

Challenging career moves Jane

Education | Amber Stannard

JANE O'Callaghan is happy to leave behind her law career to teach for Australia.

The 28-year-old from Glen Iris is one of the first people accepted by Teach for Australia, a new two-year program that recruits outstanding graduates from other fields and trains them to work in disadvantaged secondary schools.

As a lawyer, Miss O'Callaghan worked in commercial litigation, commercial law and intellectual property.

Did people think she was mad giving up law and a lawyers income for teaching?

"Yes, definitely," she laughed.

"It's a pay cut but you only live once.

"I taught English in Japan and taught law subjects at uni. I've always been interested in changing careers and this program seemed a great way to go straight in without going back to uni as such."

Miss O'Callaghan will do an intensive six-week teaching course over the Christmas period and con-



Jane O'Callaghan is looking forward to teaching.

tinue studying a Postgraduate Diploma in Education when she starts teaching, with a reduced work load, next year. "Teaching is so active, there is a sense of reward from helping people and they appreciate it," she said.

"The idea of going to a 'disadvantaged school' is daunting but in a way that's part of the reason I applied for this."

Miss O'Callaghan, who has worked in human rights, said she wanted to "get in and make a difference".