The SELF Test

During the mid-1990s Ethical Standards Command (ESC) identified the need for a simple and effective guide to support ethical decision making by officers.

This brought about the development and introduction of the SELF test model, which has been acknowledged both nationally and internationally as a leading and innovative decision-making model, adopted in principle by many other law and security enforcement agencies.

The SELF test model is widely marketed throughout the QPS and is still considered a relevant fundamental process applicable for most policing practices.

Approval has recently been granted for the SELF test logo to be included inside official police notebooks and diaries as a ready reference guide for members and to support their ethical decision making.

What does it mean to me?

Before making a decision, ask yourself whether it would pass the SELF test and withstand scrutiny, ensures compliance, and is lawful and fair.

How do I use it?

The SELF acronym can be easily remembered and be useful when confronted by a number of options or when you need to make critical decisions.

When should I use it?

Use it within any decision making situation, whether on duty or off duty. Our conduct always needs to satisfy the provisions of the SELF test, otherwise it will adversely reflect on the QPS.

Remember that an unethical decision will affect us all.

The QPS must be able to maintain public confidence to effectively serve our community in a professional, accountable and ethical manner directed towards best practice principles.

ESC is committed to ensuring community confidence is not only maintained but also enhanced though future policing directions and initiatives.

ESC specialist areas – Integrity and Performance Group, Internal Investigations Group and Internal Audit.

Scrutiny. Would your decision withstand scrutiny by the community or the service?
Ensure compliance with your Oath of Service, Code of Conduct and service policy?
Lawful. Does your decision comply with all laws, regulations and rules?
Fair. Is your decision fair to the community, your family, and colleagues?
Would Your Decision Pass The Test?

Consider

Would your decision withstand Scrutiny?

Will your decision ensure compliance?

Is your decision lawful?

Is your decision fair?

An unethical decision will affect us all

(Produced by The Ethical Practice Branch, Ethical Standards Command.)