

2009 GRADUATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROFILES

Name: Lauren Anderson

Job Title: Policy Officer

International Section, Resources Division

University: Macquarie University

Qualification: Bachelor of International
Business



Why did you choose RET?

I applied for the Graduate Development Program at RET as I wanted to work in an organisation that not only contributed to enhancing Australia's prosperity domestically, but also contributed to the Australian economy through international engagement.

How did you benefit from the Graduate Development Program?

Before joining the Department I had relatively little knowledge of the issues it dealt with. The three rotations in the graduate year allowed me to develop an in depth understanding of the different areas the Department works in and also meet people across each of the divisions. The graduate program also provided training opportunities to assist in key development areas such as public service writing skills, awareness of APS accountability and codes of conduct, and how to engage effectively in team work. Throughout the year I also had the opportunity to travel to a number of meetings and conferences around Australia.

Most memorable moment in the Graduate Development Program?

As a part of our Graduate Business Challenge (major project) we had the opportunity to travel interstate to consult with stakeholders relevant to our area of research. This allowed us to further develop our coordination and communication skills, and hear first hand from stakeholders on issues relating to the Department. Besides being a lot of fun and helping us develop professional relationships with our fellow graduates, it was also an invaluable opportunity to see how stakeholders and constituents see the work RET does and how that work has real impacts on Australians.

What would you tell others considering the Graduate Development Program?

I really enjoyed my graduate year working in such a dynamic Department. The Graduate Development Program was a great way to begin my career in RET and the Australian Public Service. Throughout the year the Department was very supportive of our development needs and encouraged us to pursue our individual interests.