

**THE DEFENCE LEGAL SERVICE**  
**CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**MEETING OF 16 OCT 01**

**COMMITTEE DECISION 72/01**

**Subject: Policy – Re-assessment of Legal Officers’ Professional Development**

**The Committee noted:**

1. The DFRT Decision on the Legal Officers’ Career Structure and the detail concerning academic qualifications.
2. The Committee’s Decision 35/01 to support the recognition of litigation and contract law as areas of law that should be recognised for legal competency level purposes.
3. The report dated 12 Oct 01 from LTCOL Muggleton, A/DMLC, on the training courses recently conducted jointly by the MLC and Melbourne University, namely Advanced Military Administrative law, Advanced Discipline law and Advocacy for Service Tribunals and Boards of Inquiry.
4. The advice from the Secretary that LTCOL Muggleton shortly will be submitting a paper on the conditions applicable for the tertiary qualifications available from Melbourne University in a Graduate Diploma in Military Law, a Masters in Military Law and a Masters in Law.
5. That legal officer training for both a Graduate Diploma and a Masters was not fully funded at this stage and the bid for increased funds in the Business Plan for FY 01/02 had not been approved.

**The Committee decided:**

1. To **agree** that there is a need to undertake a re-assessment of Legal Officers’ Professional Development and that it should be undertaken and completed as soon as practicable.
2. To **agree** that as part of this re-assessment Ms Christine Malinsky, in consultation with MLC staff, shall **evaluate** the following:
  - a. The delivery of LO Training against approved LO Competencies and Adult Learning Principles;

- b. The comparative costs of delivery of LO Training;
- c. The need for both a Graduate Diploma and a Masters degree to achieve the approved LO Competencies (for a general list LO);
- d. The Course Documentation associated with LO Training, including programs, outcomes, contract arrangements; and
- e. The suitability of current competencies (which should be evaluated in conjunction with staff from BCA Training & Development Services Pty Ltd).

**M.F.J. SMITH**

CDRE RAN

Director General The Defence Legal Service

Chairman, Career and Professional Development Committee