



## THE CRANLANA PROGRAMME

### Victorian Public Service Colloquium 2012



#### OVERVIEW

In 2012, the Cranlana Programme will conduct four moderated roundtable Colloquia on leadership, ethics and values specifically tailored to the needs of the Victorian Public Service. Now in its fifth year, these custom-designed seminars are offered to future leaders in the Victorian public service at levels 4, 5 and 6.

#### **MARCH**

Sunday March 25 – Friday March 30; level 6 or equivalent.

#### **MAY**

Sunday 20 – Friday 25 May; levels 4 & 5 or equivalent .

#### **AUGUST**

Sunday 5 – Friday 10 August; level 6 or equivalent.

#### **OCTOBER**

Sunday 7 – Friday 12 October; levels 4 & 5 or equivalent .

#### INTRODUCTION

“Politics appears to require a distinctive standpoint, differing from that of our ordinary moral outlook in terms of the kinds of judgements it prompts and the considerations it renders important: for this reason, dirty hands becomes something of an occupational hazard. This does not just mean that political agents may have a larger moral burden to bear than most; it is an easier option and greater temptation for politicians to narrow their moral perspective and recast themselves as being suitable only to their morally autonomous sphere of activity, such that the limits of public judgement become the limits of their moral world.”

*Steve Buckler, Dirty Hands: The Problem of Political Morality (1993)*

Public sector leaders are increasingly called upon to make decisions in complex environments, where competing perspectives and seemingly incompatible values are at play. Decisions are often made under pressure and in highly politicised settings. These judgments can have significant long-term moral and ethical ramifications.

The Cranlana Programme can help better equip public sector leaders with a set of value-based frameworks for making difficult decisions where there may not always be a clear choice between right and wrong, and where tensions exist between social, economic and environmental forces, and indeed, public expectations and national interest.

Through moderated roundtable discussions drawing upon the ideas from influential texts, participants can broaden their perspectives and strengthen decision-making capability. They will be challenged to consider the underlying values, principles and assumptions that determine their actions. The Colloquium gives participants the time to reflect on matters of public responsibility and ethical behaviour in an independent and confidential environment.

## ORGANISATION BACKGROUND

The Cranlana Programme is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organisation whose broad objective is to cultivate wisdom in leadership. It offers people with senior responsibilities the opportunity to enhance their understanding of the philosophical, ethical and social issues central to creating a just, prosperous and sustainable society in Australia.

Since its inception in 1993, the organisation has run some 80 high-level colloquia, 30 two-day symposia on topics such as justice and society, power and ethics, the value of democracy and business and ethics, plus a number of issue-specific seminars, lectures and roundtable policy dialogues. More than 2000 senior-level public servants in the federal and state governments, business and community leaders have participated in our seminars.

## OBJECTIVES

Providing a rare opportunity for future leaders in the Victorian public service to examine their roles and responsibilities, the broad objectives of the Victorian Public Sector Colloquium are to:

- Enhance the capacity for informed, ethical and effective judgement
- Strengthen analytical and decision-making capability in complex environments
- Reflect on the nature of leadership and the societal, organisational and personal values that determine actions
- Deepen thinking about the shaping and formation of public and corporate policy
- Build aptitude for innovation and strategic thinking

## METHODOLOGY

Each Victorian Public Sector Colloquium will be led by expert moderators, who are highly conversant both with TCP's method of structured roundtable discussion and with the concerns of public sector leaders. It is designed for 20 participants.

Each participant will receive a set of selected readings which provides common ground for discussion and consideration. These are taken from a number of influential texts that have shaped the foundations of Australian society, from classical philosophers to contemporary writers. Participants are able to consider the practical application of ideas canvassed in the readings to their own departmental and policy context. The method is not prescriptive or training based but designed to encourage shared enquiry among peers to stimulate new and adaptive thinking. It is essential that participants read all selected texts prior to commencing the Colloquium and be prepared to draw upon the readings in roundtable discussions.

The Colloquium enables participants to reflect on effective leadership and the principles that lie at the heart of decision making. With the help of skilled moderators, participants engage in roundtable discussion

about important and complex ideas presented within a set of selected readings. These provide common ground from which participants are encouraged to structure and expand their thinking.

Small group work provides an opportunity to explore the practical application of ideas to current issues within the Victorian public sector. The Colloquium also includes a series of early evening activities, which are designed to complement discussions by offering new and creative insights.

Unlike a workshop or training seminar, Colloquium participants are expected to initiate and participate actively in discussions, using the selected texts to stimulate and frame discussion. Through respectful dialogue and active listening, participants are also challenged to consider alternative views.

## BENEFITS

This is an opportunity to invest in the leadership capability of the Victorian public service. The Colloquium provides an environment for critical reflection, inquiry and knowledge building in order to further refine the decision-making capability of our public servants. It is specifically designed to assist those in positions of responsibility to respond to challenges that require careful deliberation and management of competing tensions.

The Cranlana Programme Colloquium 2012 for future Victoria Public Service Leaders offers public servants an opportunity to engage with peers in considering common policy challenges, to revisit the underlying values and principles of Australian society, and to establish a clear vision for ethical and responsible public leadership.

## WHAT PAST PARTICIPANTS HAVE SAID:

'The Colloquium built my sense of confidence and self-esteem in believing I had the capacity to think through and make informed decisions. It gave me the ability to understand the influence that correct and appropriate decision making can have in delivering better public sector outcomes.'

'It truly challenged my way of thinking about issues and provided a space where I could see the work that I do from a much broader perspective than is possible on a day-to-day basis.'

'It has already assisted my critical analysis, now when we make decisions I can see what ethics we may be following and why.'

'I feel inspired to go out and read and DO more to create positive and just change in my workplace and the world! It really has reignited my passion for learning and advocacy.'

## DETAILS FOR REGISTRATION

The colloquium is non-residential and is conducted at Gardens House, Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.

For queries about registration, please use the contact below.

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