

26 July 2021

## **AustCyber partners with Microsoft to grow Australia's next generation of cyber talent**

AustCyber is partnering with Microsoft to launch a new Cyber Security Traineeship Program, which will support approximately 200 participants into a cyber career from 2021 to 2024. The partnership has recently been successful in securing additional funding from the Commonwealth government's Cyber Security Skills Partnership Innovation Fund (CSSPIF), which will help to increase the pipeline of a diverse range of candidates entering the cyber industry.

According to the 2020 Update to *Australia's Cyber Security Sector Competitiveness Plan*, there are currently 26,500 workers employed across the sector; and about 7,000 more cyber security workers will be needed across all industries nationwide by 2024.

AustCyber's CEO Michelle Price said, "Microsoft and AustCyber are working nationally with group training providers, industry micro-credential trainers, educational institutions, and large and small cyber security industry stakeholders to develop Australia's next generation of cyber talent."

"This program will have a strong focus on diversity," said Ms Price. "The program commences with a Cyber Skills Bootcamp to better enable participants from diverse backgrounds to enter the cyber industry - including women, veterans, First Nations people, neurologically diverse people, displaced workers and other minority groups. The training will be delivered through a selection of training providers to provide flexibility of training locations and establish a baseline level of skills to facilitate entry into the Certificate IV in Cyber Security.

"This vocational qualification will be bolstered with vendor and industry micro-credentials for real world applicable skills. By developing this as a paid traineeship, our cyber trainees will earn whilst they learn, developing vital on-the-job skills in their employment with a cohort of employment partners."

Trainees will be matched with an employer from a range of AustCyber and Microsoft's ecosystems of employment collaborators, who range from cyber SMEs to large organisations to gain valuable on-the-job experience and the opportunity to fast-track post-graduation employment with the same employer.

"We're proud to be working with AustCyber on this initiative," said Mark Anderson, Chief Security Officer for Microsoft Australia. "It's vitally important we create career pathways to fast-track people into cyber careers and we know that this Traineeship model is a successful way in doing just that, having supported 250 Australians to enter cloud computing careers since 2020 through a similar program."

"Microsoft is incredibly focused on increasing the diversity of our technology workforce, and it's exciting to be able to offer people a bridge into cyber careers through a free Bootcamp Course and this Cyber Traineeship."

**Ends**

# MEDIA RELEASE



26 July 2021

## **About AustCyber**

AustCyber is the Australian Cyber Security Growth Network. Established in 2017 as an independent, not-for-profit organisation, AustCyber's mission is to support the development of a vibrant and globally competitive Australian cyber security sector and in doing so, enhance Australia's future economic growth in a digitally enabled global economy as well as to improve the sovereign cyber capabilities available in defence of the nation.

Visit: [www.austcyber.com](http://www.austcyber.com)

### **Media contact:**

Tom Finnigan,  
Media, Content and Production Manager (AustCyber)  
M: +61 408 867 36  
E: [tom@austcyber.com](mailto:tom@austcyber.com)