

Major General Kathryn Toohey (Rtd)

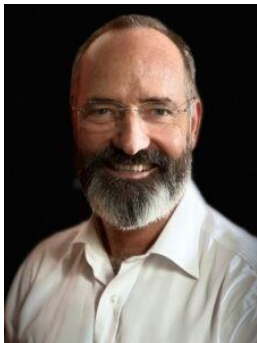
Australian Army



Bio: Kathryn Toohey retired from the Australian Army at the rank of major general in late 2022. As a senior Army officer, Kathryn specialised in Defence capability and was appointed the first Head Land Capability within Army Headquarters where she was responsible for the modernisation and sustainment of Army capability; including helicopters, tanks, communication systems and uniforms. In her last role as Head Force Integration, she was responsible to provide test and evaluation advice to the Defence Investment Committee. In 2021, her team released the Defence Test and Evaluation Strategy. Kathryn holds an Executive Master in Business Administration (MBA), a Master of Management in Defence Studies; a Graduate Diploma in Information Technology and a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering (Honours). Since retiring from the Army, Kathryn provides a range of mentoring and advisory services and is a member of several boards, including the Swinburne Defence Advisory Board.

Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld (Rtd)

Royal Australian Air Force



Bio: Mel Hupfeld was appointed as a member of the Air Services Australia Board in August 2023 as a non-Executive Director. He also has roles on the Air Force Association Board, the Spitfire Association Advisory Council, the Swinburne Research Institute Advisory Board and is a member of the Public Service Advisory Board to provide strategic advice to Government and Industry clients.

Mel was born in Sydney in 1962 and grew up in Broken Hill, New South Wales until moving to Semaphore, South Australia with his family. He completed his final two years of High School at Le Fevre High in Port Adelaide. He joined the Royal Australian Air Force as an Academy Cadet in January 1980, graduating as a pilot, with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1983.

During his Air Force career, he flew Mirage, Classic Hornet and Super Hornet fighter aircraft in several of the Air Force's fighter squadrons and achieved over 3,500 flying hours. In 2001 Mel took command of No 75 Squadron (75SQN) and led the Squadron in operations in the Middle East on Operations BASTILLE and FALCONER, as a part of Australia's contribution to Operation IRAQI FREEDOM in 2003. He completed several staff appointments including in the capability development and force design areas and completed the Royal Air Force Advanced Command and Staff Course, graduating with a Master of Arts in Defence Studies from King's College in London in 1998.

Mel commanded at every level within Air Force and notably, on promotion to the rank of Air Marshal, was appointed as Chief of Joint Operations in May 2018 and subsequently Chief of Air Force in July 2019. He transitioned to the Air Force Reserve in July 2022, and retired to the South Coast of New South Wales. Since then, he has assisted the Minister for Home Affairs and Cyber Security as a member of the Expert Advisory Board to develop a National Cyber Security Strategy. As part of his transition to civilian life he has ambition to contribute to various Boards and Advisory Councils.

Vice Admiral Michael Noonan (Rtd)

Royal Australian Navy



Bio: Vice Admiral Mike Noonan retired from the Royal Australian Navy in mid 2022 after over 38 years service. In his last role, as Chief of Navy Australia, he was entrusted by government to be its principal naval advisor, and to raise, train and sustain Australia's naval forces. His Command of the Royal Australian Navy spanned a critical period where Australia's strategic environment underwent rapid and unanticipated deterioration, described as the 'most consequential strategic realignment since WWII' – with the Indo-Pacific at its centre. His tenure was characterised by a focus on, and genuine respect and care for, the people he led, and he determinedly worked to expand the Navy and secured the government's commitment to grow to 21,000 by 2035. He oversaw the introduction into service of a number of new naval capabilities, and personally led a small team that transformed the idea of nuclear powered submarines for Australia to an attainable capability outcome.

When not tending to his small herd of cattle in south-east Queensland, Admiral Noonan now supports industry and academia on a broad range of defence and maritime issues, and sits on a number of related boards. He holds Masters degrees in Maritime Policy, Business Administration, Marketing Communication, and International Relation. He has also completed the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School, and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. In 2022, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by the University of Wollongong for his contribution to the maritime security of Australia and the Indo-Pacific region.