

Does Australia require a tailored approach to uplifting cyber skills beyond the Government's broader STEM agenda?

What more can the Australian Government do to support Australia's cyber security workforce through education, immigration, and accreditation?

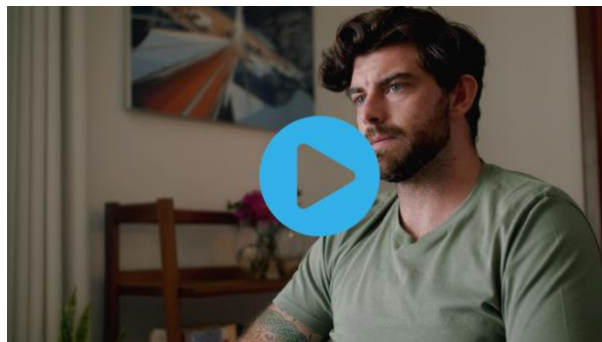
We would like to significantly contribute to the solutions to these two points. If people are our weakest link, our greatest vulnerability, how can we leave the capability development to the same old methods for a new and constantly evolving challenge without innovative solutions and the possibility to adapt?

A significant engagement Strategy is required to build capability to defend the Defence Industry and Critical Infrastructure with the intended audience of employees, contractors, and members of the ADF across Australia.

By giving people as close to an actual experience of the consequences of cyber transgressions, theatre-based immersive learning is the most effective training to build this capability.

It is too critical to leave to the risk that PowerPoint and videos don't make the desired impact.

The innovation offers the catalyst of the engagement of the use of professional actors, staging and script and the ability to deliver significant content once the audience is engaged, with experienced professional facilitators. This can be regulator sponsored (ONRSR the national rail regulator commissioned a safety play and toured nationally.) The workshop was subsequently adapted inhouse by companies and state authorities and won the Australasian Rail Safety Award in 2020. Here is a clip from the video component still being used for the ARA Introduction to Rail training.



"ACT's theatre-based workshop idea proved to be the innovative approach we needed because it made very real an issue that many rail workers hadn't previously consciously contemplated. Their approach really helped us cut through that attitude that "it can't happen to me" while simultaneously driving home the dire consequences of failing to adhere to safe working practices.

It was something we had never contemplated before and resulted in an overwhelmingly positive response. We had great reviews and recommendations among industry and in all we had more than 250 people attend sessions right across Australia. There is little doubt that our collaboration with ACT has saved lives in the rail industry."

Sue McCarrey

CEO, Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (ONRSR)

Note: Sue is now the CEO of NOPSEMA

ACT Australia PTY LTD is a unique theatre-based organisation that helped the Oil and Gas industry educate and develop critical understanding the industry needed to train up on the commitment required for protection against process safety hazards over the last 10 years. The plays DEEPWATER, PIPER ALPHA and others are examples of deeply researched case studies brought to life for impactful learning across Australia. Clients include Woodside, Shell, QGC, Santos, and Origin. The most recent commission was from Woodside for TRADE OFFS.



In 2022 ACT developed a commission for the RAAF called NOTHING BAD to show the impact of a series of minor transgressions – culminating in the loss of an F35 Fighter jet due to malware in the launch interface software. This is a fictional case study well researched to offer insight into the reality of the world of hackers and cyber criminals – and the impact we as individuals in the Australian public can have on national security.

ACT already works for Defence where we have developed and delivered significant conference presentations for the International PARARI Explosives Ordnance Symposium – including productions based on significant case studies - SPACE SHUTTLE and NIMROD.

“As the Department of Defense government official responsible for implementing and overseeing the U.S. explosives safety program, I always look for ways to effectively communicate risks, consequences, and impacts of poor judgement, complacency, and poor policies when dealing with military munitions. Our team uses a combination of training videos and presentations to train leaders and technical staff.

Although our methods are effective the ACT performance was even more effective than ours. The thorough research and intense preparation of the actors, directors and support staff that went into both re-enactments was obvious throughout, contributing to the overall effectiveness of the re-enactments.

In Summary, both SPACE SHUTTLE and SPOTLIGHT for SAFETY at PARARI were informative, educational, highly professional, innovative, and captivating. Both re-enactments drove home the importance of vigilance, accountability, and culture in what is perhaps the most effective training medium I’ve witnessed in 30 years of government service.”

Thierry L Chiapello

Executive Director

Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board, United States of America



After a recent preview of NOTHING BAD in Perth, we are now in talks with a major infrastructure organisation to develop a cases study for power generation networks.

Based in Perth, we have significant national capability re-building after COVID and are committed to making a significant difference to the safety and cyber security of Australia. We would like to be included in the submission as an integral element of the engagement strategy and capability development for the Australian workforce to upskill in protecting our critical infrastructure and our country's national security.



Susan Fleming

Founder, Education Innovator, ACT Australia & New Zealand

Susan is in a unique position to understand the challenges facing businesses impacted by the Security of Critical Infrastructure Act. She draws on over 25 years international leadership, including IT, risk assessment and business development. Susan is an accomplished facilitator, writer and is a member of the Professional Speaker's Association.

Susan's experience in economics as State Director for the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA), Thought Leadership Convenor for the University of WA Oceans Institute and seven years leading the Customised division of Learning and Development at the Australian Institute of Management; add a broad range of knowledge, colleagues and business imperatives to her work.

Susan holds a Bachelor of Education, an Advanced Diploma in Leadership and Management from the University of Western Australia, Certificate in Directing from AFTRS (2020) and is a Graduate of the Institute of Company Directors. She was made a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management in 2012.

As Producer, Susan spent 10 years in the international film and television industry. Her early appetite for risk management was developed working on action movies in the US and the middle east. Her robust management of creative and operational enterprise comes from documentary making in Indonesia and Australia.

Susan has contributed to several industry boards and committees and currently sits as Chair of The Constable Care Foundation board (CCF) and is former Chair of Theatre 180.