

## Would computerized photo line-ups be more effective than ID parades in identifying suspects?



**Detective Brevet Sgt Phil Maynard**  
Eastern Adelaide CIB

Computerized photo line-ups would allow victims to perform the identification while the image is fresh. Additionally, offenders can alter their appearance during a formal line-up. This would not occur with computerized images. Formal line-ups are also used as a delay tactic, and it is very difficult to find participants for parades – assisting police is seen by some as disloyal.



**Detective Brevet Sgt Imran Rusul**  
Elizabeth Investigations

Computerized photo line-ups would be more effective than formal parades, which are labour intensive and can be impossible to organize, whereas computerized ID parades would be more time efficient and easier to manage. They would also be better for victims and witnesses, who would not have to face the suspect and feel any additional pressure or vulnerability.



**Detective Sgt Peter Weber**  
Holden Hill Family Violence

Both photographic and formal ID parades have their pros and cons. The current law makes it mandatory to do all things reasonable to facilitate a formal parade before utilising photographs. This is restrictive and in the case of some cultural groups almost always impossible. Given improvements in technology, computerized line-ups should be available as a first option.



**Detective Sgt Peter Biermann**  
Confiscation Section

Formal ID parades have been problematic. They need to be timely but locating suitable, willing participants is resource intensive. They can also be confronting for witnesses. Photos are easier to organize and can be done quickly. The best tool for identification will be one that ensures efficient use of resources, is focused on service excellence, and has a clear record of process.



**Detective Brevet Sgt Bob Sharpe**  
Major Crime Investigation Branch

If an ID parade could be conducted quickly then this is the best option. A “live” line-up makes it easier for the witness to identify the suspect. But the reality of organizing parades is difficult. First, we have the time delay of solicitors seeking instructions from their client. There are also resource issues, and sometimes cultural factors, that make finding appropriate participants very difficult.



**Detective Brevet Sgt Sasha Perry**  
South Coast CIB

Computerized photo line-ups would not be more effective than ID parades in identifying suspects. While there are often delays or difficulties in assembling a line-up, as mentioned by Professor Brewer, the formal ID parade provides the witness the opportunity to see the potential suspect’s height and build rather than just a two-dimensional image of a person’s face.