

Private Investigator



Alternate title	Commercial and Private Agent; Inquiry Agent; Private Detective; Private Eye
Description	Private investigators conduct investigations for clients and prepare evidence for court proceedings. They are often involved with matters of insurance, missing persons and character inquiries, and work in private agencies, commercial and industrial organisations.
Typical duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ conduct surveillance and maintain records;➤ seek missing persons and locate witnesses➤ take videos or photographs for use as evidence➤ work undercover in organisations to gather specific information➤ gather information for use in legal proceedings➤ conduct asset and liability checks➤ investigate the theft of private or commercial property➤ provide advice on corporate and personal security➤ investigate insurance or worker's compensation claims➤ prepare reports of investigations➤ take statements from witnesses.
Personal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ a sound character with no criminal or other convictions that would stop you getting a private investigator's licence➤ good communication skills➤ good observation skills➤ able to accept responsibility.
Qualification	Certificate III in Investigative Services
Entry pathway	To become a private investigator you usually have to complete a Certificate IV in Investigative Services in order to meet the requirements for an Inquiry Agent Licence or similar. Licence requirements may vary from State to State, but to attain this licence, you also need to prove that you have no criminal history. You must be over 18 years of age.



In some States, you can become a private investigator through a traineeship in Investigative Services.

Entry to the certificate course usually requires at least Year 10. As subjects can vary between institutions, you should contact your chosen institution for full details.

Job prospects It is a small occupation, with most private investigators being self-employed or working in a small team with other agents. Many private investigators enter the occupation after working in the police or in the defence forces.

Work is mainly generated by investigation of suspected insurance fraud and location of missing persons.

Specialisation Investigators may hold licences or perform the duties of a process server or private bailiff.

Related Jobs

- Bailiff
- Police Officer - State
- Security Adviser
- Security Officer

Further information

- Australian Institute of Private Detectives [www.aipd.com.au/]
- Institute of Mercantile Agents [www.imal.com.au/]

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