

We mean business



Ashleigh Merriel is doing an MBA over 12 months to improve her business skills.

Picture: Naomi Jellicoe

LACHLAN PRYOR

WITH a passion for developing skills and expanding knowledge, Ashleigh Merriel believes lifelong learning will help her progress her career.

The Government Skills Australia project officer has a bachelor of arts and diploma of business management already under her belt.

Now she is about to embark on her greatest and most intensive study challenge yet – a masters of business administration in just 12 months of study.

She will start her MBA at the Australian Institute of Business Administration this month and will attend sessions for 12 subjects in 12 weekends within the 12 months.

The course also can be completed through distance learning.

FAST TRACK

Benefits of the 12 month MBA include:

- Flexible study options to learn when you want, where you want, via distance learning;
- Accelerated learning, with all requirements met within a shorter course duration;
- The course is focused on practical learning and assessment;
- The course is recognised in 20 locations worldwide.

Ms Merriel says part of her motivation for studying her MBA in such a short period is because she wants to move her professional life forward as quickly as possible.

“The 12 Month MBA is perfect for me as I’m very impatient and

ambitious,” she says. “I didn’t want to wait four years to graduate with my MBA.

“I needed a fast track.”

Gibaran Learning Group corporate affairs director Sanjay Abraham says the benefit of the 12 month MBA is that people can work while they study and still graduate in a short time period.

“In other programs you either have to study part-time and complete your course over many years or take a year off work to finish faster,” he says.

“Our work applied methodology is targeted at adults who end up with more opportunities for professional progression and promotion.”

Ms Merriel studied for her diploma of business management at TAFE during her bachelor of arts studies because she wanted to help her mum run an interior design business.

“Not only was I able to help my

mum but the study at TAFE made me realise even more how much you can advance and grow professionally by studying while you work,” she says.

She started researching the option of studying an MBA and found a 12 Month MBA program has a “realistic and practical approach”, compared with some of the other options she investigated, as well as the shorter study time frame.

She says anyone who wants to progress their career should try to study and gain extra qualifications while they are working.

“Studying not only provides promotion opportunities, it also gives you a better understanding of organisations and you can apply your knowledge in your workplace as you learn,” she says.

“An MBA in particular is a great way to open up more opportunities.”