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AUSTRALIAN SECURITY RESEARCH CENTRE

RISK 2 SOLUTION
PROTECTING WHAT COUNTS



PROTECTIVE SECURITY AND GOVERNMENT

CONFERENCE HANDBOOK

PSG CONFERENCE 2026

DRIVING PROTECTIVE SECURITY CAPABILITY WHERE IT COUNTS

#PSG2026 | 7-8 OCTOBER 2026

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Welcome Message from the Conference Convenor

Dr Gavriel Schneider | *Conference Convenor, Australian Security Research Centre (ASRC)*

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the **ninth Protective Security and Government Conference**.

Nine years on, PSG continues to evolve because the environment around us continues to evolve. Protective security is no longer something we can view through a single lens. Physical security, personnel security, cyber, resilience, intelligence, governance and emerging technologies are increasingly interconnected – and the challenges we face demand the same level of integration in our thinking.

This year's theme, **Driving Protective Security Capability Where It Counts**, reflects a deliberate focus on getting the fundamentals right while navigating an increasingly complex operating environment. Policy and frameworks matter, but ultimately our success is determined by how effectively we translate them into real capability, sound decisions and measurable outcomes.
Across these two days, we will explore everything from national security, foreign interference and counter-terrorism through to critical infrastructure, vetting, cyber resilience, generative and agentic AI, enterprise assurance and the future of our profession. Importantly, PSG is not about any one discipline or sector. It is about breaking down silos, learning from one another and understanding how these domains come together to strengthen Australia's collective security capability.

One of the things I value most about PSG is that it remains an education, knowledge-sharing and professional development forum. Every year, I leave with new perspectives, new questions and a better understanding of the challenges facing our community.

To our delegates, sponsors, exhibitors and partners – thank you for being part of that community. I encourage you to participate fully, challenge assumptions, share openly and make the most of the conversations that happen both inside and outside the conference room.

Welcome to PSG Conference 2026.

We would like to thank our 2026 Partners and Sponsors

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Day 1 Wednesdsay 7 October 2026

9:00 AM — **CONFERENCE WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY**
Dave Cohen (MC) CEO, Risk 2 Solution Group
Dr Gav Schneider (Conference Convenor) Director & Senior Researcher, Australian Security Research Centre

9:20 AM — **THE FUTURE OF PROTECTIVE SECURITY CAPABILITY IN AUSTRALIA**
Hamish Hansford Head of National Security, Department of Home Affairs

9:45 AM — **PSPF IN PRACTICE: MOVING FROM COMPLIANCE TO MEASURABLE CAPABILITY**
Craig Bickell Assistant Secretary, Commonwealth Security Policy, Department of Home Affairs

10:10 AM — **DELIVERING PROTECTIVE SECURITY IN REGIONAL AVIATION AND HIGH-RISK OPERATIONS**
Lawrence Aitken Supervisor Airport Security, BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance

10:35 AM — **MORNING TEA AND NETWORKING BREAK**

11:05 AM — **AUSTRALIA'S INTELLIGENCE PICTURE: ESPIONAGE, FOREIGN INTERFERENCE AND THE PROTECTIVE SECURITY CHALLENGE**
Marc Ablong PSM Former Deputy Secretary, Department of Home Affairs

11:30 AM — **STRATEGIC COMPETITION, GEOPOLITICAL RISK, AND ITS IMPACT ON AUSTRALIA'S PROTECTIVE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT**
Adam Lockyer Associate Professor of Strategic Studies, Macquarie University

11:55 AM — **"MARTYN'S LAW": PROTECTIVE SECURITY LESSONS FROM THE UK COUNTER TERRORISM ENVIRONMENT**
Chris Iliff Senior Protective Security and Counter Terrorism Practitioner, Consultant, ACES Group

12:20 PM — **FROM INCIDENT LESSONS TO CAPABILITY UPLIFT: KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE ASRC BONDI BEACH TERRORIST ATTACK REPORT**
Joe Saunders Manager | Workforce Security, Queensland Health
Dave Owens Managing Director, Risk-e Business Consultants
Rachel Abotbol Senior Manager – National Security and Intelligence, Coras
Facilitated by Dr Gav Schneider Director and Senior Research, Australian Security Research Centre (ASRC)

1:05 PM — **NETWORKING LUNCH BREAK**

1:50 PM — **SHAKE UP YOUR RISK AND SECURITY: MASTERING THE ART OF FACILITATION**
Teresa Riccio-Goodwin Founding Director, Oxford and James
Pete Gervasoni Chief Risk Officer, Skefto

2:15 PM — **CYBER THREATS TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE: WHAT THEY MEAN FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND PROTECTIVE SECURITY CAPABILITY**
Stephanie Crowe Head Australian Cyber Security Centre, Australian Signals Directorate (ASD)

2:40 PM — **INTEGRATING CYBER, DEFENCE AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY WHERE CAPABILITY COUNTS**
Tony Vizza Managing Partner and Founder, Novera
Chris Horlyck Head of Cyber Security Resilience, Australian Signals Directorate
Lauren Veenstra Chief Security Officer, Iberdrola Australia
Facilitated by Luke Irwin CEO & Principal Consultant, Aegis Cyber Security

3:25 PM — **AFTERNOON TEA AND NETWORKING BREAK**

3:50 PM — **THE NEW WORLD ORDER OF HUMAN & AI CAPABILITY**
Sonia La Penna Director, AI360 Review
Dr Sarah Daly AI Management, AI360 Review

4:30 PM — **LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: THE ROLE OF ASSOCIATIONS IN SHAPING PROTECTIVE SECURITY**
Bryan de Caires CEO, Australian Security Industry Association Ltd (ASIAL)
Dr Rajiv Shah Director, Australian Information Security Association (AISA)
Teresa Riccio-Goodwin SA/VIC/TAS Chair, Institute of Strategic Risk Management (ISRM)
Facilitated by Dr Gav Schneider Director and Senior Research, Australian Security Research Centre (ASRC)

5:05 PM — **DAY 1 SYNTHESIS: THE CAPABILITY GAPS WE CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS**
Dave Cohen (MC) | Dr Gav Schneider (Conference Convenor)

5:15 PM — **NETWORKING RECEPTION SPONSORED BY WILSON SECURITY**

Engage and Ask Your Questions Live!

Audience Q&A and Polls

1. Using your device, open a browser and go to **slido.com**
2. Enter the event code **#PSG2026**

Day 2 Thursday 8 October 2026

9:00 AM — **DAY 2 OPENING: FROM STRATEGIC THREAT TO PRACTICAL CAPABILITY**
Dave Cohen (MC) CEO, Risk 2 Solution Group
Dr Gav Schneider (Conference Convenor) Director & Senior Researcher, Australian Security Research Centre

9:10 AM — **CYBER INCIDENT TO NATIONAL RESILIENCE: STRENGTHENING AUSTRALIA'S PROTECTIVE SECURITY CAPABILITY**
Lieutenant General Michelle McGuinness CSC National Cyber Security Coordinator,
National Office of Cyber Security, Department of Home Affairs

9:25 AM — **WHAT DOES INTEGRATED PROTECTIVE SECURITY ACTUALLY REQUIRE?**
Stewart Lawson Head of Group Security, Virgin Australia
James Jordan Director of Protective Security & Operational Resilience, Anchoram Consulting
Facilitated by Dr Gav Schneider Director & Senior Research, Australian Security Research Centre (ASRC)

10:05 AM — **THE EVOLVING ROLE OF VETTING**
Mel Flett Assistant Secretary Vetting, Australian Government Security Vetting Agency - Department of Defence

10:30 AM — **MORNING TEA AND NETWORKING BREAK**

10:55 AM — **COMPLEXITY AND CHAOS: NAVIGATING THE UNKNOWN**
Dr David Rubens Executive Director, The Institute of Strategic Risk Management (ISRM)

11:05 AM — **NAVIGATING COMPLEXITY: DEVELOPING STRATEGIC CAPABILITY IN A HEIGHTENED THREAT ENVIRONMENT**
Darren Bark Executive Director, Strategic Priorities, Identity, Investigations & Counter Terrorism, NSW Police Force

11:30 AM — **BEYOND COMPLIANCE: GOVERNING AND ASSURING PROTECTIVE SECURITY CAPABILITY AT ENTERPRISE SCALE**
Grant McKay Head of Protective Security & Emergency Management, Sydney Water Corporation
David Vohradsky CEO, MyRISK
Kurt Schulte-Schrepping Executive Director Venue Services and First Nations Strategy, Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC)
Facilitated by Dr Pranit Anand Senior Lecturer, University of New South Wales

12:10 PM — **NETWORKING LUNCH BREAK**

12:55 PM — **FROM THREAT INTELLIGENCE TO SECURE OPERATIONS: PROTECTING CRITICAL SYSTEMS AND SENSITIVE INFORMATION IN A CONNECTED ENTERPRISE**
Matt Battersby Federal Government Security Director, Google
Molly Day Head of Proactive Intelligence and Threat Detection, SEEK
Rob Sewell Chief Information Officer, nbn
Valeska Bloch Partner, Practice Leader – Technology, Media & Telecommunications and Head of Cyber, Allens
Facilitated by Dave Cohen CEO, Risk 2 Solution Group

1:40 PM — **AI ON THE FRONT LINE: LESSONS FOR PROTECTIVE SECURITY FROM CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**
Karl Redenbach Chief Executive Officer, AgenticScale.ai

2:05 PM — **AI IN ACTION FOR PROTECTIVE SECURITY: GOVERNANCE, PERSONNEL SECURITY AND OPERATIONAL DELIVERY**
Simone Wheatley ANZ National Security Lead, Microsoft
Josh McEwen Senior Business Program Manager, Microsoft
Rebecca Harmer ANZ Personnel Security Lead, Microsoft
Craig Harvey Copilot and Agents Solution Engineer, Microsoft

2:45 PM — **AFTERNOON TEA AND NETWORKING BREAK**

3:10 PM — **NATIONAL THREAT ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP: EMERGING RISKS WHERE CAPABILITY COUNTS**
Dr Gav Schneider Director & Senior Researcher, Australian Security Research Centre (ASRC)
Dave Cohen CEO, Risk 2 Solution Group

3:55 PM — **THE ROUTE TO, AND BEYOND, THE ROLE OF THE CSO**
Dr Mike Blyth CEO, RSM LLC

4:05 PM — **EMERGING LEADERS PANEL: THE NEXT GENERATION OF PROTECTIVE SECURITY CAPABILITY**
Mick Adams Regional Security Manager, ANZ & North Asia, Uber
Kelsea Ravell Director of Strategy, Advisory, and Professional Services Consulting, UBH Group
Ricky Oshry CEO, Premium Solutions Group
Facilitated by Darlene Winston Director, iLead

4:45 PM — **PSG 2026 CAPABILITY COMMITMENTS: WHAT WE TAKE FORWARD**
Dave Cohen (MC) | Dr Gav Schneider (Conference Convenor)

Share the Conversation

Join the conversation throughout PSG Conference 2026 and share your key insights, takeaways and conference moments with the protective security community.

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