

Meritas develops Australasia's first single law office lawyer exchange programme

Travelling and working in a different jurisdiction and office can be an exciting career opportunity for a lawyer. The chance to develop professionally and personally, not to mention experiencing a bit of adventure in a new city.

It's something that many national and international firms talk up when recruiting – but rarely deliver – and something single office firms haven't been able to do at all.

Global legal network Meritas has developed Australasia's first early career lawyer exchange program to offer lawyers from its member firms a taste of working in another city. The initiative helps build the network between the firms and also fosters an exchange of best practice between firms on everything from matter management to training.

Meritas is a global alliance of independent law firms and includes six law firms across Australia and New Zealand; SWAAB, Bennett & Philp Lawyers, DMAW Lawyers, Madgwicks, Williams & Hughes and Martelli McKegg.

The program was first piloted prior to Covid in 2019 in an exchange between SWAAB in Sydney and Martelli McKegg in Auckland. It consists of a two-week direct exchange of early career lawyers between offices who are introduced to work in the exchanged office. They can also continue to do their regular billable work from the different city.

In 2023 Martelli McKegg participated again. As part of the exchange, we hosted Jaspreet Kaur from Madgwicks Lawyers in Melbourne and our Senior Associate Kiren Narayan spent two weeks at DMAW Lawyers in Adelaide.

Kiren found it was a great experience which allowed her to meet some wonderful lawyers from our Meritas sister firm in Adelaide, South Australia, see how that firm worked and make some connections there. She was grateful to Martelli McKegg for the opportunity and to DMAW Lawyers for welcoming and hosting her.

The exchange programme was featured in [Lawyers Weekly](#). To read the article and see the benefits the programme has for both the individual lawyers and the firms involved click [here](#).