



Australian Crisis  
Simulation Summit

**ACSS**

**STAKEHOLDER**

**UPDATE**

**May 2025**

**Edition No. 1**

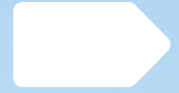




THE NEXT GENERATION OF  
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL  
SECURITY LEADERS







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Australian Crisis  
Simulation Summit





In an era of growing complexity and uncertainty, the need to equip Australia's future leaders with skills to navigate crises successfully has never been more urgent. The world is facing an evolving landscape of security challenges, from inter-state conflicts such as the war in Ukraine to humanitarian crises across the Middle East, Africa, and beyond. Domestically, emerging risks like cyberattacks, misinformation campaigns, artificial intelligence, and the rise of extremism pose significant threats to national stability. Responding to these issues requires the building of a generation of new leaders who are not only well-informed but also adept at strategic decision-making.

The Australian Crisis Simulation Summit (ACSS) 2025 will once again provide university students from across the country with the unique opportunity to immerse themselves in crisis decision-making, replicating some of the challenges they will face as Australia's future security and policy leaders.

This year's Summit will take place from 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025. It will feature two intensive, full-scale national security crisis simulations. Designed with complexity in mind, as each scenario unfolds it will integrate multi-disciplinary expertise and challenge participants to respond to evolving security threats, coordinate multi-agency responses, and make high-stakes decisions in near real time.

To build on connections made during the Summit and continue fostering professional growth, I am pleased to announce the establishment of the ACSS Alumni Network. This Alumni Network will serve as a dedicated platform for past delegates, mentors, and contributors to remain engaged with the Summit, connect with peers across sectors, and participate in exclusive networking, mentorship, and professional development opportunities. I think we have to recognise that ACSS alumni represent an exceptional community of future leaders, so all of us should be committed to supporting this network in a meaningful and lasting way.

In addition to launching the Alumni Network, I am also proud to introduce the ACSS Strategic Plan 2025-2027. As we look forward, this Plan will guide the Summit's future direction, ensuring long-term sustainability, expanded partnerships, and an enhanced learning experience for participants. It will also strengthen ACSS's role as Australia's premier crisis simulation event and deepen its engagement with industry, government, and academia.





# MESSAGE FROM THE ADMIRAL

As a former Chief of the Australian Defence Force and now an advocate for leadership development in tertiary education, I know how vital it is to provide students with hands-on experiences that prepare them for the realities leadership in crises. The ACSS has, over the past five years, proven to be a significant university initiative, equipping the next generation with the skills, confidence, and networks they need to take on the challenges of the future.

I encourage you to join me in supporting this important endeavour—whether through direct involvement, mentorship, or contributing to the expansion of the Summit’s impact. Your engagement will ensure that ACSS continues to thrive and remains a leading initiative in fostering the professional capabilities of Australia’s future leaders.

I look forward to you joining me in support of this endeavour.



**Hon Professor Admiral (Ret.) Chris Barrie AC**

Former Chief of the Australian Defence Force  
Patron of the Australian Crisis Simulation Summit





# MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

Our names are Ella and Peter, and we are incredibly excited to serve as the Co-Directors for the ACSS in 2025. We plan to continue the legacy and success of the ACSS and further establish the ACSS as Australia's leading student-led national security conference.

Earlier this year, we proudly launched the ACSS Alumni Network, a long-awaited initiative that brings together past delegates, mentors and team members. Our goal is to ensure that everyone who has been part of the ACSS continues to grow as a national security thinker and future leader, long after the simulations end.

Looking ahead to this year's Summit, we're excited about the direction the teams are taking with both simulations. In 2025, we're putting governance and accountability at the heart of our scenarios. As the national and global security landscape continues to shift, we believe it's essential that the next generation of leaders, lead with integrity and responsibility. This year's delegates will be pushed to their limits, not only in making tough decisions under pressure, but in justifying those decisions to their peers and mentors.

We can't wait to see how our delegates rise to the challenge.

Ella and Peter  
Co-Directors, ACSS 2025

I was first involved with the ACSS as a Delegate in 2023 and was impressed by the quality and complexity of the simulations. I wanted to help create that same experience for other students, so I applied for Head Crisis Writer for the Domestic Simulation in 2024. Now, I'm excited to be stepping into the role of Co-Director for the 2025 Summit. I have a Bachelor of International Security Studies with the ANU and am currently completing my final year of a Bachelor of Applied Data Analytics.



**ELLA ROSS**  
**CO-DIRECTOR**



**PETER WILLIS**  
**CO-DIRECTOR**

I have been involved in the ACSS for the last three years, first as a Research Officer in 2023, then as Head Crisis Writer for the Regional Simulation in 2024, and now as one of the two Co-Directors. I am finishing up my final year of a Bachelor of International Security Studies at the ANU. Being a part of the ACSS has exposed me to the intricacies of national security and afforded me the opportunity to work with leading academics and public servants.





# MEET THE 2025 TEAM

## Executive Team



**ELLA  
ROSS**  
CO-DIRECTOR



**PETER  
WILLIS**  
CO-DIRECTOR



**LACHLAN  
KELLY**  
HEAD OF CRISIS  
OPERATIONS



**JESSICA  
FRIDERICH**  
HEAD OF LOGISTICS  
AND SUMMIT WEEK



**CAITLIN  
SHEPHARD**  
HEAD OF MEDIA  
AND MARKETING

## Regional Crisis Team



**EMMA  
DEERING**  
HEAD CRISIS WRITER



**CHARLEE  
VERNON**  
CRISIS WRITER



**MAX  
DE VRIES**  
CRISIS WRITER



**EN-MEI  
MIAO**  
RESEARCH OFFICER





# MEET THE 2025 TEAM

## Domestic Crisis Team



**EWAN  
GILLESPIE**  
HEAD CRISIS WRITER



**HANNAH  
FARROW**  
CRISIS WRITER



**ISSY  
DUNSTAN**  
CRISIS WRITER



**MAYA  
HAGGSTROM**  
RESEARCH OFFICER



**MAYA  
MOLONEY**  
RESEARCH OFFICER

## Events and Logistics Team



**ARABELLA  
KIMBER**  
ALUMNI OFFICER



**GABRIELLA  
WILSON**  
CO-PODCAST OFFICER



**STEVIE-J  
ELLIS**  
DELEGATE OFFICER



**ARYA  
NUGRAHANTO**  
EVENTS OFFICER

## Media Team



**LUKAS  
MOELLE**  
MARKETING OFFICER



**ANUSHKA  
VINEET**  
SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICER





# INSIDE THE CRISIS TEAM

The Crisis Team is tasked with designing and delivering the simulations that the delegates undertake during summit week. Our team is developing two detailed crisis scenarios – one with a domestic focus and one with a regional focus – that challenge delegates to engage with complex, real-world policy dilemmas through a structured decision-making process. Our work is grounded in rigorous research and policy analysis, ensuring that each simulation reflects the institutions, frameworks, and procedures relevant to contemporary Australian and regional crisis management. Simulations are tailored to be realistic, high-pressure, and reflective of the interagency coordination required in actual crises. A key component of the simulations is the integration of a dynamic media environment. The Crisis Team creates a multi-platform information landscape – including traditional and social media content – that delegates must interpret and respond to as part of their role. This element is designed to reflect the growing role of information operations, public communication, and digital environments in national security and policy response.

## 2025 Simulation Themes

This year, the ACSS is delivering two interconnected simulations:

- The Domestic Simulation: Focused on cybersecurity, digital systems as essential infrastructure, and the challenges of misinformation; and
- The Regional Simulation: Exploring transnational crime, gender and security, consular crisis response, and the regional implications of information manipulation.

For the first time, both simulations are set within a shared fictional world, meaning developments in one simulation will shape the context of the other. This approach is designed to reflect the interconnected nature of modern crises and deepen the complexity of the policy challenges delegates face. The Crisis Team has recently completed the first drafts of both simulations. We are now in the process of developing full narrative arcs and crafting detailed directives for each delegate team. We look forward to updating you further as our work advances.



**LACHLAN KELLY**  
HEAD OF CRISIS OPERATIONS





# NEW ACSS ALUMNI NETWORK

## ACSS ALUMNI NETWORK – VISION AND ENGAGEMENT

The vision of the ACSS Alumni Network is to build a lasting, national community of emerging leaders who remain connected, informed, and engaged well beyond involvement during Summit Week. We aim to create a dynamic space where alumni delegates, mentors, and team members can continue to exchange ideas, collaborate on meaningful initiatives, and support one another in their personal and professional growth.

By fostering a strong network rooted in shared experiences and values, the ACSS Alumni Network aspires to become a platform for continued learning, leadership, and influence in the national security space. Whether it's through mentoring future delegates, attending networking events or sharing your professional journey, we want our alumni to feel empowered to contribute, connect, and grow as part of an enduring ACSS legacy.

This year's focus is on laying the foundations for an enduring community. Alumni can expect exclusive networking events, social media spotlights, and access to the [ACSS LinkedIn Alumni Group](#).

To get involved, alumni are encouraged to complete the [Alumni Spotlight Form](#) (with a chance to win one of two \$50 vouchers if submitted before 31 May).

To contribute ideas or support the 2025 Summit, email [acss@anu.edu.au](mailto:acss@anu.edu.au).

Meet the ACSS Alumni Officer  
Arabella Kimber





# STAY CONNECTED

Instagram- @acss.2025



Facebook- @AustralianCrisisSimulationSummit



Linkedin- @Australian-Crisis-Simulation-summit



Email - [acss@anu.edu.au](mailto:acss@anu.edu.au)



## Australian Crisis Simulation Summit September 2025

Headquartered in Canberra, Australia  
<https://australiancrisissimulationsummit.com/>

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