

National Security Education and Training Scoping Study

Overview

In the Prime Minister's National Security Statement to Parliament of 4 December 2008, the Government committed to the establishment of a national security executive development program. The executive development program is to enhance the capacity of senior officials across the national security community to achieve whole-of-government outcomes and to lead cultural change within their own areas.

The executive development program will:

- a. be the premier learning program for senior public officials to enhance their collaborative leadership within the national security framework, in order to promote the highest standards of combined professional achievement;
- b. foster a development environment suited to the seniority of its target audience (incorporating self-directed and collaborative learning) and which encourages open intellectual exchange, innovation and creativity;
- c. enable senior officials access to leading Australian and global expertise potentially including through the provision of international and domestic travel opportunities;
- d. provide senior officials with practical skills to respond to – and operate effectively in – a rapidly changing strategic environment;
- e. focus on all aspects of national security including the international strategic landscape and the inter-jurisdictional nature of national security challenges;
- f. provide post-course support through an Alumni program;
- g. be open initially to senior officers from across the federal national security community and designed to incorporate, over time, representatives from state and territory agencies, private sector, academia and national security officials from other countries; and
- h. provide appropriate formal recognition of learning undertaken through the program.

The establishment of the executive development program is one of the first priorities of the newly appointed National Security Adviser. Accordingly, the department intends to present a range of program delivery and cost options for government consideration later in 2009, taking into account executive education requirements, existing education programs and providers, and the number of interested stakeholders.

Scoping Study

The purpose of the project is to undertake a National Security Education and Training Scoping Study (the 'scoping study') to inform government consideration of delivery options for the national security executive development program. Findings of the scoping study are also to inform the development of the national security executive development pilot program.

The scoping study will:

- a. assess national security executive learning requirements and the development outcomes of the national security community;
- b. investigate existing education and training programs (including military, civilian, public and private sector programs) and examine the degree to which aspects of these existing education and training programs could be drawn upon for the new executive development program; and
- c. propose a range of possible cost and delivery options for the executive development program, including, but not exclusively, a National Security College.

In investigating delivery options, at a minimum the scoping study should examine the following matters: program throughput; program duration; modes of delivery; overseas best practice; and program accreditation. The scoping study should also identify any specific education and training requirements for particular elements of the national security community which will not be met by the national security executive program.

In undertaking the scoping study the consultant is required to consult with senior officials from across the national security community and relevant eminent national security educators, trainers, facilitators and academics, and the Australian Public Service Commission to seek their views and observations.

The key output will be a national security education and training program scoping study report which will inform government consideration of delivery options for the program. The comprehensive scoping study report will: outline the research and analysis that was undertaken; detail methodologies utilised to undertake the review; and address points a-c listed above. The report is to include a business case for each option outlining key matters associated with delivery, including (but not limited to): detailed cost estimates (establishment, capital and ongoing costs); an assessment of risks; an indicative schedule; and an implementation and stakeholder engagement plan.

An interim scoping study report will be provided to the department for discussion on 30 June 2009, with a final scoping study report to be provided by 14 August 2009. The consultant is to be available following lodgement of the final report to answer questions. The consultant shall present the findings and recommendations of the scoping study to departmental officials in Canberra and shall be available to present findings to senior ministers if required.

Timing

The following table provides an outline of the key contract dates.

Task	Date
Contract Commencement	24 April 2009
Interim Scoping Study Report	30 June 2009
Draft Final Scoping Study Report	31 July 2009
Final Scoping Study Report	14 August 2009