

Meet the AIIA National Board

Dr Heather Smith PSM FAIIA in conversation with Richard Iron CMG OBE

Wednesday 7 May 2025: 5:30pm – 7pm at Level 13, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

You are invited to meet AIIA National President Dr Heather Smith PSM FAIIA and members of the AIIA National Board who will be in Melbourne.

This is an opportunity to meet with leaders of the primary AIIA national organisation, and marks the commencement of the celebration of the Centenary of AIIA Victoria.

There will be an initial period for networking. Richard Iron will follow this with a conversation with Heather Smith to discuss the recently-published [2024 Independent Intelligence Review](#) which she co-authored, and Australia's position in the world at a time of shifting alliances and increasing geopolitical challenges.

5:30 – 6:15pm: Opportunity for AIIA Victoria members to meet the National Board.

6:15 – 6:45pm: Conversation with Heather Smith and Richard Iron.

6:45 – 7pm: Q&A.



Dr Heather Smith PSM FAIIA has had 20 years' experience in the Australian Public Service at leadership levels covering economic, industry, innovation, communications, resources, foreign affairs, national security, and intelligence matters. She previously served as Secretary of the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (2017-2020) and the Department of Communications and the Arts (2016-2017), as Deputy Secretary in the Departments of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and Foreign Affairs and Trade, and as Deputy Director-General of the Office of National Intelligence. Heather is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs and in April 2023 was appointed the National President of the AIIA. She was co-lead of the 2024 Independent Review of Australia's National Intelligence Community.

Richard Iron CMG OBE is President of AIIA Victoria. He previously served in the British Army in Northern Ireland, the Falkland Islands, Oman, the Balkans, Sierra Leone and Iraq. He was a visiting fellow at the Changing Character of War programme at the University of Oxford and was lead editor of British Generals in Blair's Wars, and How Wars End: Theory and Practice.



This event is for members only, and will be held under the Chatham House Rule

[BOOK ONLINE HERE](#)

AIIA Victoria gratefully acknowledges the Walter Mangold Trust Fund for its ongoing support of our young members.

In-person: AIIA Premium and Young Professionals members free. AIIA Members \$20.

Registered Office: Level 13, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
Telephone (03) 9654 7271 Email: admin.vic@internationalaffairs.org.au
Website: www.internationalaffairs.org.au/victoria