

CISO Canberra

▶ Connecting the Public Sector to what's next in InfoSec

Join us: 17 September 2025 | Canberra Rex Hotel

CISO Canberra is dedicated to the public sector cyber security community, fostering the exchange of insights and innovative approaches to protect communities and support the delivery of the 2023–2030 Australian Cyber Security Strategy.

Our top themes

Securing public trust

Ensuring digital identity, data privacy, and security frameworks that build public confidence in government services and protect citizens' personal information.

Resilience to all levels

Enhancing cyber security resilience through federal, state, and local collaboration, aligning efforts to mitigate cyber threats across all levels of government.

Cyber at the speed of tech

Stay current with emerging technologies like AI, quantum computing to proactively address evolving cyber threats and secure the nation's digital future.

Operational strength for what's next

Enhancing risk management, change management, and incident response capabilities to prepare for future cyber security challenges.

Our speakers

Tim Neal Assistant Secretary Commonwealth Protect Security **Department of Home Affairs**

Marnie Fraser Assistant Secretary Digital Strategy & Architecture; CISO **Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

Jamie King CISO **Australian Federal Police**

Jonathan Dean Defence CISO **Department of Defence**

Tony Castley GM of Transformation Scheme Support Division **Clean Energy Regulator**

Jamie Rossato CISO **CSIRO**

Jagdish Mehra National Manager Cyber Strategy, Governance & Engagement **Services Australia**

Nishant Rao Head of Resilience Taskforce and Director of Hosting Certification Framework **Department of Home Affairs**

Sandeep Taileng Information Security Officer **State Trustees**

Maryam Shoraka Head of OT Cyber Security Operations **NSW Government**

Alison Howe Co-Founder & CEO **National Institute of Strategic Resilience**

Peter John CIO **Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC)**
Winston Fernando Head of Cyber Security & Compliance **Darebin City Council**
Chui Yong Assistant Secretary - Cyber Security and Desktop Services AS Office **Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**
Krishna Bagla Manager Cyber Security Operations & Implementation **NSW Education Standards Authority**
Rose MacDonald Board Member & Director **Australian Risk Policy Institute**
Michael Frater Chair **Canberra Cyber Hub**
Andrew Brydon Field CTO ANZ **HashiCorp**
Toby Amodio Cyber Security Practice Lead **Fujitsu**
Andrew Kay Director Sales Engineering, APJ **Illumio**
Mark Kovacik Sales Director **HCLSoftware**
Ruchit Deshpande Security Solutions Director **The Missing Link**

| <h1>DAY 1</h1> <p>Tuesday 17 September 2025</p> | |
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| 08:20 | <i>Register; grab a coffee. Mix, mingle and say hello to peers old and new.</i> |
| 08:50 | Welcome from Corinium and the Chairperson Sandeep Taileng Information Security Officer State Trustees |
| 09:00 | Speed Networking – Making New Connections! In this 10-minute networking session, the goal is to connect with three new people. Let the questions on the screen spark your conversation. Enjoy the opportunity to expand your network! |
| 09:10 | Operationalising Trust: Government Systems as the Cyber Security Baseline for a Resilient Nation As Australia transitions from Horizon 1 to Horizon 2 of the 2023–2030 Cyber Security Strategy, government systems play a foundational role in setting the security standard for the broader economy. This keynote reflects on the lessons learned from early implementation—what’s working, what’s been challenging—and outlines how the federal government is uplifting its own posture to build trust, improve interoperability, and support national resilience. Tim Neal Assistant Secretary Commonwealth Security Policy Department of Home Affairs |
| 09:35 | Enabling Secure Innovation Without Sacrificing Compliance: A Practical Zero Trust Playbook for CISOs (Powered by the Platform Engineering Operating Model and the HashiCorp Security Stack) Join Andrew Brydon, Field CTO at HashiCorp, as he shares a Zero Trust playbook for CISOs to accelerate innovation without compromising compliance. Learn how identity-driven security, automation, and policy-as-code can secure multi-cloud environments, meet sovereignty requirements, and enable teams to move faster while staying audit-ready. Andrew Brydon Field CTO ANZ HashiCorp |
| 10:00 | AI Governance Panel: Navigating AI Adoption in a Legal and Ethical Grey Zone This panel explores the practical and legal realities of adopting AI in government without binding regulatory standards. Examining where risk and opportunity intersect, how organisations are applying voluntary frameworks, and why future AI regulations must reflect not just ethical intent, but technical reality ensuring accountability, transparency, and trust in the event of a cyber incident. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is winning in the AI race – defenders or attackers? • How does your organisation define AI? Gen AI, predictive models, automation etc • What indicators or benchmarks can help evaluate AI readiness? • How can you utilise frameworks to rightfully apply governance? |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What would meaningful regulation look like? <p><u>Moderator:</u> Chui Yong Assistant Secretary - Cyber Security and Desktop Services AS Office Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u> Tony Castley GM of Transformation Scheme Support Division Clean Energy Regulator Jamie Rossato CISO CSIRO Krishna Bagla Manager Cyber Security Operations & Implementation NSW Education Standards Authority</p> |
| 10:25 | <i>Morning Coffee Break</i> |
| 10:55 | <p>Securing Sovereignty: Real-Time Compliance and Cyber Resilience with BigFix</p> <p>Federal agencies face relentless cyber threats while navigating complex mandates like the PSPF, ASD Essential Eight, and SOCI Act. This session explores how BigFix enables sovereign, on-premises control of endpoints with real-time patching and compliance automation. We will discuss how government organizations can strengthen cyber resilience, streamline audits, and safeguard sensitive national data.</p> <p>Mark Kovacik Sales Director HCLSoftware</p> |
| 11:20 | <p>Data Security Panel: Trust, Liability and Third-Party Risk in Government Information Sharing</p> <p>This panel discusses considerations for ensuring secure, timely, and transparent information sharing between government agencies and external partners to build trust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the biggest barriers to securely sharing data across government agencies in a timely manner – technical, legal or cultural? Who owns the risk when data is shared, and how clear are those responsibilities in practice? What role should cyber and legal teams play in enabling secure data sharing, both internally and across third-party systems? What does good governance look like in a multi-stakeholder environment, and are we close to achieving it? <p><u>Moderator:</u> Sandeep Taileng Information Security Officer State Trustees</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u> Rose MacDonald Board member & Director Australian Risk Policy Institute Winston Fernando Head of Cyber Security & Compliance Darebin City Council</p> |
| 11:50 | <p>Resilience by Design: How Security Graphs Enable Rapid Containment</p> <p><i>“Defenders think in lists, attackers think in graphs, and as long as this continues attackers win” – JLambert (Microsoft).</i></p> <p>Join us for an insightful look at how AI Powered Security Graphs are revolutionising breach identification, helping reframe detection in a decentralised world, represent a vital component of defenders’ security observability and are transforming breach containment into board-level resilience.</p> <p>Andrew Kay Director Sales Engineering, APJ Illumio</p> |
| 12:15 | <div><i>Lunch</i></div> <div>VIP Luncheon</div> |
| 13:15 | <p>Security is Everyone's Job: Making Cyber Culture Stick Across Government and Communities</p> <p>A cyber-conscious mindset and security-aware culture are non-negotiable. It is not just about ticking boxes with e-learning or phishing tests. Real success is when cyber security becomes second nature—when people instinctively make safer choices and even share tips with family and friends. That's when culture truly sticks. This session explores practical ways to embed that mindset and turn everyday behaviours into security habits.</p> <p>Peter John CIO Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council</p> |
| 13:40 | Securing Identity in the Modern Environments |

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| | <p>This session will dive deep into the challenges and threats faced by the modern environments, how to govern and practice identity hygiene and how AI can assist with the securing identity landscapes quicker.</p> <p>Ruchit Deshpande Security Solutions Director The Missing Link</p> |
| 13:55 | <p>Digital ID, Deepfakes and Quantum Risks: What AI Demands of Cyber Leadership</p> <p>AI has become more adept at resembling human behaviour and quantum computing pushes the limits of what's possible. It is critical to understand the vulnerabilities these emerging technologies introduce. This presentation explores how AI-driven innovations and disruptive technologies are reshaping risk, trust, and identity in the public sector and what today's cyber leaders must do to prepare.</p> <p>Maryam Shoraka Head of OT Cyber Security Operations NSW Government</p> |
| 14:20 | <p>Moving AI Applications into Production With Confidence</p> <p>The different nature of AI requires us to rethink our approach to security, risk, and compliance. Organisations are wondering, how to adopt AI fast and maintain visibility and control to manage related business risks. This presentation provides key learnings and best practices to adopt AI with confidence and govern it at scale</p> <p>Volker Rath Field CISO Cloudflare</p> |
| 14:45 | <i>Afternoon Tea Break. Get Refreshed!</i> |
| 15:15 | <p>Modernising Legacy Systems for Zero Trust Readiness</p> <p>One of the critical challenges when organisations transition to a Zero Trust security model is the need to modernise legacy systems. Traditional security measures, such as firewalls, are no longer enough, and Zero Trust with micro-segmentation is essential to secure networks from the inside out. This session will explore the practical steps and strategies required to update ageing infrastructures while maintaining operational continuity.</p> <p>Krishna Bagla Manager Cyber Security Operations & Implementation NSW Education Standards Authority</p> |
| 15:40 | <p>Quantifying Risks Panel: Moving Beyond Red, Yellow, Green – Cyber Risk in Real Numbers</p> <p>Driving real investment and informed decisions, cyber leaders need to communicate cyber risk in terms that stakeholders understand the impact, likelihood, and cost. This panel examines a range of frameworks and methods to explore how to make cyber risk measurable, actionable, and meaningful and how to choose the right approach for your organisation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean to quantify cyber risk in a way that resonates with both technical and non-technical stakeholders? • What are some of the most effective frameworks or models and how do you decide which one works best for your organisation? • How can organisations move beyond generic risk scores and articulate the real financial impact of a cyber incident, including costs like reputational damage and public trust loss? • How can quantifying cyber risk effectively drive investment in cyber security and help prioritise spending in a way that aligns with overall organisational strategy? <p><u>Moderator:</u> Jamie King CISO Australian Federal Police</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u> Jagdish Mehra National Manager Cyber Strategy, Governance and Engagement Services Australia Jonathan Dean Defence CISO Department of Defence Toby Amodio Cyber Security Practice Lead Fujitsu</p> |
| 16:10 | <p>Intergovernmental Collaboration Panel: Nation-State Threats Require a Nationwide Response</p> <p>Nation-state cyber threats are growing in frequency and sophistication, increasingly targeting critical infrastructure and government systems. This panel will delve into the current challenges and necessary steps to strengthen coordination, improve threat intelligence sharing, and build a comprehensive approach to cyber resilience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are we defining and moving closer to a truly unified, nationwide cyber defence against state-based threats? |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are we doing to close the coordination gaps between governments and private entities? • What has been done to improve threat intelligence sharing and incident response protocols to strengthen intergovernmental collaboration? • How are we enabling a “whole-of-nation” approach to cyber resilience? • What one action is your organisation prioritising in the next 12 months to improve national cyber coordination? <p><u>Moderator:</u> Michael Frater Chair Canberra Cyber Hub</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u> Jamie King CISO Australian Federal Police Marnie Fraser Assistant Secretary Digital Strategy and Architecture; CISO Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Nishant Rao Head of Resilience Taskforce and Director of Hosting Certification Framework Department of Home Affairs</p> |
| 16:40 | CISO Canberra 2025 Chair's Closing Sandeep Taileng Information Security Officer State Trustees |
| 16:45 | Cheers with Peers - <i>Continue the conversations in a fun and entertaining way.</i> |