



Australian Government  
Department of Home Affairs

# Incoming Government Brief

May 2025



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## Proposed Briefings

- Legislation
  - Seek your guidance on legislative priorities in the first 12 months
- International Engagement
  - Provide you with options based on your preferences for travel in 2025
- Briefing on Obligations
  - Refresh you and your office on Freedom of Information, record keeping, and physical, information and personnel security requirements (including security clearances)

## Proposed Deep Dives

- Cyber security coordination and response
  - Brief you on the proposed communications package for Act Now. Stay Secure
  - Consider next steps for the National Office of Cyber Security
- Strengthening the Domestic Security Architecture
  - Discuss how to strengthen the domestic security architecture and any potential actions

**s. 47C(1)**

- NZYQ management and Third Country Removal

**s. 33(a)(iii), s. 47C(1)**

## Proposed Actions/Decisions

- Settle preferred arrangements for the domestic security architecture
- Consider delivery of community grants, including creation of a grants capability in the Department
- Confirm approach to grant guidelines and progress Project Rozana
- **s. 33(a)(iii)**
- Sign a number of cyber security sanctions (with Foreign Minister)
- Agree approach on communications for Act Now. Stay Secure (launched 11 May)

## Proposed Deep Dives

- Operation Sovereign Borders (OSB)
  - s. 47C(1)
  - s. 47C(1)
- Protective Security for Parliamentarians
  - s. 47C(1)
- Critical Infrastructure Protection
  - s. 47C(1)
- Citizenship Program
  - s. 47C(1)
  - s. 47C(1)
- Migration Strategy and Intake
  - s. 47C(1)
  - Initial discussion about future priorities and Migration Strategy
- Title Withheld 2
  - Consider proposed options on a classified matter

## Proposed Actions/Decisions

- s. 33(a)(iii)
- Agree steps to strengthen Operation Sovereign Borders
- Agree next steps on using funds available this financial year to stabilise people movement
- s. 47C(1)
- Decide on migration and humanitarian intake for 2025-26 and split across categories
- s. 33(a)(iii)

## Proposed Deep Dives

- Cyber Security Strategy
  - Brief you on implementation of Horizon 1
  - Consider approach to Horizon 2
- Aviation Security
  - Consider options to strengthen aviation security
- AusCheck and the Single Issuing Body
  - Consider reforms to AusCheck
- Technology Security Vendor Risk
  - Consider options to strengthen the technology security function, including a potential Technology Security Action Plan
- Critical Technology Visa Screening
  - Consider options to strengthen the effectiveness of Protecting Australia's Critical Tech (PACT framework)
- Countering Foreign Interference Reform Opportunities
  - Consider approach to reforming foreign interference legislation
  - Consider a potential strategy to tackle interference in research
- Addressing the CT / CVE Risk For Children in the Online Environment
  - Consider options to build the resilience of children to harmful content and offer greater support to those that are pulled into violent extremism online
- Title Withheld 1
  - Update you on Title Withheld 1
- Illicit tobacco and vapes – s. 47C(1)
  - s. 47C(1)

## Proposed Actions/Decisions

- s. 47C(1)

## Proposed Deep Dives

- Refugee and Humanitarian Program and Emergency Cohorts
  - s. 47C(1)
  - Discuss approach to protection visa applications – deterring non-genuine applicants and speed of processing
  - s. 47C(1)
- Approach to Immigration Compliance
  - Discuss approach to immigration compliance over the term
  - **s. 47C(1), s. 47E(d)**
- Onshore Detention
  - Discuss opportunities to strengthen the onshore detention network
- Border of Today and Tomorrow
  - **s. 47C(1)**
- National Resilience and Civil Preparedness
  - Discuss approach to national resilience
- Community Cohesion
  - Discuss approach to community cohesion

## Proposed Actions/Decisions

- Consider whether to progress new Ministerial Directions to replace MD84 and MD110
- Note decision in *TCXM v Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (and Anor)* (third country reception litigation) is expected this week

# Home Affairs Portfolio Overview

- The Home Affairs Portfolio comprises the Department of Home Affairs (the Department), including the Australian Border Force (ABF), and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
- The Department, which includes the Australian Border Force, was established in 2017. It has a wide remit, being responsible for the leadership and coordination of strategy, policy, regulation, program delivery, operations and legislative reform in relation to:
  - national security (including counter-terrorism and counter foreign interference)
  - cyber, technology and critical infrastructure resilience and security
  - immigration and citizenship
  - border management
  - Operation Sovereign Borders
  - multiculturalism and social cohesion
  - emergency management disaster preparedness and response and recovery.

## PURPOSE

*Helping build a prosperous, secure and united Australia*

## MISSION

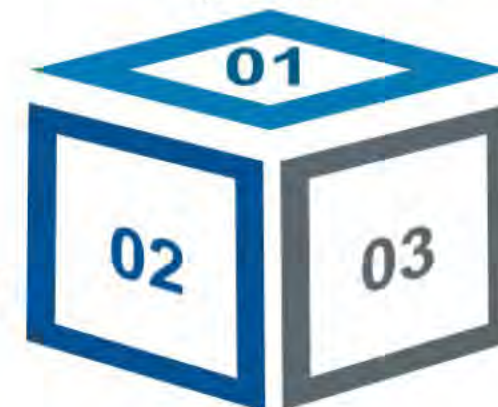
*Building our nation, securing our future*

## OUTCOME 1

Deliver national coordination regulation and policy that safeguard Australia's domestic interests from national security threats, including cyber threats.

## OUTCOME 2

Support a united and prosperous Australia through effective coordination and delivery of immigration and citizenship policy and programs underpinned by robust integrity and assurance.



## OUTCOME 3

Advance a prosperous and secure Australia through trade and travel facilitation and modernisation, and effective customs, immigration, maritime and enforcement activities across the border continuum.

# History of Home Affairs

## Established the Department of Home Affairs

**20 December 2017:**

Established the Department of Home Affairs, which brought together:

- immigration and customs border policy functions previously delivered by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection
- national security from the AGD
- the Office of Transport Security from the former Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development;
- multicultural affairs from the Department of Social Services
- the counter-terrorism coordination and cyber security policy functions from PM&C.

## Created OSI

**4 January 2021:**

Established the Office of the Special Investigator (OSI) as an independent Executive Agency within the HA Portfolio, to:

- review the findings of the Australian Defence Force Afghanistan Inquiry
- work with AFP to investigate the commission of criminal offences or breaches of the Laws of Armed Conflict by ADF members in Afghanistan from 2005 to 2016
- develop briefs of evidence.

## Amendments to Home Affairs Portfolio

**1 July 2022:**

Ministerial responsibility for law enforcement agencies transferred from the HA portfolio to the AG's portfolio via AAO, resulting in AFP, OSI, ACIC and AUSTRAC transferring to the AG portfolio. The following functions also transferred from Home Affairs to AGD:

- Protective security services, criminal law enforcement policy and modern slavery functions
- Some counter-terrorism activities including responsibility for High Risk Terrorism Offenders.

**1 September 2022:**

National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) was established as an Executive Agency. This merged PM&C's National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA) and Emergency Management Australia, which was located in the HA Portfolio.

**13 October 2022:**

AAO change to add 'cybercrime' to the matters dealt with by AGD – functions relating to the Cybercrime Capability Fund and the National Plan to Combat Cyber Crime subsequently transferred from Home Affairs to AGD.

## Functional transfers

**On 1 May 2023:**

- Functions relating to Hardening Government IT, Secure Internet Gateways Policy and Hosting Certification Frameworks transferred to Home Affairs from the Digital Transformation Agency.

**On 3 August 2023:**

- Identity and biometrics functions transferred from Home Affairs to AGD
- Protective security policy and Government and Major Event Security transferred to Home Affairs from AGD.

## Transferred ASIO

**29 July 2024:**

ASIO transferred from the HA portfolio to the AG's portfolio. This also resulted in the transfer of ASIO policy and legislative functions from Home Affairs to AGD.

**2017**

### HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

- Department of Home Affairs
- ABF
- AUSTRAC
- ASIO
- AFP
- ACIC (incl. Australian Institute of Criminology)

**2021**

### HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

- Department of Home Affairs
- ABF
- AUSTRAC
- ASIO
- AFP
- ACIC (incl. Australian Institute of Criminology)
- OSI

**2022**

### HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

- Department of Home Affairs
- ABF
- ASIO
- NEMA

**2023**

### HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

- Department of Home Affairs
- ABF
- ASIO
- NEMA

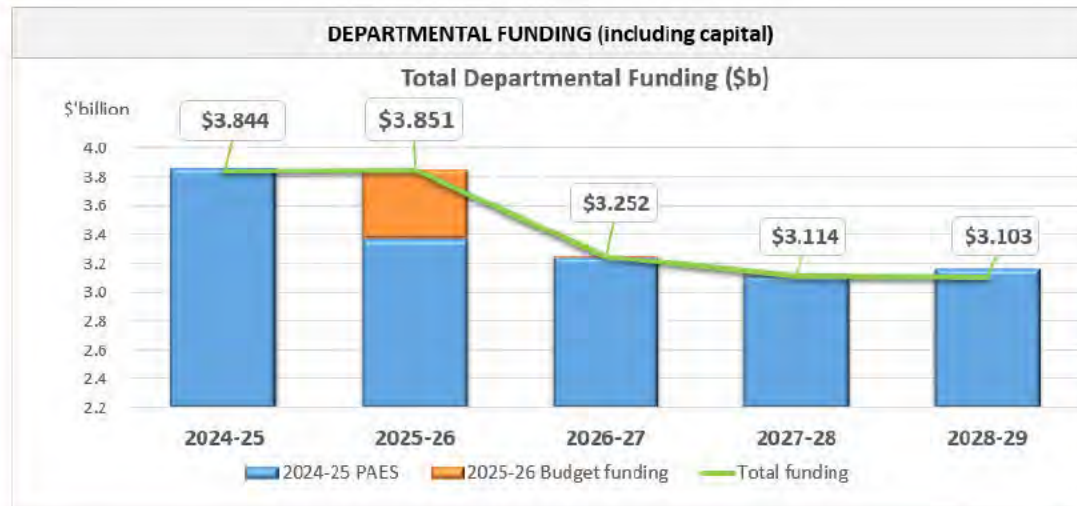
**2024**

### HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

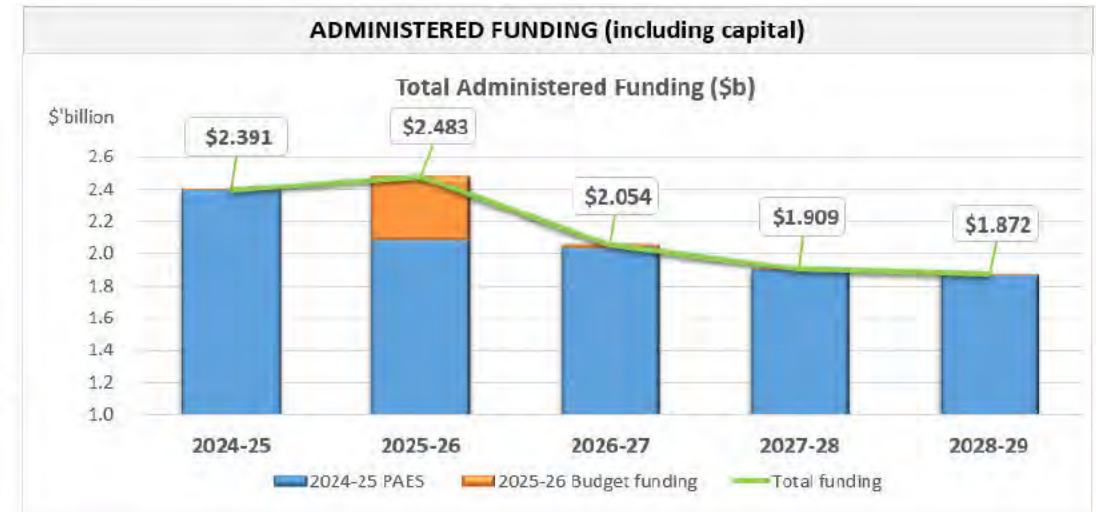
- Department of Home Affairs
- ABF
- NEMA

Released by Department of Home Affairs under the Freedom of Information Act 1982

# Department's Budget



**CURRENT  
BUDGET**



## Overall Budget

Total funding as at the 2025-26 PBS is **\$6.4 billion** for 2025-26 and **\$21.6 billion** over the forward estimates

The reduction in both Departmental and Administered funding beyond 2025-26 is primarily due to annually funded programs such as Operation Sovereign Borders and uncapped demand driven programs such as the Adult Migrant English Program

The external budgeted Average Staffing Level (ASL) for 2025-26 is 15,244

## 2025-26 Budget Breakdown

In 2025-26 the main components of Departmental expenditure includes employees (\$2.0 billion), vessels & aerial surveillance (\$0.4 billion), ICT systems and support (\$0.4 billion) and other costs (\$1.3 billion)

The Departmental Capital Budget is \$0.2 billion

The Department's administered expenditure includes:

- Outcome 1 National Security (\$0.1 billion)
- Program 2.3 Refugee Humanitarian Settlement and Migration (\$0.6 billion)
- Program 2.4 Offshore Detention (\$0.5 billion)
- Program 3.5 Onshore Detention (\$1.0 billion)
- Other Programs (\$0.2 billion)

## Budget Priorities

**s. 47C(1)**

## Independent Prioritisation & Resourcing Review (IPRR)

- The review identified an ongoing operating budget shortfall. In response, the Department has received \$100 million per year in supplementary funding to support the Department's core functions since 2023-24

**s. 47C(1)**

# Department's Workforce

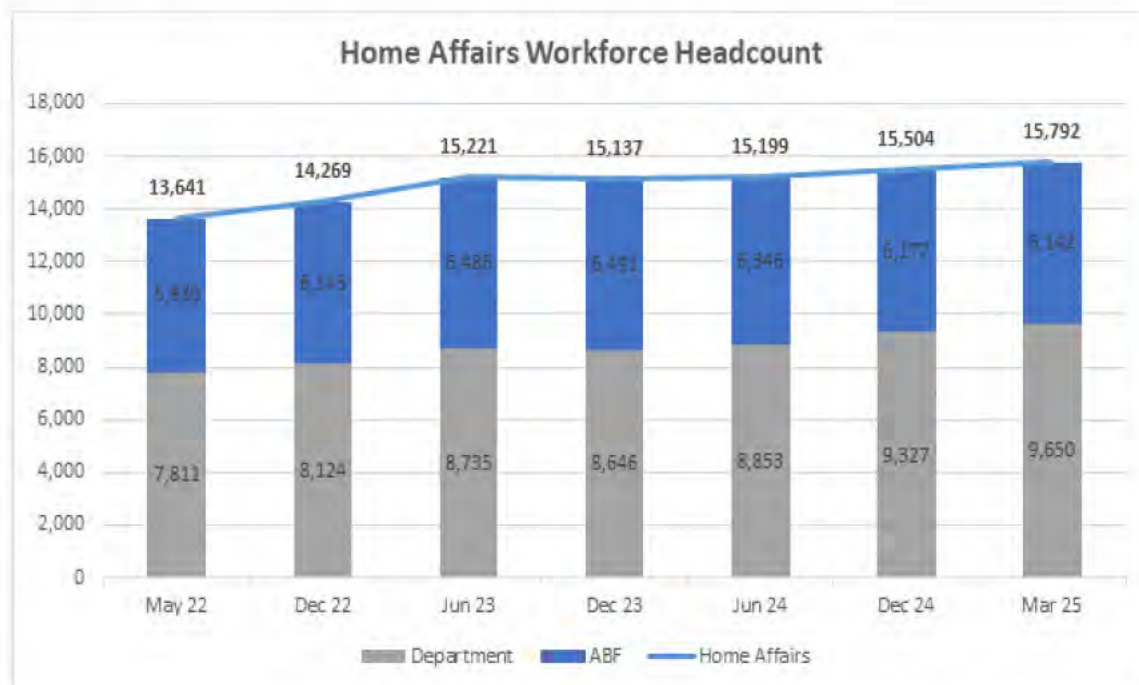
- As at 31 March 2025, Home Affairs current actual FTE is 15,742 and headcount is 16,795
- The Home Affairs external budgeted ASL is 15,244 in 2024-25.

- Home Affairs is structured into 10 Groups, seven within the Department and three within the ABF

s. 47C(1), s. 33(a)(i)

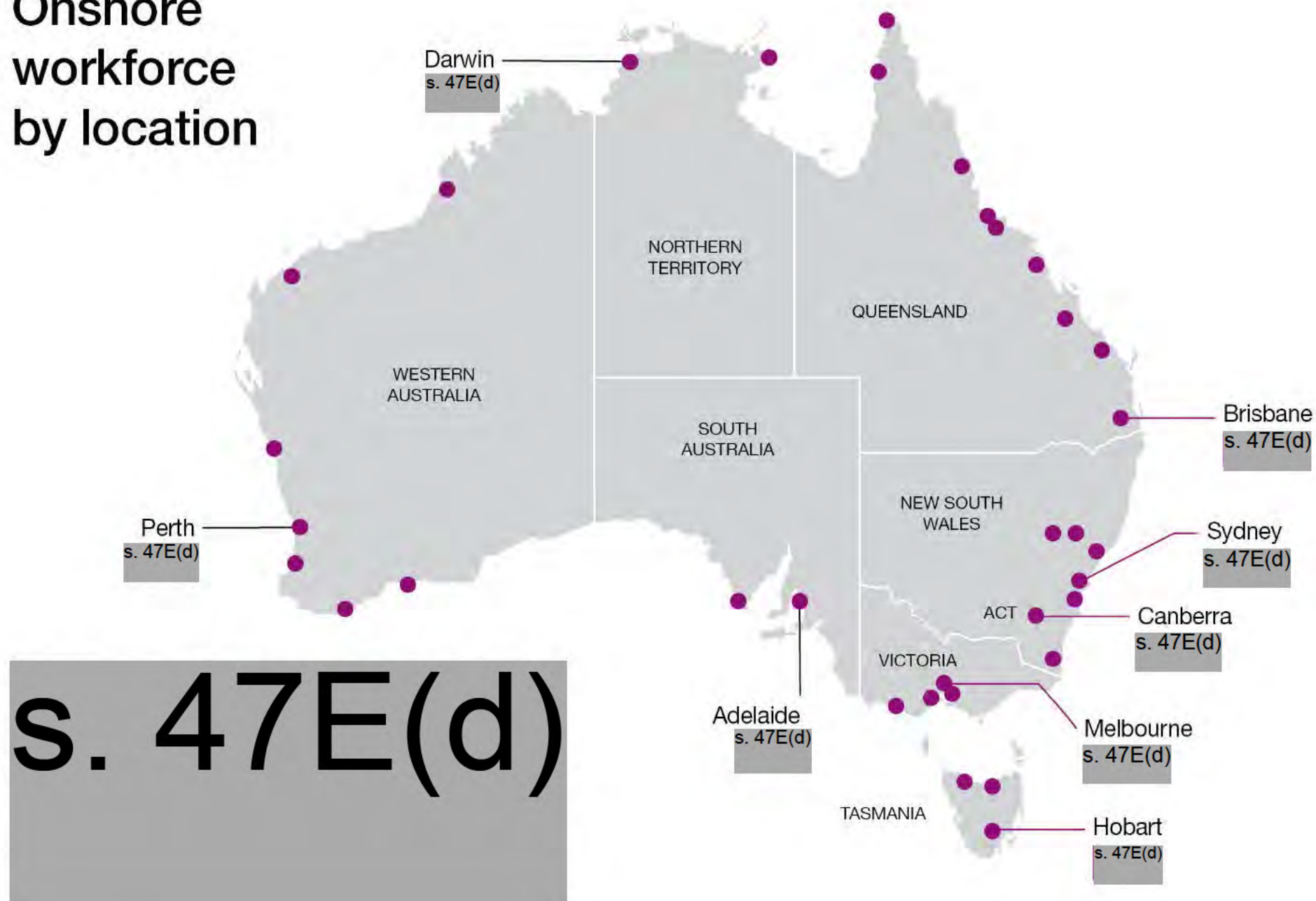
## Staff Headcount by Home Affairs' Group

|                                     |               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>DEPARTMENT</b>                   | <b>9,650</b>  |
| Chief Operating Officer             | 2,182         |
| Cyber and Infrastructure Security   | 544           |
| Executive                           | 427           |
| Immigration                         | 5,694         |
| Legal                               | 551           |
| National Cyber Security Coordinator | 47            |
| National Security and Resilience    | 189           |
| Transformation                      | 16            |
| <b>AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE</b>      | <b>6,142</b>  |
| National Operations                 | 1,903         |
| Regional Operations                 | 3,501         |
| Strategy and Capability             | 738           |
| <b>LOCALLY ENGAGED EMPLOYEES</b>    | <b>1,003</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                        | <b>16,795</b> |



# Workforce Distribution - National

Onshore  
workforce  
by location



# Workforce Distribution - International

Offshore workforce by location



s. 33(a)(i), s. 47E(d)

s. 33(a)(i), s. 47E(d)

# Senior Leadership Team



Stephanie Foster  
PSM  
Secretary



Gavan Reynolds  
AO  
Commissioner of  
the ABF



Nathan Smyth  
Deputy Secretary  
National Security  
and Resilience



Charlotte Tressler  
Chief Operating  
Officer



Hamish Hansford  
Deputy Secretary  
Cyber and  
Infrastructure  
Security



Sophie Sharpe  
Deputy Secretary  
Executive



Clare Sharp  
Deputy Secretary  
Legal



Lieutenant General  
Michelle McGuinness  
CSC  
National Cyber  
Security Coordinator\*



Vanessa Holben PSM  
Deputy Commissioner  
Regional Operations



Tim Fitzgerald  
Deputy Commissioner  
National Operations



Jarrod Howard  
Deputy Commissioner  
Strategy and  
Capability



Michael Thomas  
Group Manager  
Immigration  
Compliance



Michael Willard  
Group Manager  
Immigration Programs

\*Reports directly to the Minister for Home Affairs. There are an additional two appointed officers that report directly to the Minister for Home Affairs. Rear Admiral Brett Sonter, RAN - Operation Sovereign Borders Commander and Erin Dale Interim Illicit Tobacco & E-Cigarette Commissioner

# Cyber, Critical Infrastructure and National Security



**Lieutenant General  
Michelle McGuinness CSC**  
*National Cyber Security Coordinator*

- coordination of responses to major cyber incidents
- whole of government cyber incident preparedness efforts
- strengthening of Commonwealth cyber security capability



**Hamish Hansford**  
*Deputy Secretary Cyber and  
Infrastructure Security*

- cyber security and technology security policy
- critical infrastructure and transport security policy, regulation and partnerships
- background checking under the AusCheck scheme
- protective security policy



**Nathan Smyth**  
*Deputy Secretary National Security and  
Resilience*

- domestic and international engagement on national security
- National Counter-Terrorism Coordinator
- National Counter Foreign Interference Coordinator
- strengthening crisis preparedness and national resilience

# Immigration



**Michael Willard**

*Group Manager Immigration Operations*

- migration and temporary visas policy and program delivery
- citizenship policy and program delivery
- humanitarian policy and program delivery
- service delivery operations
- immigration integrity and assurance
- identity, biometric and forensic services
- offshore regional directors and offshore processing network
- multicultural policy and engagement
- special envoy support
- grants programs
- settlement and migrant English programs



**Michael Thomas**

*Group Manager Immigration Compliance*

- character and cancellations
- status resolution
- complex case management
- field operations and sponsor monitoring
- community protection
- removal operations
- Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority
- immigration compliance policy and intelligence
- regional processing

# Legal, Executive and Corporate



**Clare Sharp**  
*Deputy Secretary Legal  
General Counsel*

- legal advice on migration, citizenship, customs and national security matters
- litigation
- legislation
- privacy
- freedom of information
- records management
- Community Safety Order Taskforce



**Sophie Sharpe**  
*Deputy Secretary Executive*

- parliamentary and cabinet support
- media and communication
- international partnerships
- data and economic analysis
- enterprise performance, risk and governance
- inquiries coordination
- strategic policy, planning and coordination
- social cohesion coordination and strengthening Australia's democracy



**Charlotte Tressler**  
*Chief Operating Officer*

- financial performance and budgets
- human resources
- integrity
- security
- assurance
- health services
- property
- procurement and contracts
- information communication technology
- major capability services
- onshore regional directors
- Community Liaison Officer network

# Australian Border Force

## Overview

- The ABF is responsible for Australia's border security and customs. The ABF supports Australia's economic prosperity by facilitating legitimate trade and travel and supports national security by securing Australia's border
- The border, a key pillar of Australia's sovereignty, is no longer thought of as simply our coastline, a line on a map or a point of 'entry and exit' – but rather as a continuum that includes the pre-border (international), at-the-border (at sea, in air and sea ports) and post-border (domestic) domains
- The ABF's **Mission** is to protect Australia's border and enable legitimate travel and trade
- The ABF's **Vision** is to provide Australia with the most secure and prosperous border

## ABF Objectives

- Under a newly developed ABF Strategy 2025-2027, the ABF has five Strategic Objectives (SO) that align with critical functions and are the means through which we will achieve our mission and vision. Our five strategic objectives are:
  - Capable and sustainable organisation
  - Seamless facilitation of legitimate trade and travel
  - Robust trade and travel compliance and enforcement
  - Safe and secure detention network
  - Security of Australia's maritime domain

## The ABF's operational environment



## Each week, the ABF



## Legislation and powers

- The *ABF Act 2015* establishes the office of the ABF Commissioner. ABF's key statutory powers are derived from the *ABF Act 2015*, *Customs Act 1901*, *Migration Act 1958*, *Criminal Code Act 1995*, and *Maritime Powers Act 2013*
- The *Customs Act 1901* grants the ABF Commissioner, including as Comptroller-General of Customs, authority over customs enforcement and compliance, including the powers to inspect goods, detain and seize items, and enforce customs duties and taxes. Under the *Migration Act 1958*, the ABF Commissioner and ABF officers have powers related to immigration control, including the authority to detain and remove unlawful non-citizens and to enforce visa conditions and to address migrant worker exploitation
- The *Maritime Powers Act 2013* grants maritime officers maritime enforcement powers including boarding and inspection powers, detention of vessels, cargo and individuals suspected of law violations, and use of reasonable force to board vessels

## Workforce

- As at 31 March 2025, the ABF had more than 6,100 staff located across Australia and abroad
- The ABF Workforce is made up of both uniformed and non-uniformed officers who undertake border law enforcement and customs functions, offshore civil maritime border enforcement activities, onshore detention activities as well as policy, legislation, strategy, capability and other support and enabling functions

## Key ABF functions are:

- Facilitating traveller and cargo clearance at airports and seaports
- Working to prevent the cross-border movements of illicit goods and individuals
- Maintaining the integrity of Australia's migration and visa programs, through targeted operations to elicit voluntary compliance and to deter, detect and respond to serious instances of non-compliance
- Visa and migration compliance, including the detainment and removal of unlawful non-citizens
- Fostering trade facilitation within a framework of trust without compromising border security
- The security, health, welfare and safety of detainees in immigration detention
- Protects Australia's maritime domain through surveillance activities to disrupt and respond to illegal activities in Australian waters
- Detection and deterrence of the exploitation of natural resources and prohibited importation
- Border modernisation initiatives to streamline the movement of goods and people across the border continuum
- Deter, detect and respond to illegal maritime arrivals

# Australian Border Force



**Gavan Reynolds AO**  
*Commissioner of the ABF*

- The Australian Border Force (ABF) Commissioner is a statutory appointed officer with control over all ABF operations. The *Australian Border Force Act 2015* establishes the office of the ABF Commissioner, and confers powers and functions on the ABF Commissioner and APS employees in the ABF under the *Customs Act 1901*, the *Migration Act 1958*, the *Maritime Powers Act 2013* and other Commonwealth laws
- The Commissioner is also the *Comptroller-General of Customs* and in that capacity has responsibility for enforcement of customs law and collection of border-related revenue. The ABF Commissioner is appointed by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia by written instrument for a period that must not exceed five years



**Vanessa Holben PSM**  
*Deputy Commissioner  
Regional Operations*

- management of the onshore Immigration Detention Network (excl. removals)
- traveller and cargo facilitation
- traveller and cargo intervention
- investigations
- supply chain integrity
- littoral fleet



**Tim Fitzgerald**  
*Deputy Commissioner  
National Operations*

- revenue protection
- trade compliance
- intelligence-informed targeting
- combatting civil maritime security threats
- sets and evaluates the ABF's operational priorities
- operational capability management
- management of border, cargo and traveller operational systems



**Jarrod Howard**  
*Deputy Commissioner Strategy and  
Capability*

- policy and strategy
- capability uplift and sustainment
- maintenance of the customs framework
- civil maritime capability for Maritime Border Command
- trade and travel modernisation
- civil maritime capability
- future policy and strategy to address civil maritime threats
- risk, safety and assurance

# Appointments



**Rear Admiral Brett Sonter, RAN**

*Commander Joint Agency Taskforce Operation Sovereign Borders  
Commander Maritime Border Command*

- ensure a whole-of-government effort to combat people smuggling and protect Australia's borders
- command of the Joint Agency Taskforce to deny irregular maritime settlement in Australia
- command of joint ABF and Australian Defence Force surveillance and blue water fleet
- manages capability to detect and intercept vessels involved in people smuggling activities
- manages capability to support the return and resettlement of individuals found not to be eligible for protection under regional processing arrangements



**Erin Dale**

*Interim Illicit Tobacco and E-Cigarette Commissioner*

- shape the national agenda across jurisdictions and key agencies to combat illicit tobacco and e-cigarettes
- influence strategy and provide direction to facilitate national collaboration and greater alignment of effort
- build partnerships to strengthen cross-jurisdiction compliance and enforcement
- publish national statistics annually under legislative mandate
- encourage intelligence and data sharing to inform collective responses and evidence based policy development
- enhance capability through shared best practice guidance
- drive national initiatives that address gaps
- identify and advise government on emerging threats and policy reform priorities including through commissioned research

# National Emergency Management Agency



**Brendan Moon AM**  
*Coordinator-General*

## PURPOSE

To enable more secure, stronger, and resilient communities before, during and after emergencies.

## VISION

Working through meaningful partnerships, we build Australia's capacity for disaster resilience and support our communities when they need it most.

## OUTCOME

To develop, lead and coordinate the Commonwealth's approach to emergency management, including the support of activities relating to preparedness, response, relief, recovery, reconstruction, risk reduction, and resilience for all-hazard emergencies and disasters.

### Key activities:

- **Preparedness:** Lead and coordinate national preparedness, build national capabilities and lead policy to support the Australian Government, jurisdictions and the Australian community in responding to and recovering from all-hazard crises
- **Response:** Lead and coordinate Australian Government response and support international response when required
- **Recovery:** Lead and coordinate effective Australian Government recovery support to disaster impacted states, territories, local government and communities
- **Risk Reduction and Resilience:** Lead reforms and activities to reduce Australia's disaster risk in line with national and international frameworks, and through targeted investment in people, capabilities and communities



# Critical Infrastructure Protection

## Context

- The security and resilience of critical infrastructure is fundamental to Australia's national security, economy and sovereignty, and is under constant and growing threat. Home Affairs' efforts focus on the eleven key sectors of the Australian economy: communications, data storage or processing, defence industry, energy, financial services and markets, food and grocery, healthcare and medical, higher education and research, space technology, transport and water and sewerage. There are around 1300 critical infrastructure assets on the Register of Critical Infrastructure Assets. The Department engages closely with owners and operations of Australia's critical infrastructure through the Trusted Information Sharing Network which has over 2250 members.
- There are over 220 Systems of National Significance (SoNS), which are a smaller subset of critical infrastructure assets that are most crucial to the nation by virtue of their interdependencies across sectors and potential for cascading consequences to other critical infrastructure assets and sectors if disrupted.

## Ministerial Powers / Responsibilities

- You are the Minister with responsibility for policy and coordination matters relating to critical infrastructure security. However, the Minister for Defence has responsibility for the Defence Industry Security Program, the Treasurer has responsibility for foreign investment, the Minister for Industry has responsibility for ground stations, the Minister for Finance has responsibility for prudential regulation, the Minister for Communications has responsibility for the *Telecommunications Act 1997* and Minister for Infrastructure have responsibility for some funding and grant programs.
- Alongside your cyber security policy role, you have direct responsibility to lead the coordination of any incidents targeting critical infrastructure.
- You have the ability to work with the Department to:
  - declare additional critical infrastructure assets either publicly or privately
  - consult on and declare the most important and interdependent critical infrastructure through private designation of Systems of National Significance
  - consult on and provide rules to govern a preventative Risk Management Program obligation for critical infrastructure
  - take action through Ministerial directions or government intervention in a crisis or if there are concerns that are prejudicial to security

## The Department's Role

- The Cyber and Infrastructure Security Group (CISG) in the Department is responsible for critical infrastructure security policy, regulation and partnerships.
- The Department administers the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* (SOCI Act) which provides a framework to uplift the security and resilience of Australia's critical infrastructure. The SOCI Act applies to eleven sectors of the Australian economy.
- The SOCI Act places a number of positive security obligations on critical infrastructure owners and operators including to identify, prevent and mitigate against all-hazards. All hazards includes protection from the lens of cyber and information security, personnel security, supply chain security, physical security and natural hazard resilience.
- Through the Trusted Information Sharing Network, all levels of government and industry collaborate to uplift Australia's critical infrastructure and to help critical infrastructure owners and operators to enhance their understanding of the risk environment, while meeting their security obligations.

## Legislation

- *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*
- *AusCheck Act 2007*



## Context

- Transport security is vital to ongoing economic, public, and national security. The Department's transport security functions cover 1533 aviation security entities (115 security regulated airports, 822 air cargo entities and 567 aircraft and airline operators) and 147 maritime security entities including ports, cruise ships and offshore oil and gas facilities.
- Between 1 July 2024 and 31 March 2025, a total of 116,556 AusCheck background checks were undertaken. These checks help to ensure people who are granted access to security-sensitive critical infrastructure or events do not pose an unacceptable national security or serious criminality risk.
- The Department is not responsible for aviation and maritime safety. Safety regulation is the responsibility of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).

## Ministerial Powers / Responsibilities

- You are the Minister with primary responsibility for aviation and maritime security, and the Minister for Infrastructure has responsibility for legislation including the *Airports Act 1996* and for agencies responsible for safety regulation (CASA and AMSA).
- You have some specific powers under the *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004* to issue directions in specific circumstances.
- You also have responsibility for delivery of national background checking services for aviation, maritime, security-sensitive critical infrastructure and national events.

## Legislation

- *AusCheck Act 2007*
- *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004*
- *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003*
- *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*

## The Department's Role

- The Cyber and Infrastructure Security Group in the Department is responsible for transport security policy, regulation and partnerships.
- The Department administers the *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004* (ATSA) and the *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003* (MTOFSA). On 27 March 2025, the *Transport Security Amendment (Security of Australia's Transport Sector) Bill 2024* received Royal Assent, which implements certain recommendations of the Independent Review into Australia's Aviation and Maritime Transport Security Settings by amending the ATSA and MTOFSA to update legislative and policy frameworks to enable iterative, risk-based and scalable regulation for the security of aviation, maritime and offshore facility sectors across all-hazards.
- AusCheck (which is a branch within the Group) provides background checking services for security-sensitive critical infrastructure sectors in Australia, through the *AusCheck Act 2007*, and is to become the Government's single issuing body for the aviation and maritime security identification card (ASIC and MSIC) schemes.



# Cyber Policy Coordination

## Context

- The global cyber environment is in a continuous state of flux, and is influenced by advances in technology, geopolitical, and demographic factors. Australia currently faces a heightened geopolitical and cyber threat landscape with cyber attacks growing in scale and sophistication.
- Hostile cyber actors, both state and non-state, will continue to engage in malicious cyber activity to exploit and access systems against Government and critical infrastructure. This threat includes sabotage, espionage, financial gain and stealing of sensitive information.
- Australia's economic prosperity and our national security relies on securing critical technologies – such as artificial intelligence, quantum and biotechnologies – and limiting our overreliance on technologies from authoritarian countries. Rapid technological advancements have outpaced the development of effective risk management and regulatory frameworks, leaving government, critical infrastructure and society vulnerable.

## Ministerial Powers / Responsibilities

- You are the Minister with responsibility for policy and coordination matters relating to cyber security including technology security.
- You have direct responsibility to lead the coordination of responses to major cyber incidents, whole of government cyber incident preparedness efforts and strengthening Commonwealth cyber security capability.

## Legislation

- *Cyber Security Act 2024* (Part 4 establishes the role of the National Cyber Security Coordinator for information sharing relating to cyber incident response activities)

## The Department's Role

- The National Cyber Security Coordinator is the central point to lead and coordinate cyber security incident response and preparedness. The Coordinator supports the Minister to lead whole-of-Government coordination of national cyber security policy; achieved through the:
  - strengthening Commonwealth cyber security capability
  - whole-of-government cyber incident preparedness efforts
  - responses to major cyber incidents
- The Department is the whole-of-government lead on cyber security policy.
- The Department leads on addressing technology security threats through the Technology Vendor Review Framework and the Technology Foreign Interference Taskforce (TechFIT).
- The Department uses bilateral, minilateral and multilateral partnerships – such as the Quad, the Counter Ransomware Initiative and the Ottawa 5 (O5) - to enhance its cyber cooperation and insights, and global standing.

# Protective Security Policy Framework

## Context

- The Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF) sets the Australian Government's minimum protective security standards to achieve effective and efficient secure delivery of government business, both domestically and internationally.
- Entities must implement the PSPF requirements within their unique security risk environments.

## Ministerial Powers / Responsibilities

- You are the Minister with primary responsibility for protective security policy. The Minister for Defence, the Attorney-General and the Minister for Finance have responsibility for some levers.
- The Minister for Home Affairs issues the *Directive on the Security of Government Business* which establishes the PSPF as Australian Government policy under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
- The Minister for Home Affairs, through the Systems of Government Significance (SoGS) regime declares government's most critical digital services and systems based on the potential for significant consequences to Australia's national interest, economic prosperity and social cohesion if disrupted. By creating a prioritised list of declared SoGS, the Department will be positioned to drive cyber security priorities including investment, cyber uplift and exercising through the National Office of Cyber Security. SoGS will also provide the opportunity to drive technology change through the obligations imposed on government entities operating SoGS.

## The Department's Role

- The Department is the security regulator for the Commonwealth. The Department is responsible for the PSPF, the Hosting Certification Framework, the SoGS regime, the Resilient Digital Infrastructure Framework and the Commonwealth cyber security policy.
  - Since these levers have been combined into a single Commonwealth security function the Department has prosecuted an ambitious Commonwealth regulatory agenda that includes foundational PSPF Directions; the release of Zero Trust and Gateway policy documents; and direct interventions to uplift security
- The Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs administers the PSPF and chairs the Protective Security Board.

## Legislation

- Nil

# Protective Security for Parliamentarians

## Context

- Since the 2022 Federal Election, there has been a steady increase in threat reporting to the AFP from parliamentarians. Ministers who hold high profile political appointments continue to attract heightened levels of adverse activity.
- An increase in issue-motivated threat activity and generalised anti-government sentiment within sectors of the Australian community continue to impact the political landscape and parliamentarians in the execution of their duties.

## Ministerial Responsibility

- You are the Minister with responsibility for policy matters relating to protective services for Parliamentarians.
- The Minister responsible for the AFP has responsibilities in overseeing physical security protections offered by the AFP and the Minister for Finance has responsibilities for Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices and Electoral Offices.
- Ministers and Members of Parliament will often approach Home Affairs, the Minister, or the Minister's Office directly to discuss security concerns or requests for additional support.
- Your responsibilities for protective security for High Office Holders are also often conflated with your responsibilities for the Protective Security Policy Framework.

## Legislation

- Nil

## The Department's Role

- The Department provides protective security advice and coordinates physical security measures on behalf of relevant Federal Parliamentarians at their residences and places of work, and for the coordination of national security support to events declared by the Prime Minister to be Special Events.
- The Department assesses physical security measures at the residences and electorate offices of Australian High Office Holders (AHOHs), Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices and the Official Establishments (The Lodge, Kirribilli House, Admiralty House and Government House).
- Home Affairs works closely with other government agencies and partners, complementing existing operational arrangements, to harden the protective security environment and enable the Government to discharge its duties without fear of harm, violence and coercion.
- The Department of Finance is responsible for Electorate Offices and Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices.



# Counter Foreign Interference

## Context

- Foreign interference is one of Australia's principal security concerns. s. 7(2A) assesses that espionage and foreign interference are at extreme levels and anticipates they will intensify.
- Left unchecked, foreign interference can have a corrosive effect on our national security. It can weaken Australia's democratic system of government, our social cohesion and our economic prosperity.

## Ministerial Responsibility

- You are the Minister with responsibility for national counter foreign interference policy and coordination and have a leadership role in the event of a domestic incident.

## Legislation

- Australian Citizenship Act 2007* (in relation to citizenship cessation)

## The Department's Role

- The National Counter Foreign Interference Coordinator (NCFIC) within the Department supports a whole-of-nation effort to counter foreign interference (CFI) through:
  - overseeing implementation of Australia's approach to CFI
  - coordinating support and advice to 'at risk sectors'
  - enhancing engagement with multicultural communities and building resilience in Australian society
- The NCFIC is supported by the Counter Foreign Interference Coordination Centre (CFICC) in the Department.
- NCFIC leads whole-of-government efforts via the CFI Executive Board and the University Foreign Inference Taskforce to counter foreign interference.
- The NCFIC and CFICC engage with like-minded countries and regional partners to enhance global resilience to foreign interference.

s. 33(a)(i)



## Context

- The current National Terrorism Threat Level is PROBABLE; many individuals or groups continue to possess the intent and capability to conduct a terrorist attack in Australia.
- The complex nature of the threat, overlaid on a federal system of government, requires ongoing coordination efforts both within, and outside Australia.

## Ministerial Responsibility

- You are the Minister with responsibility for national counter-terrorism policy and coordination; and have a leadership role in the event of a domestic terrorist attack. Australia's approach to counter-terrorism is informed by intelligence.
- You are responsible for delivery of a range of high-value intervention and referral programs that support states and territories to counter terrorism and respond to terrorist threats.
- Ministerial collaboration with states and territories is crucial to implementation of the objectives in *Australia's CT & VE Strategy 2025*.
- The Governor-General may list an organisation as a terrorist organisation on advice from the Minister responsible for the Australian Federal Police.

## Legislation

- *Counter-Terrorism (Temporary Exclusion Orders) Act 2019*
- *Social Security Act 1991* (insofar as it relates to the Australian Victim of Terrorism Overseas Payment, the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and the Disaster Recovery Allowance)
- *Australian Citizenship Act 2007* (in relation to citizenship cessation)

## The Department's Role

- The Department coordinates proactive and nationally consistent CT efforts across the preparedness, prevention, response and recovery spectrum.
- The Department counters the evolving threat of violent extremism by ensuring strategy, legislation, programs, operational capabilities and coordination are fit for purpose.
- The Department also leads national capability development across all jurisdictions through the CT Coordination Centre, including via the CT Coordinator who chairs the Australia New Zealand CT Committee and the Joint Counter Terrorism Board.
- The Department is the lead agency in coordinating across agencies responsible for national security to advise on Ministerial decisions to proscribe terrorist organisations under the Criminal Code.
- The Department is increasingly gaining the support and contribution of non-traditional security agencies, such as health and education, to deliver earlier CT and Violent Extremism interventions with a strong social policy lens.