



Professional Development Centre
The Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Currently Available Programs



Updated: 12 May 2021

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We encourage you to contact us via pd@aspi.org.au to discuss the needs of your team, department, or organisation.

About the ASPI-PD Centre

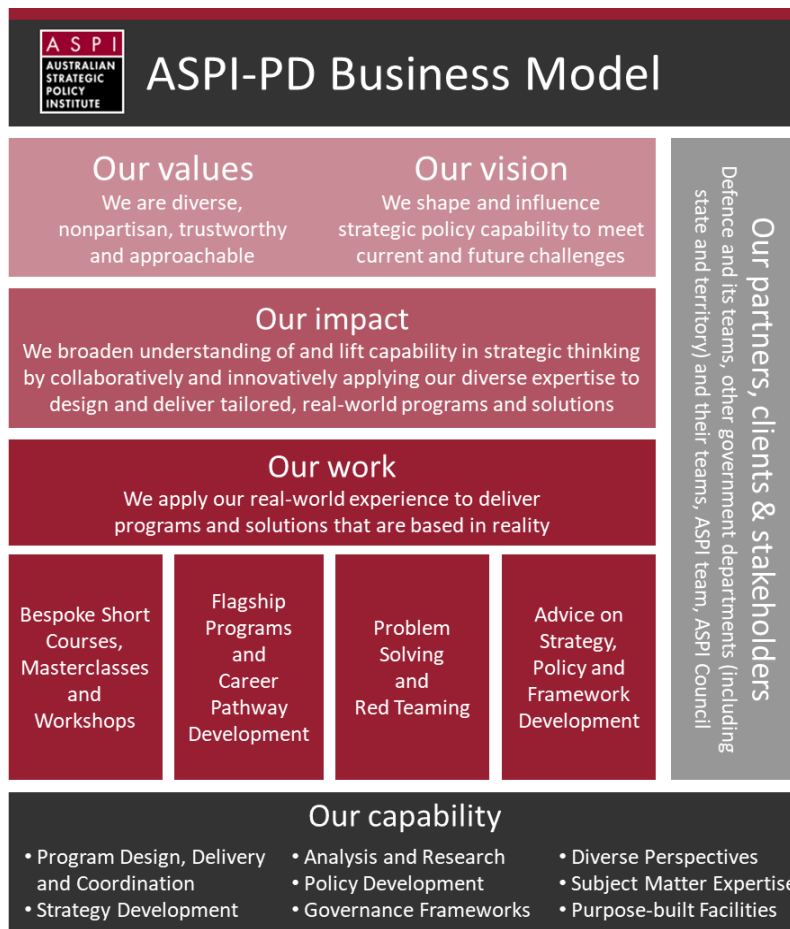
The Australian Strategic Policy Institute Professional Development (ASPI-PD) Centre’s programs draw upon ASPI’s reputation, broad research focus and ability to call upon Australia and the world’s leading experts to deliver a unique capability designed to build Australia’s capacity for strategic policy excellence. We identify and address gaps in leadership capability and provide advice in developing and implementing complex multi-agency policies.

We design, develop, and deliver professional development programs to the highest levels of federal, state and territory governments and their departments and agencies. Our programs are short, intense, and highly interactive, fostering close engagement between facilitators, expert presenters, and participants to explore current and emerging policy challenges and build effective policymaking and strategic analysis skills.

Our programs foster close engagement between stakeholders and experts to explore current and emerging policy challenges. We utilise scenarios, case studies, simulations, and desk top exercises which actively engage participants in addressing real-world complex and multi-faceted strategic policy and operational issues.

These practical exercises provide opportunity for participants to directly develop and apply a range of strategic policy development skills, bringing context and meaning to learning objectives, and ensuring relevance for their current and future roles.

Our business model guides our business strategy and is a visual way of capturing what is important.



Our Facilities

ASPI-PD Centre programs are held in ASPI's purpose-built training facilities on the Ground floor of 40 Macquarie Street, Barton ACT.

With various sized rooms and a functioning kitchen space for catering, the space is perfectly equipped to meet the needs of each bespoke program. The large auditorium space commonly houses the Centre's programs, used for presentations, large group discussions, roundtables, and other activities. Slightly smaller than this room, but still beneficial for small roundtable or desktop activities, is the Seminar room which is also equipped with AV projector screens and whiteboard walls.

For smaller group-work activities which may break away from the large auditorium, we have three smaller syndicate rooms. Each are equipped with whiteboard walls to enable effective group collaboration.



Better Policy Workshops

Better Policy Workshops are designed to enhance participants' critical thinking, knowledge, and practical skills for policy development. These programs have been successfully delivered to government clients, from graduate level to Senior Executive Service (and military equivalents), for the past five years. They equip participants with tools to better inform decision-making and improve their understanding of the Australian system of policymaking.

Better Policy Workshops are delivered by a core team of experienced practitioners, supplemented by experts from across ASPI and the Australian national and international security community. Facilitators and presenters include current and retired senior political, government and uniformed personnel, leading industry experts, and the best academics from across Australia and internationally.

To supplement the program, ASPI-PD has authored the *Better Policy for Improved Decision-Making Handbook*, which is now in its sixth edition, along with reality-based scenarios, case studies, simulations, and desk top exercises. These tools actively engage participants and bring context and meaning to the learning objectives, ensuring relevance for current and future roles.

The Better Policy Workshops are highly flexible and can be designed to meet the needs of your team or organisation.

Here are some shared insights from recent participants of our Better Policy programs:

"Presenters provided useful tips and practical tools for policy making and navigating the public service in general."

"As a beginner in the policy space the considerations and the insights that go into policy making was valuable."

"I really liked how challenging the guest panel members were - the questioning and the contestability on our ideas was incredibly helpful and exciting."

"Great engagement and helpful and personable speakers and staff. Felt encouraged to share and that opinions are welcomed and not judged."

In-depth Strategic Programs

Understanding the implications of the evolving strategic environment for you and your organisation, these in-depth programs are designed to meet your specific requirements.

The ASPI-PD Centre designs and delivers a range of extended, immersive, in-depth Strategic Programs for government clients. These programs, that run for between three days and two weeks, cover a comprehensive list of learning objectives and skills for participants including:

- Exploring contemporary and emerging security challenges.
- Working at a whole-of-government level.
- Understanding specific departmental issues and priorities.
- Developing critical and creative thinking approaches.
- Refining strategic comprehension, problem solving and communication skills.

Participants actively engage with senior presenters, facilitators, and mentors who have extensive experience working in complex environments and leading strategic thinkers, with in-depth knowledge of contemporary security challenges.

These programs are designed and tailored to meet the needs of clients and include interactive syndicate discussions, desktop exercises and practical activities. These activities allow participants to put into practice the teachings of the course and provide tangible outcomes to strategic challenges. Our activities are based on real-world events and the changing strategic, political, and technological landscapes, equipping participants with a contemporary understanding of national strategic policy.



APS Graduates Program

The ASPI-PD Centre works with government clients to design and develop comprehensive seminar programs for graduate level personnel. These programs work to provide the knowledge and skills necessary for graduates to succeed within the changing strategic environment. These programs could include:

- How Australia got to where we are: a broad understanding of the history of Australia's foreign and Defence policy.
- An exploration of key strategic challenges facing Australia and the government.
- How specific departments operate in Australia's national security policy environment in addressing these challenges.
- Building skills in applying practical tools to develop policy and strategic outcomes.

ASPI-PD draws on our network of subject-matter experts in government, non-government and industry sectors to provide participants with a diverse, informed and immersive experience. In addition, interactive exercises, open plenary discussions and other activities are featured, which help to create a balance of providing theoretical and practical knowledge.

We also provide participants with a Graduate Program Handbook, a ready reference guide full of useful materials which will assist participants in their future work.

The Handbook is a valuable resource and foundation for graduates beginning their career in the Australian Public Service.



Thinking & Communicating Outside the Box

ASPI is pleased to partner with Australia's most internationally produced playwright, Timothy Daly to deliver a highly original and innovative series of training initiatives designed for business, government and private sector executive employees based in Canberra.

Thinking and Communicating Outside the Box is a two-day training course that's completely different from Canberra's normal training offerings. In many cases, professional development programs simply involve the participants absorbing, mindlessly, a mass of pre-ordained procedures and instructions. *Thinking and Communicating Outside the Box* reverses that process in a fresh, and highly original way.

This specially designed course trains the individual in a range of imaginative and cognitive exercises designed to intensively develop the following skills:

- Innovative thinking
- Original analysis & problem solving
- Creative flair in written & spoken expression
- Persuasive speaking skills

Using a variety of intensive training techniques, *Thinking and Communicating Outside the Box* aims to develop the imaginative and intellectual skills that produce exceptional employees capable of dealing with complex problems in government, business and private enterprise.

This program, delivered over 4 – 6 weeks, is open to both public and private sector leaders. We encourage you to check our website or get in touch with us if you have further questions about attending one of these programs.

What past participants have said:

"I think this course would enhance anyone who is required to brief or speak on a regular basis"

"Best workshop/training I have attended. All my colleagues should do it."

"So hands on and interactive. Tim was so articulate and amusing and humble – an amazing presenter. Full of encouragement for the participants."

Masterclasses

ASPI-PD Centre Masterclasses address Australia's most complex national and regional security challenges, bringing together senior leaders and subject matter experts in a discrete environment to identify and agree a way forward.

The Centre works with client departments and agencies to develop invitation-only masterclasses that address complex national or regional security challenges facing Australia. These one-day events bring together internationally recognised subject matter experts with nominated participants for an intensive, interactive and closed-door dialogue to develop agreed actions to address these issues.

Notes of key discussions and a report on outcomes will be developed in cooperation with the client.

Policy Development

The ASPI-PD Centre works with clients and their teams to develop responses to their most pressing security policy and planning challenges.

We are committed to supporting government departments and agencies develop or refine national and international security policies, plans and strategies. This work is supported by **expertise from ASPI** and our broader global networks. We have experience developing strategic communications strategies, strategic plans, cyber security frameworks, counter-terrorism strategies, and security response strategies for a variety of Government agencies and departments.

Key ASPI staff maintain security clearances to facilitate the depth of research and understanding required to develop effective policies, plans and strategies for national security agencies.



Red Teaming

The ASPI-PD Centre utilises purpose-built red teaming activities to test and evaluate strategies, policies, frameworks, and strategic level plans utilising realistic, purpose-built scenarios.

ASPI-PD adopts an outcomes-driven approach to designing realistic scenarios to ensure each activity is fit-for-purpose and delivers real outcomes that support the implementation of effective national security strategies and policies.

Red Teaming can include stakeholders from across government and external organisations, whether corporate or non-government, where required.

International Programs

The ASPI-PD Centre works with government agencies to design and deliver extended, intensive programs for international participants with a focus on Asia and the Pacific.

They bring together Australian and international participants to facilitate the exchange of ideas and opinions on key security issues, build relationships and develop a network of security practitioners throughout the region.

Designed and tailored to meet specific requirements, these programs include interactive syndicate discussions, desktop exercises and practical activities based on real-world scenarios.

Outcomes include:

- Sharing perspectives on regional security issues.
- Promoting policymaking and strategic analysis skills.
- Enhancing leadership skills.
- Strengthening relationships with regional counterparts.
- Fostering active dialogue, exchange, and learning.

ASPI-PD has a nuanced understanding of regional dynamics and the diverse perspectives around key security challenges.