



Australian Crisis
Simulation Summit

ACSS Stakeholder Update

September 2021
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Message from the Head of Crisis Operations

Who could have thought 2021 could get even crazier! With Canberra heading into lockdown for the first time since March 2020, the ACSS team have been incredibly busy planning contingencies for both our summit and simulations. With less than a week to the beginning of the summit, we are so excited to deliver an innovative and ground-breaking experience for the future national security leaders of this country.

I'm really proud to be involved in the ACSS as Head of Crisis Operations this year. Having been involved in the inaugural edition of the summit as the Head Crisis Writer in the Pacific simulation, I wanted to build upon the amazing success of last year's event in this role. It has been a privilege to work with our team of crisis writers, who have been diligently working upon these simulations since December last year. In particular, our Head Crisis Writers George Breynard, Tom Garratt, Ingrid Lennon and Gabriel Watchman have done an outstanding job in creating and writing the simulations for the summit. We are currently in the final stages of our dry run process, fine-tuning the timing, content and direction of the

simulations for the summit week. Our crisis simulations are designed to educate our delegates about the future national security issues they will have to deal with in their careers. The three simulations will explore events occurring in the Pacific, Space and Domestically. These crises will challenge students' perceptions of what constitutes a security threat, where these threats come from, and how to solve complex and challenging problems. These simulations are not designed to be easy; they will push the delegates into making difficult decisions in time-sensitive situations. Our crisis simulation software Conducttr, alongside our live in-house TV studio, allows us to deliver engaging, realistic and immersive content to our delegates. In delivering these simulations, we are working with some of the brightest and foremost experts in the national security field. We are really excited to give our delegates the opportunity to learn from these mentors during the week.

The summit is an incredible event that comes at a pertinent time for young people looking to pursue a career in national security. I am really looking forward to seeing the delegates participate in the summit and simulations in September!



Max Wiggins

Head of Crisis Operations, 2021

Max Wiggins

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ACSS Featured in: ANU College of Law News

The ANU College of Law has shared an excellent article featuring our Director, Gemma Dabkowski, and our Deputy-Director, Isaac Hayne. [Click here to read the article.](#)

The ANU College of Law is one of our key partners this year. We are very grateful for the continued support from the College and some of their academics to deliver this year's Summit.



Team Spotlight



Elena Hunt

Social Media Officer, 2021

Elena graduated with a Bachelor of International and Global Studies from the University of Sydney. Elena moved to Canberra last year to begin a Master of Public Policy at the ANU's Crawford School of Public Policy. Her studies focus on social protection, global development, and social policy responses to crises. Like many of her peers, Elena chose to move to Canberra due to the exciting professional opportunities that the capital provides. Despite only recently joining the ACSS team as Social Media Officer, Elena is excited to get involved and work with our passionate delegates and mentors.



Jack Williams

Technical services team, 2021

Jack is currently studying engineering and computer science at the Australian National University. He also employs his passion for technology in student led projects and as a digital services manager for Adept at a national level.

Jack joined the team in 2020 a mere two weeks before the inaugural summit to help with the transition to an online event. Given a taste of the fast-paced environment and opportunities for problem solving under pressure presented by the summit, he couldn't wait to do it again and is now running the technical services team to support the 2021 summit's distributed hub model.



Ben Liu

Finance Officer, 2021

Ben is currently studying law and accounting at the Australian National University. He has a passion for what he learns and is volunteering at the ANU Tax Clinic.

Ben joined the team in 2021 to assist with the budget preparation and bookkeeping processes. Given the ongoing opportunities for learning and getting out of his comfort zone, he enjoys working in the Finance department to help prepare statements for financial reporting obligations.



Panel Discussions during the Summit Week

During the Summit week there will be nine diverse panel discussions which will include national security experts, academics, leaders, public servants and industry professionals. The discussion panels will be covering topics from intelligence and cybersecurity to leadership and ethics. Delegates will have the opportunity to listen to and engage with our panelists in an effort to encourage greater awareness and conversations of national security affairs. These are just three of our nine panels that will be presented during the week:

Future of Intelligence

11:00am AEST, Tuesday 14 September 2021

This panel will discuss the challenges that those working in the intelligence space may face in a fifteen-to-twenty-year window. How will analysts manage to sort through an ever-increasing amount of data at open-source agencies such as ONI? Is it likely that cyberattacks in the future will be regarded as conventional attacks? This panel seeks to address these questions in discussion with a wide range of academic and industry experts.

Women and National Security

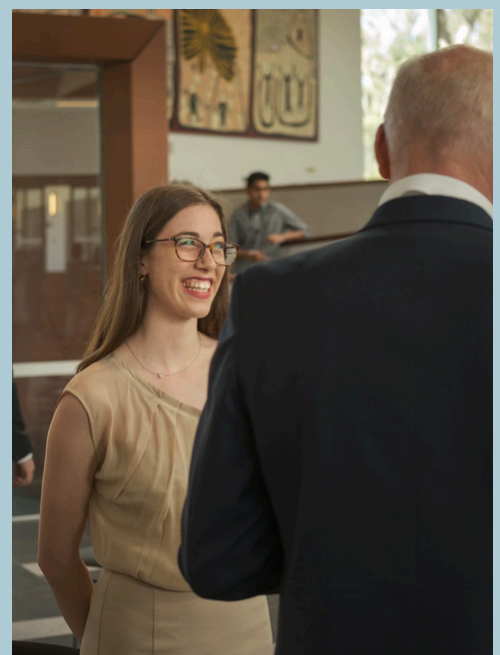
10:00am AEST, Thursday 16 September 2021

This panel discussion intends to give delegates of all genders and backgrounds a greater understanding of the experiences of women in national security, defence, and policy industries. Leanne Close from ASPI, Lyndsay Freeman representing the Australian Army Research Centre, and Catherine Bridges from the ANU will join us in discussion to explore topics of career development, mentorship, leadership, diversity, and inclusion.

Strategic Imagination

11:30am AEST, Thursday 16 September 2021

This stellar panel would provide a channel for prominent policy practitioners to inform future leaders on the challenges Australia faces, how we can mobilise national resources to shape an international order conducive to our interests, and influence non-traditional partners to view us as the partner of choice amidst a gamut of countries vying for influence in the Indo-Pacific.





Update from our Technology Team

Even as the final pieces fall into place and the number of weekly meetings starts to increase, it's hard to believe that the 2021 Australian Crisis Simulation Summit is now less than a week away now. I'm proud to say that the team has been working above and beyond to deliver one of the most unique and innovative events in the national security landscape. One of the key highlights from the inaugural summit often mentioned by delegates, mentors and partners was the Summit Broadcasting Corporation (SBC), our live TV network that runs throughout each of the crisis simulations. The SBC provides delegates with an exciting, realistic, and immersive information feed to compliment the Conducttr software, featuring everything you would expect from a real news network: breaking news reports delivered by industry veteran journalists, live interviews with delegates and mentors, and pre-recorded news reports presented by journalists around the world. One of my goals this year was to redevelop the SBC into a fully in-house and student-run TV studio that we could collaboratively design and implement alongside the crisis writing teams. This has allowed us to develop a shared vision for the studio, reduce total ACSS expenses, and better commit to a fully student-run event, with the same level of quality that we set the standard for last year. The Technical Services team led by Jack Williams, is already hard at work setting up technical support resources for delegates and role players during the simulations. A comprehensive support page, troubleshooting guide, and a remote support system through Zoom are just a few of the things Jack and his team has been putting together to make this event run as smooth as possible. I'm also super excited to welcome Anthony Gambale and Lakshya Dutta as two of our new tech team members for 2021. With the unpredictability of the COVID-era, it's no secret that it takes an incredible team to pull something like this off. I'd especially like to thank Lachlan Obaydin, Angus Brooks, Lyndal Curtis and Charles Wannop for their flexibility, initiative, and resourcefulness in helping to make the SBC project a reality, especially as the Canberra lockdown came into effect and the possibility of having to execute an entirely virtual SBC became more likely. Rest assured, we'll be prepared for any eventuality. I'm excited to share the results of the team's hard work over the last twelve months with you in September and we hope it'll be a highlight of what is shaping up to be an unmissable event.



Connor Kneebone

Chief Technology Officer, 2021

Connor Kneebone



ACSS Featured in: Conducttr ACSS Series

One of our major sponsors for the ACSS 2021, Conducttr, will be sharing a series of articles of how their software is helping to support us in delivering this year's crisis simulations during the Summit week. Keep an eye out for further updates in this series.

[Click here](#) to read the third article of this series.



Summit Broadcasting Corporation 2021

The Summit Broadcasting Corporation (SBC) is a fully student-run initiative held under the guidance of esteemed journalists and experts in the field. The SBC Mentors participate in an immersive manner by providing real-time crisis news updates, pre-recorded updates, panel discussions, and live interviews with participants. Below are three of the SBC Mentors involved in this year's Summit.



Mark Kenny

SENIOR FELLOW, AUSTRALIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE, ANU

Prior to working with the ANU, Professor Mark Kenny had a high-profile journalistic career culminating in 6 years as chief political correspondent and national affairs editor of The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, and The Canberra Times. Mark was made a Visiting Fellow at ANU in 2018 and took up a full-time academic post at the Australian Studies Institute in January, 2019. His research interests include national politics, comparative studies, democracy, and the rise of populism.

Karen Middleton

CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT, THE SATURDAY PAPER

Karen Middleton is a journalist and author with more than 30 years' experience covering national and international affairs in print and broadcast media. She is Chief Political Correspondent for The Saturday Paper and a commentator on ABC TV's Insiders and The Drum and Network Ten's The Project and a regular contributor to ABC radio, Radio New Zealand, Monocle24 and the BBC. Karen is the author of two books, Albanese – Telling it Straight (Penguin Random House, 2016) and An Unwinnable War – Australia in Afghanistan (MUP, 2011).



Lyndal Curtis

MEDIA DIRECTOR, DPS

Lyndal Curtis covered federal politics for most of the last 25 years, 21 of those with the ABC. She currently works at Parliament House as Media Director for DPS. She is a winner of the Paul Lyneham Award for Excellence in Press Gallery reporting. Lyndal has worked as Political Editor for ABC News and Bureau Chief for Sky News Australia and was also State Editor of the ACT ABC News.





Mentor Spotlight

We are working with a strong cohort of national security experts, academics, leaders, diplomats, public servants and young professionals to deliver the ACSS. We are so grateful for each of their continued support and contributions. [Click here](#) to also see a full list of all of our mentors this year.

Emma Maley

HEAD OF CYBER RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY, COMMONWEALTH BANK

Emma Maley is the Head of Cyber Resilience and Recovery for the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, responsible for Cyber Threat Intelligence, Third Party and Data Breach Incident Response and Cyber Recovery Planning. She is focussed on ensuring that the Group is prepared for and can recover from a major cyber-attack, working closely with the Group's Business Resilience and Crisis Management function. Emma has extensive experience across a number of IT and Cyber security roles including 10 years on the IT Leadership Team at the Reserve Bank of Australia and leading their IT Security function (CISO) from 2009-2014.



Colonel David Beaumont

DIRECTOR, AUSTRALIAN ARMY RESEARCH CENTRE

Colonel David Beaumont joined the Australian Army in 1995 as a logistician. His core fields of expertise include mobility planning and 'theatre' logistics support, and he has been actively involved in Army concept development and modernisation throughout the last decade. In 2017, he commenced doctoral research on logistics and preparedness at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, ANU, as a Chief of Army Scholar and as a Military Fellow.



Ben Bohane

AUSTRALIAN PHOTOJOURNALIST, PRODUCER AND POLICY ANALYST

Ben Bohane is an Australian photojournalist, producer and policy analyst based in Vanuatu. For 30 years he specialised in reporting conflict and religion across the Asia Pacific region for a variety of global and Australian media. From 1989-2009 he reported on conflict from Afghanistan to Burma to the Solomon Islands. In 2020, he joined the Australia Pacific Security College at the ANU as Communications Director.





Our Sponsors

This year, we are honoured to be partnering with a wide range of organisations. Together, our partners provide a combination of financial, marketing and logistical support as well as mentorship to confidently deliver the Australian Crisis Simulation Summit. These four are just a few of the many amazing partners we have for the 2021 Summit. [Click here](#) to view a list of all of our partners this year.

PwC

PwC is a gold tier sponsor for the ACSS 2021. As one of the world's largest professional services firms, PwC offers a broad range of services across consulting, assurance and financial advisory. As well as providing us with significant financial support, PwC are also providing mentorship for our domestic simulation and participating in one of our panel discussions.



Australian Space Agency

The Australian Space Agency is a valuable bronze tier sponsor for the ACSS. As well as providing us with generous financial support this year, the Australian Space Agency continues to link us up with key partners across the space industry in Australia. Members of the Australian Space Agency will also be participating as mentors during the Summit week.



Defence Science and Technology Group

The Department of Defence, through the Defence Science and Technology Group, are a gold tier sponsor of the ACSS. The Department provided funding and support toward preparing the next generation of national security leaders at the Summit.



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Cyber CX

CyberCX Australia is one of Australia's leading full-service cyber security consultancy. Cyber CX are a bronze tier sponsor for the ACSS this year, offering us generous financial support. They are also partaking in our Virtual Careers Fair this year and providing mentorship for our Domestic Simulation.

