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VICTORIA POLICE

FINGERPRINT BRANCH

## Catching crooks no pain

An electronically adjustable workstation is set to reduce the work-related aches and pains of Fingerprint Branch staff.

Over the years the branch has lost numerous staff to serious back and neck injuries caused by hours spent bent over rectangular hard-edged desks peering through magnifying glasses at fingerprints.

In contrast, the ergonomic workstations, designed by Richard Winnicki of the Clayton-based design and engineering company, AME System, give staff the option of standing or sitting while at work.



*The Fingerprint Branch's Rebecca Walters using the ergonomic workstation.*

At the press of a button, the crescent-shaped desk with round, non-pressure point edges, rises to 1.5 metres.

A monitor arm that enables fingerprint experts to view the prints at head height without straining the neck or back was also designed.

"Research shows that our bodies work best if we can alternate standing and sitting," Mr Winnicki said.

"For years people have had to adapt to their equipment when really, the equipment should be designed for our bodies."

St Kilda Fingerprint Branch forensic officer Ken Allen said he was already feeling the benefits of the workstation.

"With these desks and monitor arms, catching crooks is no longer a pain in the neck," he said.