

4 JUNE 2025, CANBERRA



PROGRAM

0800-0830 **Registration and networking**

0830-0835 **Welcome to Country**

Aunty Violet Sheridan

0835-0845 **Opening remarks**

Gai Brodtmann, Chair, Australian Strategic Policy Institute Council

0845-0945 **Session one: National preparedness and national support for defence**

Moderator: Marc Ablong PSM, Visiting Senior Fellow, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Joe Buffone, Deputy Coordinator-General, National Emergency Management Agency

Admiral David Johnston AC RAN, Chief of the Australian Defence Force

Vicki Thomson, Chief Executive Officer, GO8 Australia

0945-1045 **Session two: Whole-of-Government delivery of the National Defence Strategy**

Moderator: Lieutenant General (Ret'd) John Frewen AO, DSC, Senior Fellow, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Andrew Downes, Vice President, Strategy and Communications, Thales

Hamish Hansford, Deputy Secretary, Cyber and Infrastructure Security, Department of Home Affairs

Katrina Di Marco, Acting Deputy Secretary, International and Foreign Investment Group, to the Australian Treasury

Matt Yannopoulos PSM, Acting Secretary, Department of Defence

1045-1115 **Morning tea**

1115-1120 **Ministerial introduction**

David Wroe, Senior Resident Fellow, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

1120-1130 **Ministerial address**

The Hon Dr Billy Joseph MP, Minister for Defence, Papua New Guinea

1130-1140 **Ministerial address**

The Hon Pat Conroy MP, Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for Pacific Island Affairs, Australia



1140-1215

Ministerial panel

Moderator: Mike Hughes AIM, Director, Defence Strategy, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

The Hon Pat Conroy MP, Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for Pacific Island Affairs, Australia

The Hon Dr Billy Joseph MP, Minister for Defence, Papua New Guinea

1215-1315

Session three: Industrial policy is back in vogue — what does that mean for defence?

Moderator: Courtney Stewart, Senior Resident Fellow, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Glenn Keys, Executive Chair and Founder, Aspen Medical

Kate Louis, Head of Defence and National Security, Australian Industry Group; Executive Director, Ai Group Defence Council

Dr Osamu Nishiwaki, Deputy Commissioner, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency (ATLA), Ministry of Defense, Japan

Oleg Vornik, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, DroneShield

1315-1400

Lunch

1400-1430

Session four: Navigating Trump's second term

Moderator: Bethany Allen, Head of China Investigations and Analysis, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Dr Kori Schake, Senior Fellow and Director of Foreign and Defense Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute

1430-1530

Session five: Progress and challenges for AUKUS

Moderator: Dr Euan Graham, Senior Analyst, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Dr Elizabeth Buchanan, Senior Fellow, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Jennifer Parker, Expert Associate, National Security College, Australian National University

Sean Singleton, Veteran Fellow, Hoover Institute; U.S. Venture partner, Beaten Zone Ventures

1530-1600

Afternoon tea

1600-1700

Session six: Shaping the 2026 National Defence Strategy in the context of a world in crisis

Moderator: Justin Bassi, Executive Director, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

General Emmanuel T. Bautista (Ret'd), 44th Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines

His Excellency Vasyl Myroshnychenko, Ambassador of Ukraine to Australia and New Zealand

Rachel Noble PSM, former Director General, Australian Signals Directorate

1700-1715

Closing remarks

1830-2130

Conference dinner

Gandel Hall, National Gallery of Australia

Address by the Hon Peter Khalil, Australia's Assistant Minister for Defence



Marc Ablong PSM

VISITING SENIOR FELLOW AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC POLICY INSTITUTE

Marc Ablong PSM is a visiting senior fellow at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute and the managing partner of Geostrategic Risk Partners.

Marc left the Australian Public Service in 2024 after a 31 year career that culminated as a Deputy Secretary within the Australian Department of Home Affairs, where he held responsibility for strategic guidance and capability planning; national security policy; international relationship management; immigration policy; law enforcement policy and electronic surveillance reform; data and biometrics policy; regional processing and resettlement; intelligence; critical and emerging technology policy; cyber security policy; national resilience and strengthening democracy.

Prior to joining the Department of Home Affairs, Marc was a senior executive with 25 years within the Australian Department of Defence, where he held positions in capital equipment & acquisition policy, international policy, military strategy, maritime capability development, Air Force long-range planning, futures and scenario-planning; national support and mobilisation planning, information strategy and futures, strategic reform; Defence strategic policy; Defence industry policy; corporate governance; media and ministerial coordination; contestability and naval shipbuilding policy. Marc was Chief of Staff of the 2009 Defence White Paper Team, providing strategic advice and support to the Principal Author, and led the development of the 2016 Defence White Paper, Integrated Investment Program and Defence Industry Policy Statement. He left Defence after a period as acting Deputy Secretary Strategic Policy and Intelligence.

Prior to joining Government service, Marc had an earlier career in the Australian banking and finance industry.

Marc is a graduate of the Joint Services Staff College (1997), the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies (2002) and the Advanced Management Program 190 (2016) at the Harvard Business School. Marc was awarded the Public Service Medal in the 2018 Australia Day Honours..



Bethany Allen

HEAD OF CHINA INVESTIGATIONS AND ANALYSIS – CYBER, TECHNOLOGY AND SECURITY, AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC POLICY INSTITUTE

Bethany Allen is Head of ASPI's China Investigations and Analysis. Prior to joining ASPI, Bethany was the China reporter for Axios, where she published numerous ground-breaking investigations about China and how it projects power around the world. She is also the author of *Beijing Rules: How China Weaponized Its Economy to Confront the World*, named by the Financial Times as a Best Book of 2023.

Bethany previously served as the lead reporter for the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists' China Cables project, a major leak of classified Chinese government documents revealing the inner workings of mass internment camps in Xinjiang. For her work on the China Cables project, Bethany received the Robert D. G. Lewis Watchdog Award, the top prize awarded annually by the Society of Professional Journalists DC Dateline Awards, as well as the Investigative Journalism prize in the online category. The China Cables project was also a finalist for the Batten Medal for Courage in Journalism. Bethany holds a masters degree in East Asian studies from Yale University and a graduate certificate in China studies from the Johns Hopkins University Nanjing Center. She previously spent four years in China, and is currently based in Taiwan.



Justin Bassi

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC POLICY INSTITUTE

Justin Bassi is the Executive Director of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

From June 2019 to March 2022 he was Chief of Staff to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne.

Immediately prior to this, Justin was the Cyber Intelligence Mission Manager at the Office of National Intelligence, where he led the integration of cyber security and critical technologies across the National Intelligence Community.

From September 2015 to August 2018, Justin was the National Security Adviser to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. He led the team advising the PM and Cabinet Ministers on Australia's national security, defence and international relations. This included responsibility for all areas of security legislation, policy and operations, including counter terrorism, foreign interference, cyberspace, intelligence and border security.

Justin was also previously the National Security Adviser to Attorney-General George Brandis, focusing on Australia's national security legislation, policy and activities, including counter terrorism and telecommunications security.

Prior to that, Justin spent over 10 years in the Australian Public Service, including in the intelligence community for the Office of National Assessments and at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet where he had responsibility for cyber security policy.



General Emmanuel T. Bautista (Ret'd)

**44TH CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES;
MANAGING DIRECTOR, AYALA CORPORATION**

General Bautista (Ret'd) was the 44th Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines from January 2013 to July 2014. Shortly after retiring from military service, he was appointed Undersecretary at the Office of the President, a role he held from September 2014 until June 2020.

As Undersecretary, he was Executive Director of the Cabinet Cluster for Security, Justice, and Peace. He served concurrently as the Executive Director of the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea, and Head of the National Task Force on the Whole of Nation Initiative. He was also part of the team that represented the Philippines in the South China Sea arbitration case filed before the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague.

Currently, he is a Managing Director at the Ayala Corporation, President of the Hero Foundation and a member of the board of trustees of the Institute for Solidarity in Asia and the Foundation for National Interest. He is also a lecturer at the Development Academy of the Philippines, the National Defense College of the Philippines and the Ateneo School of Government.

General Bautista is a graduate of Philippine Military Academy, Class of 1981, and is one of its outstanding alumni awardees. He holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of the Philippines Diliman and was a recipient of the U.P. Alumni Association distinguished alumni award for peace and social cohesion.



Gai Brodtmann

CHAIR, AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC POLICY INSTITUTE COUNCIL

Gai Brodtmann was appointed Chair of ASPI Council in June 2023, after serving a term as a member from 2020.

Ms Brodtmann is also on the boards of Defence Housing Australia, the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House and Endometriosis Australia and is the co-founder and chair of Fearless Women.

Ms Brodtmann is a Distinguished Advisor at the National Security College and a regular presenter, panellist and podcaster on public policy, national security and women's empowerment at academic institutions and think tanks.

Elected as the Member for Canberra from 2010 to 2019, Ms Brodtmann served as Shadow Assistant Minister for Cyber Security and Defence from 2016 to 2019 and Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Defence from 2013 to 2016. She was a member of a number of committees, including the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade and the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit and co-founded the Parliamentary Friends of Defence group.

Prior to her political career, Ms Brodtmann ran her own small Defence-focused communication business and was a non-executive director. In Defence she consulted across a broad range of areas, including on capability acquisition and sustainment, financial and personnel management, youth development, science and technology, cultural change and diversity policy.

From 1990 to 2000, Ms Brodtmann was a federal public servant primarily with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Attorney-General's Department. During her time in Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ms Brodtmann was Counsellor – Public Affairs at the Australian High Commission in New Delhi, a departmental spokesperson and an executive officer on the Middle East desk.

Ms Brodtmann is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow of the Australian Information Security Association and a Fellow of the Public Relations Institute of Australia.

Her national security policy interests include cyber security, the Women, Peace and Security agenda, critical infrastructure, capability sustainment, community engagement and national resilience. She is a champion and mentor of women in national security.



Dr Elizabeth Buchanan

**SENIOR FELLOW,
AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC POLICY INSTITUTE**

Dr Elizabeth Buchanan is a senior fellow at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute and a polar geopolitics expert. She is a visiting fellow in US-Australia alliance studies at the Center for the National Interest in Washington DC. Most recently she was Head of Research for the Royal Australian Navy's Sea Power Centre (Department of Defence) and a First Sea Lord Five Eyes fellow with the Royal Navy Strategic Studies Centre.

Dr Buchanan is co-director and co-founder of polar warfare studies at the Modern War Institute of the West Point Military Academy. Before joining Defence, Dr Buchanan was lecturer of strategic studies for the Defence and Strategic Studies course at the Australian War College. Elizabeth holds a PhD in Russian Arctic strategy and completed her post-doctoral studies as a maritime fellow at the NATO Defense College in Rome. She has published widely on geopolitics, most recently with Australian Foreign Affairs, International Affairs, The National Interest, War on the Rocks, Foreign Policy, Foreign Affairs, The Australian, and The American Conservative.

Dr Buchanan has been a visiting scholar with the Brookings Institution and was an analyst with Royal Dutch Shell. Elizabeth has published two books: Russian Energy Strategy in Asia and Red Arctic: Russian Arctic Strategy under Putin. Her forthcoming books are So you want to own Greenland (Hurst UK) and Competitive Cooperation at the Ends of the Earth (Yale University Press).



Joe Buffone

DEPUTY COORDINATOR GENERAL (EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE), NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Joe is the Deputy Coordinator General (Emergency Management and Response) for the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). He has been with the Australian government since December 2016. During this period, he has held several positions and was the last serving Director-General of Emergency Management Australia. As Deputy Coordinator-General, Joe is responsible for overseeing Australian government and national crisis coordination for all hazards, national preparedness, running of the national situation room, national operational capability-building, and exercising and lessons.

Joe has more than 40 years' experience in security and disaster management and has held a number of key senior positions. Joe is the conceptual architect for the National Coordination Mechanism (NCM). He has led more than 600 NCMs and is the author of the Crisis Appreciation and Strategic Planning methodology. Joe was the author of the CASP doctrine and is also an accredited level 3 Incident Controller.

Joe was deployed to Victoria to establish and lead the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre in coordinating the response to COVID outbreaks in the aged care sector. Joe led the centre for three months until the situation was stabilised and transitioned to recovery.

Joe has held several senior executive positions over the past 15 years, including: Director-General Emergency Management Australia; Chief Officer of the Victorian Country Fire Authority; Deputy Emergency Management Commissioner Victoria; Deputy Chief Officer of the Country Fire Authority; Deputy Emergency Services Commissioner, Victoria; and State Marine Pollution and Hazardous Material Controller.

Joe has had direct involvement in major emergency responses in Australia and internationally at the strategic, operational and tactical levels. Examples include repatriation from Middle East operations in 2021 and 2024; 2022 floods in Eastern Australia; the 2019–20 Black Summer bushfires; floods in Far North Queensland in 2018-19; Cyclone Debbie in 2017, the 2016 Tasmanian and Wye River bushfires; the 2015 earthquakes in Nepal; the 2015 Somerton Building waste fire; the 2014 Hazelwood Mine fire and New South Wales bushfires; the 2011 floods in Victoria; and the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires. Joe has also served in the ADF.

His academic qualifications include a Master of Business, a Graduate Diploma in Disaster Management and a Diploma in Security Management, as well as participation in the 2023 Harvard Executive Crisis Leadership Program and the 2021 ANZOG Executive Fellows Program.



The Hon Pat Conroy MP

AUSTRALIA'S MINISTER FOR DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND MINISTER FOR PACIFIC ISLAND AFFAIRS

The Hon Pat Conroy MP is the Minister for Defence Industry, Minister for Pacific Island Affairs, and the Federal Member for Shortland.

Pat was elected to the House of Representatives as the Member for Charlton, NSW in 2013. Following an electoral redistribution, he was elected the Member for Shortland, NSW in 2016 and again in 2019, 2022 and 2025.

From 2016 to 2019, Pat was Shadow Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy and Shadow Assistant Minister for Infrastructure. In 2019, he was appointed Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Shadow Minister Assisting for Defence and Shadow Minister Assisting for Climate Change and Energy.

From 2008 to 2013, he was Principal Policy Adviser and subsequently Deputy Chief of Staff to the Hon Greg Combet, AM, MP, who served as a Minister in the Rudd and Gillard Labor governments. In these roles, Pat worked on developing significant policies in areas including Defence materiel, Defence science, and industry and innovation.

Born in 1979, Pat was raised on the NSW Central Coast and went on to study economics at the University of Sydney, graduating with honours in 2000. Pat is married with two children and lives in his electorate of Shortland, which covers the Eastern Lake Macquarie area and the Northern Central Coast. He enjoys cooking, playing rugby union and watching rugby league.



Lieutenant General (Ret'd) John Frewen, AO, DSC

SENIOR FELLOW, AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC POLICY INSTITUTE

Lieutenant General John Frewen, AO, DSC, is a recently retired senior officer with more than 40 years of service in the Australian Defence Force. A third-generation army officer, he graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in 1986 and began his career as an Infantry Platoon Commander.

General Frewen held numerous command positions, including leading the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment, the Army's 1st Brigade in Darwin and, in 2017, all Australian forces in the Middle East. His operational service spanned multiple countries, including Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Afghanistan and Iraq, where he demonstrated exceptional leadership in complex international environments.

His expertise extends beyond traditional military roles. He served as Principal Deputy Director-General of the Australian Signals Directorate and led the Department of Defence's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, he was appointed by the Prime Minister as Coordinator General of the National COVID Vaccine Task Force, achieving one of the world's highest vaccination rates.

His final role in Defence was Chief of Joint Capabilities, overseeing the ADF Space and Cyber forces and Joint Logistics Command. During his tenure, all ADF space and cyber capabilities were consolidated for the first time, acknowledging the importance of these emergent warfighting domains.



Dr Euan Graham

**SENIOR ANALYST – DEFENCE STRATEGY,
AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC POLICY INSTITUTE**

Dr Euan Graham joined ASPI as a Senior Analyst in July 2023. During his career, Euan has developed a deep knowledge of Australia's regional security environment, working for think tanks in Australia, Singapore and the UK, where he previously worked for the British foreign office, including time on the ground in North Korea and Southeast Asia. Before joining ASPI, Euan was based in Singapore, at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, where he was closely involved in organising the annual Shangri-La Dialogue, an annual summit of defence ministers from across the Indo-Pacific region.

He has published extensively, on a broad range of defence and security topics, including as a regular contributor for The Strategist since 2013. He has published two solo-authored books: Japan's Sea Lane Security 1940–2004: A Matter of Life and Death? (2005) and Australia's Security in China's Shadow (2023).



Hamish Hansford

DEPUTY SECRETARY CYBER AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

Hamish Hansford was appointed as Deputy Secretary of Cyber and Infrastructure Security Group on 1 May 2023.

Hamish leads the Group responsible for bringing together cyber security and technology security policy, critical infrastructure and transport security policy, regulation and partnerships, protective security policy and background checking under the AusCheck scheme (including aviation and maritime security).

CIS Group also provides support and surge functions to the National Cyber Security Coordinator through the National Office of Cyber Security.

Prior to this, Hamish was Group Manager and Inaugural Head of the Cyber and Infrastructure Security Centre, a role he held from 1 September 2021, where he was responsible for reforms to the Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018 and led the principal regulatory authority for all critical infrastructure in Australia.

Immediately prior to this role, Hamish was the First Assistant Secretary of the Cyber, Digital and Technology Policy Division, where he led the delivery and implementation of Australia's Cyber Security Strategy 2020, cybercrime policy, online harms policy including combating terrorist use of the internet and child exploitation, as well as critical and emerging technology and data security policy.

Prior to this, Hamish was the First Assistant Secretary of National Security and Law Enforcement Policy Divisions where he delivered Australia's first ever modern slavery act, surveillance, investigatory powers and lawful access reforms, as well as hardening of Australia's counter money laundering, illicit firearms, terrorist financing and child exploitation regimes.

Hamish has held Senior Executive positions in the former Department of Immigration and Border Protection and the former Australian Crime Commission. Hamish has also served in a range of intelligence, policy, planning, and program delivery roles in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Attorney General's Department, the Australian Senate and the former Office of Transport Security.

Hamish started his career in the National Museum of Australia.



Mike Hughes AIM

DIRECTOR – DEFENCE STRATEGY, AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC POLICY INSTITUTE

Mike is the Director of ASPI's Defence Strategy Program.

Mike spent 27 years in the national security community, primarily in the National Intelligence Community (NIC), where he was recognised in 2022 with an Australian Intelligence Medal (AIM) for his collaborative style, foresight and initiative in a series of analytical, liaison and senior executive roles that enabled the NIC to identify and respond effectively to emerging regional and global security threats.

Prior to joining ASPI, Mike led Protegas Australia's multi-source fusion capability and supported clients' intelligence planning, collection, analysis and production needs.

Before this, Mike drove integration of the policy and intelligence communities in senior executive roles in the Defence Intelligence Organisation and the Office of National Assessments (later Office of National Intelligence). Mike retired from the Australian Public Service in 2023 as ONI's Indo-Pacific Intelligence Mission Manager, where he drove the optimisation of NIC resources in support of Australia's Indo-Pacific policies.

Mike has covered Defence and national security issues across the South Pacific, South East and North East Asia, and built close cooperation with partners across the region through his leadership of intelligence diplomacy initiatives. He has served as a diplomat in Washington DC, where he promoted Australia's defence, intelligence and national security interests while building an extensive network in the US defense, intelligence and policy community.

Mike came to Canberra in 1998 to join the Defence Graduate Program. Prior to this he worked as a policy officer in the Western Australian State Government and served in the Australian Army Reserve in the Infantry and Intelligence Corps.

Mike spent his early childhood in New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore before settling down in Perth, Western Australia. He graduated from the University of Western Australia in 1995 with a first-class honours degree in Political Science, having written a thesis on the political, economic and social complications of China's economic miracle.



Admiral David Johnston AC RAN

CHIEF OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE

Admiral Johnston joined the Royal Australian Naval College as a junior entry Cadet Midshipman in 1978. Graduating as a Seaman Officer in 1982, he later specialised as a Principal Warfare Officer.

He was appointed Chief of the Defence Force on 10 July 2024. He has extensive experience across a range of appointments in Australia and overseas, in areas such as leadership, maritime and joint operations, training, and capability management.

Admiral Johnston's senior command appointments include Commanding Officer of HMAS Adelaide (FFG 01), HMAS Newcastle (FFG 06), Commander Border Protection Command, Chief of Joint Operations, and Vice Chief of the Defence Force.

His operational experience includes Operation RELEX (2002), Operation QUICKSTEP in Fiji (2006), Operation RESOLUTE (2007) and Operation SLIPPER (2010).

Admiral Johnston's honours and awards include his appointment as Member of the Order of Australia (2012), advancement to Officer of the Order of Australia (2018) and Companion of the Order of Australia (2022) 'for eminent service to the Australian Defence Force through strategic stewardship and capability engagement.'



The Hon Billy Joseph

MINISTER OF DEFENCE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Hon Dr Billy M Joseph MP is the Papua New Guinean Minister for Defence and Deputy Party Leader of the Social Democratic Party. He was first elected in 2022 to PNG's 11th parliament, serving as the Member for Nipa Kutubu Open Electorate.

Dr Joseph was appointed as Deputy Chairman of Economic Affairs in September 2022 and a member of the Parliamentary Committee of Law and Order, Public Works and Public Accounts in January 2024. Prior to entering politics, he worked in various hospitals across Papua New Guinea.

Dr Joseph holds a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery from the University of Papua New Guinea School of Medicine and Health Sciences.



The Hon Peter Khalil

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR DEFENCE

Peter Khalil is the Federal Labor Member for Wills. He was elected at the 2016 federal election and re-elected in 2019, 2022 and 2025. He is currently the Special Envoy for Social Cohesion.

Peter is a second generation Australian. His parents migrated from Egypt to Melbourne for a better life. Thanks to the visionary policies of Labor governments, his family had access to public housing, affordable healthcare and a quality education. Peter was able to attend university and forge a career spanning the public and private sectors.

Australia has always been called the lucky country. But Peter's parents told him that they were the lucky ones – lucky to be Australian. Peter's parents instilled in him the importance of giving something back to the country that gave his family so many opportunities.

As a local MP, Peter is a strong advocate for his community and committed to service. He will continue to fight to deliver cost of living relief and affordable housing, to create secure, local jobs and to take action on climate change, invest in quality education and affirm Australia's role in promoting human rights globally.

Peter's lived experience as the child of migrants reinforced to him that one of the greatest things about Australia is our multiculturalism and diversity and he is passionate about strengthening ties across different communities. As Special Envoy for Social Cohesion, Peter is looking at the ways we can strengthen our society, whilst addressing real and emerging threats to our social cohesion.

Growing up in public housing in Melbourne's northern suburbs, Peter worked the late shift at the local servo, as a cleaner and on building sites whilst studying Law and Arts at Melbourne University before later attaining a Master of International Laws from ANU.

Prior to his election to parliament, Peter was the Executive Director of Corporate Affairs, Strategy and Communications at SBS and a Victorian Multicultural Commissioner. He also has served as a foreign policy and national security adviser to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. He has also worked as a public servant at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, played tennis semi-professionally and worked overseas.

Peter lives with his wife and two children, plays tennis in his spare time and is a one-eyed Collingwood supporter.



Kate Louis

**HEAD OF DEFENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY, AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY GROUP;
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AI GROUP DEFENCE COUNCIL**

Kate joined the Australian Industry Group in 2017 following an extensive career with the Department of Defence.

Kate started at the Department of Defence as a graduate in 1997. She has extensive experience with Defence capability development, acquisition, contestability and industry policy. Her final position with Defence was First Assistant Secretary of the Defence Industry Policy Division, where she was responsible for the effective implementation of the government's approach to Defence industry policy.

As the Executive Director of the Australian Industry Group Defence Council, Kate has the privilege of working with industry and Defence to provide trusted policy advice and help build the Defence and industry partnership.

Kate has a Bachelor of Laws (1st Class Honours) and Bachelor of Arts from the Australian National University.



His Excellency Vasyl Myroshnychenko

AMBASSADOR OF UKRAINE TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Vasyl Myroshnychenko started his functions as an Ambassador of Ukraine to Australia on 1 April 2022.

On 7 March 2022, the Minister of Defence of Ukraine appointed him as his advisor. In May 2021, he was appointed as a member of the Supervisory Board of the Ukrainian Institute, a cultural diplomacy outfit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, he was an active business and civil society leader in Ukraine.

From 2006 to 2022, he was a partner at CFC Big Ideas, a Kyiv-based strategic communications company. He has 20 years of experience advising clients on corporate communications, public affairs and reputation management. Vasyl has advised many multinational companies and domestic industry leaders across various sectors.

Vasyl is a co-founder of Ukraine Crisis Media Center, a media NGO set up in early March 2014 aimed at amplifying Ukraine's voice internationally. He was in charge of numerous projects and campaigns between 2014 and 2019.

In 2015 and 2016, he was a head of the board of the Professional Government Association, an NGO which has united Ukrainian alumni of the Western universities with a goal of mobilising talent for economic, legal and judicial reforms in Ukraine.

He sat on the board of the Ukrainian-British City Club, a London-based organisation promoting UK-Ukraine trade and investment relations between 2007 and 2022.

In 2018, Vasyl was a Marshall Memorial Fellow, a prestigious leadership program of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

From 2002 until 2004, Vasyl was President of the European Youth Parliament-Ukraine, an international youth NGO.

He was a Chevening Scholar and in 2006 earned Master of Science in Politics of the World Economy from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He also holds MA and BA degrees in international relations from Institute of International Relations, Kyiv National Shevchenko University (2002, 2003). Vasyl is a graduate of the Global Village for Future Leaders of Business and Industry program at Iacocca Institute, Lehigh University (2002), the Swedish Institute Management Program (2009) and a two-week intensive course on public affairs and advocacy from the Center of Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University in Washington, DC (2014).



Dr Osamu Nishiwaki

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

ACQUISITION, TECHNOLOGY AND LOGISTICS AGENCY, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, JAPAN

Dr Osamu Nishiwaki has served as Deputy Commissioner of the Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency (ATLA) with the Japanese Ministry of Defense since July 2023. In this role, he is responsible for the entire organisation, including defence exports and international affairs.

Prior to this appointment, Dr Nishiwaki served as Deputy Director-General of the Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau within the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. In this role, as well as in other important roles in the ministry, he gained extensive experience in export control, trade and industrial policy.

Dr Nishiwaki also served as Director for Industry and Commerce in the local government of Mie and has extensive experience in local industrial policy.

Dr Nishiwaki also has teaching experience as a professor at the National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies, and is the author of books such as Economic Security and Semi-Conductor Supply Chain (Bunshindo 2023) and Economic Security and Technological Superiority (Keisoshobo 2023).

Dr Nishiwaki holds a doctorate in policy studies from National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies, a Master of Law and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, and a Bachelor of Law from the University of Tokyo.



Rachel Noble PSM

FORMER DIRECTOR-GENERAL, AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS DIRECTORATE

Rachel Noble PSM is the former Director-General of the Australian Signals Directorate, Australia's signals intelligence and cyber security agency. Rachel held this role for five years, prior to which she was the head of ASD's Australian Cyber Security Centre.

Prior to ASD, Rachel was the Deputy Secretary of the Executive Group in the Department of Home Affairs responsible for enterprise strategy, risk, assurance, security, and ministerial, media and intelligence services. Rachel led the portfolio's Home Affairs Implementation Team to stand up the Home Affairs Portfolio in 2017.

In 2014, Rachel was promoted to Deputy Secretary Policy Group in the Department of Immigration and Border Protection which included responsibility for trade, customs, immigration and international policy.

Rachel joined the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service in May 2013 as the National Director Intelligence and Chief Information Officer. Her previous role was as First Assistant Secretary of Ministerial and Executive Coordination and Communication at the Department of Defence.

Prior to rejoining Defence, Rachel was the National Security Chief Information Officer and Cyber Policy Coordinator for Prime Minister and Cabinet, responsible for improving information sharing among the national security community and coordinating whole-of-government policy on cyber issues. Rachel received a Public Service Medal for this work.

Rachel previously held several SES positions in the Department of Defence, including Assistant Secretary of Governance, responsible for the overall governance and assurance framework for Defence; Assistant Secretary of the Americas, North and South Asia, Europe in the International Policy Division; and Deputy Chief of Facility at the Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap.

Rachel has also worked for the Bureau of Meteorology on international policies to address global climate change and started her career in private industry working for Optus.

Rachel has a Master of Business Administration in Technology Management and a Bachelor of Science with Honours.



Jennifer Parker

**EXPERT ASSOCIATE,
NATIONAL SECURITY COLLEGE, THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

Jennifer Parker is the principal and founder of Barrier Strategic Advisory. She is an Expert Associate at the National Security College, Australian National University and an Adjunct Fellow in naval studies at the University of New South Wales Canberra. Jennifer also holds the position of Nancy Bentley Associate Fellow in Indo-Pacific Maritime Affairs at the Council on Geostrategy.

Jennifer hosts and produces the weekly Maritime Matters podcast the Australian Naval Institute's Saltwater Strategists podcast focused on Indo-Pacific maritime affairs.

Published in a number of major Australian newspapers, Jennifer is regularly featured in Australian and international print, digital, radio and TV media.

Jennifer served for more than 20 years with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). During her time in the RAN Jennifer specialised as a Principal Warfare Officer, including undertaking deep specialist training with the Royal Navy in Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer.

Jennifer has extensive operational experience from the Middle East to the Caribbean, and most areas in between. She has undertaken a series of naval appointments nationally and internationally in areas including force design strategy, career management, international exercise planning and operations. That included service as an exchange officer with the Royal Navy and as second in command of HMAS Darwin, one of the Royal Australian Navy's guided missile frigates.

Jennifer's last appointment in the RAN was as Director of Operations in Bahrain of the Combined Maritime Forces, a 38-nation coalition promoting national security in the Middle East and Indian Ocean region.



Dr Kori Schake

SENIOR FELLOW AND THE DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICY STUDIES, AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

Kori Schake is a senior fellow and the director of foreign and defense policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI).

Before joining AEI, Dr. Schake was the deputy director-general of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London. She has had a distinguished career in government, working at the US State Department, the US Department of Defense, and the National Security Council at the White House. She has also taught at Stanford, West Point, Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, National Defense University, and the University of Maryland.

Dr. Schake is the author of five books, among them "America vs the West: Can the Liberal World Order Be Preserved?" (Penguin Random House Australia, Lowy Institute, 2018); "Safe Passage: The Transition from British to American Hegemony" (Harvard University Press, 2017); "State of Disrepair: Fixing the Culture and Practices of the State Department" (Hoover Institution Press, 2012); and "Managing American Hegemony: Essays on Power in a Time of Dominance" (Hoover Institution Press, 2009).

She is also the coeditor, along with former Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, of "Warriors & Citizens: American Views of Our Military" (Hoover Institution Press, 2016).

Dr. Schake has been widely published in policy journals and the popular press, including in CNN.com, Foreign Affairs, Politico, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post. She is a contributing writer at The Atlantic and War on the Rocks.

Dr. Schake has a PhD and MA in government and politics from the University of Maryland, as well as an MPM from the University of Maryland School of Public Policy. Her BA in international relations is from Stanford University.



Sean Singleton

**VETERAN FELLOW, HOOVER INSTITUTE;
U.S. VENTURE PARTNER, BEATEN ZONE VENTURES**

Sean Singleton spent six years as a US Air Force acquisitions and protocol officer (active), before spending seven years as a special investigator (reserve). He has a bachelor of science from the US Air Force Academy and an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Singleton serves as managing principal of Oglethorpe Capital LLC and an independent director of WaFd Bank.

Through Oglethorpe, Singleton works to develop the next phase of disruptive technologies in aerospace and defense, technology, media and telecom, and next-generation energy. Before founding Oglethorpe, he gained his corporate finance and capital markets experience at JPMorgan Chase.



Courtney Stewart

**SENIOR RESIDENT FELLOW - DEFENCE STRATEGY,
AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC POLICY INSTITUTE**

Courtney is a senior resident fellow at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute. She has more than 20 years of experience in government, industry and think tanks across the US, Australia and the UK.

Between 2015 and 2018, Courtney served as the US Department of Defense Policy Exchange Officer to the Australian Department of Defence Strategic Policy Division. Prior to her posting, Courtney held numerous positions at the Pentagon, including roles in Nuclear and Missile Defense, Asia and Pacific Security Affairs, Homeland Defence Integration, Nuclear Matters and the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review staff. She helped establish and co-Chair the US-Republic of Korea Extended Deterrence Policy Committee Working Group. In 2013, she was the lead author and chief US negotiator of the 'US-ROK Tailored Deterrence Strategy Against North Korean Nuclear and Other WMD Threats' – the first codified extended deterrence strategy with any US ally. Her contributions in Defense were acknowledged through a US Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service in 2015. Prior to working in government, she held research positions at the International Institute for Strategic Studies and the Managing the Atom Project at Harvard University. Courtney holds a MA in Science and Security from King's College London BAs in both Political Science and History from UCLA.



Vicki Thomson

CHIEF EXECUTIVE & DIRECTOR, GROUP OF 8 AUSTRALIA

Vicki Thomson has worked in Australia's university sector for more than two decades, championing its role as integral to the success of our nation and its people. She is currently the Chief Executive of the Group of Eight Universities. Prior to this role, she was Executive Director of the Australian Technology Network of Universities.

She has an extensive media, political and policy background and was Chief of Staff to a South Australian premier. She is Deputy Chair of the European Australian Business Council, Deputy Chair of Multiple Sclerosis Australia, a member of the Australian government's University Foreign Interference Taskforce and the Executive Cyber Council, a member of the Australia-India Institute's Advisory Board, and a member of Jobs and Skills Australia's Education and Training Reference Group. She is a former board member of the Australian government's Australia-China Council and the New Colombo Plan Advisory Group.

She has been awarded the prestigious Insignia of the Knights in the Ordre des Palmes Académiques by the French government for her continuing services to the growth of successful education relationships and programs between France and Australia. She has significant experience and established relationships with China. From the mid-1990s, when she was first involved through her government positions, she assisted the management of trade, industry and energy negotiations over a number of years. She has extensive experience in building relationships between business, industry and universities, and supporting increased access to university for people from all backgrounds.

She has been named by the Australian Financial Review in the top five of its power list for Australia's education sector on multiple occasions.



Oleg Vornik

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & MANAGING DIRECTOR, DRONESHIELD

Oleg is an experienced senior executive with a successful track record of rapid business scale-up. This includes the initial public offering and subsequent growth of DroneShield teams in Australia and the US, and a presence in more than 70 countries. In that time, he fostered organic deep-technology development through to mass deployment of solutions around the world in the homeland security, intelligence community and military sectors. Prior to DroneShield, Oleg's career spanned across Deutsche Bank, the Royal Bank of Canada, Brookfield, and ABN AMRO.

Oleg has a Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) from Canterbury University and completed a Columbia University business program.



Matt Yannopoulos PSM

ACTING SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

Matt Yannopoulos commenced as the Associate Secretary of the Department of Defence on 5 October 2021.

The Associate Secretary's role integrates the work done across the Defence enterprise to enable more effective and efficient outcomes, particularly in the areas of enterprise transformation and prioritisation.

Together with the Vice Chief of the Defence Force, the Associate Secretary works with the business areas to support Defence in operating as an end-to-end organisation, rather than a federation of separate parts. This is about achieving coordination across land, sea, air, space, and intelligence and cyber domains to deliver joint effects, prioritising investment in corporate and military enablers, and professionalising the workforce.

Matt Yannopoulos first worked in Defence from 2008 to 2013 as the first Chief Technology Officer.

Prior to his appointment as the Associate Secretary of Defence, Matt Yannopoulos was the Deputy Secretary Budget and Financial Reporting at the Department of Finance where he was responsible for providing policy and financial advice to Government on expenditure and non-taxation revenue policy issues.

Matt Yannopoulos has held previous government positions including Chief Operating Officer in the Department of Health and Deputy Secretary, Senior Responsible Officer for the Child Care Reform Implementation at the Department of Education. Matt Yannopoulos was awarded a Public Service Medal in January 2019 for his substantial achievements in this role.

Other positions include First Assistant Secretary, Portfolio Investment Division and Chief Information Officer at the Department of Health as well as other significant roles such as Portfolio CIO of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

Matt Yannopoulos has an accounting and information technology background and is an accredited FCPA.

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ASPI'S UPCOMING EVENTS:

THE SYDNEY DIALOGUE

The Sydney Dialogue is the premier policy summit for critical, emerging and cyber technologies.

Technology breakthroughs are happening each week. They are on the front pages of newspapers and the top of government agendas. They are the subject of discussions everywhere from cabinet meetings and boardrooms to cafes and schools.

No government, business or section of civil society wants to find itself left behind. Nor should they—we need everyone to play a part in this transformation. Not all countries will design frontier artificial intelligence models, quantum computers or cutting-edge cyber capabilities, but all will find novel uses for them, contribute data or computing power and help harness the energy needed to fuel them. Crucially, all countries will also be challenged by them.

Now in its fourth year, the Sydney Dialogue is a chance to learn from one another, deepen our understanding, and empower each other with an improved and more secure sense of direction. Armed with this understanding, we can influence technological advances for the better, and steer progress towards the right destination instead of being steered by others.

At TSD 2025, we'll be talking about fast-moving technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum, climate tech and autonomous defence technologies; a changed cyber threat environment that includes more sophisticated threat actors; regional cooperation and connectivity between nation states in an era of cables, data centres, satellites and supply chain risks; and threats and challenges to the information environment.

We all want to be at the forefront of these conversations. Join us this year.

**8-9 October
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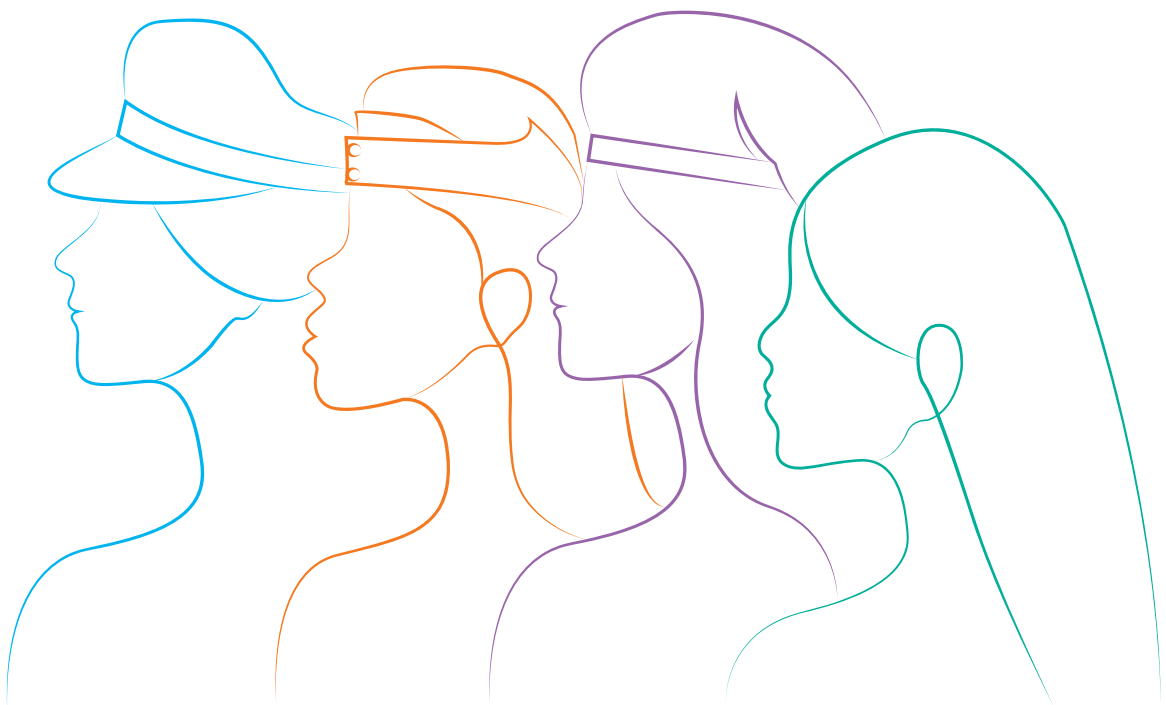


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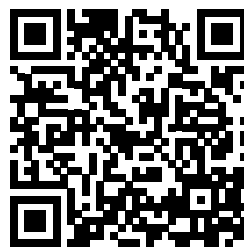
TSD



ASPI Women in Defence and Security Network
2025 Gala Dinner



12 November | Gandel Hall | Canberra



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2025 ASPI CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Level 2, 40 Macquarie Street

Barton ACT 2600

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aspievents@aspi.org.au

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