.

Apart from teaching the required Priestly 11 subjects to get our students qualified, we immerse them in life-changing, clinical education experiences. We encourage students to see the law as an agent of positive change and we show them how access to holistic, wrap around services can turn peoples' lives around.

You see the law and access to justice should not just be esoteric ideals that are out of reach to most. The law should be a living, breathing, multi-disciplinary, positive agent of change.

When people come into contact with the justice system, in whatever guise, we have to grasp that moment, that point in time and use that contact as a positive intervention in their lives.

At RMIT we believe that our JD program produces an exciting generation of lawyers and leaders, who understand the importance of seeing the justice system through the eyes of its users.

Our graduates understand that people with Acquired Brain Injury, people with mental health issues, people from indigenous backgrounds, people who are victims of family violence and people with drug and alcohol addiction are the biggest users of the justice system. Our graduates also understand that the system can and must be flexible enough to address their specific needs and to get their lives back on track.

It really is great to be here tonight. I can't believe it is 10 years since the JD program started at RMIT. In fact I had the privilege as the then Attorney-General to launch the JD program all those years ago. It is with a great deal of satisfaction, then, that I am here tonight, 10 years on, to introduce a former parliamentary colleague of mine and the current Victorian Attorney-General Martin Pakula.

Martin is passionate about access to justice, he is passionate about using the law to make a positive difference to peoples' lives, but tragically, he is also passionate about the Carlton Football Club. Be that as it may, it is my absolute pleasure to introduce to you Victoria's Chief Law Officer, the Honourable Martin Pakula.