Rear Admiral Simon Cullen AM CSC, RAN (Retd) – Chairman and National President

Rear Admiral Cullen recently retired from the RAN after a long and successful career serving both ashore and at sea. Commands included HMAS SYDNEY and HMAS ALBATROSS, as well as serving as Deputy Commander of the Australian Fleet. He served twice in HQ US Central Command as the Director of the Combined Planning Group and the Deputy Director of Operations and was later posted to Washington as the Australian CDF Liaison Officer to the US Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Air Commodore Anker Brodersen, CSC RAAFAR – Deputy Chairman and Deputy National President

Anker served for over 34 years with the RAAF, retiring from active service in 2016. His most recent postings related to the US Force Posture Initiatives, strategic planning for the Defence Estate and Defence Preparedness. While he does some reserve work, he also runs his own strategic governance and management consultancy. He is a Fellow of Engineers Australia and a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, having completed both the Company Directors’ Course and the Mastering the Boardroom program. He is also Chair of the Engineers Australia National Professional Standards Committee and a founding Board member (and now chair) of Uniting Care Kippax.

Dr John Bruni - Director

Dr. John Bruni is Founder and Director of SAGE International; an Adelaide based online think tank and consultancy in operation since 2008. He is an experienced lecturer in international relations, politics and national security. His primary area of expertise is defence acquisition and has authored a book on this topic: ‘On Weapons Decisions’. He is a researcher and analyst who worked for IHS Jane’s UK and the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies & Research in Abu Dhabi. He is Vice President of the RUSI of SA, an institution he has been involved with for well over two decades.

Air Commodore Graham Bentley AM (Retd) - Director

Air Commodore Bentley’s RAAF career spanned 34 years. He accumulated 6000 flying hours in many aircraft, commanding at most levels including commanding all Australian forces in the Middle East in 2003. After his Air Force career, he spent seven years with Lockheed Martin as their Business Development Director associated with the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter acquisition by the RAAF working with Australian SMEs involved with the program. He is a director of the Sir Richard Williams Foundation.
Ms Meaghan D'Arcy - Director

Ms Meaghan D'Arcy is Director, Advisory for Defence and National Security in KPMG. Before joining KPMG, she served in the Australian Army, holding a range of logistics operations management and command positions in Australia and on deployment overseas. She has extensive experience in providing organisational reviews, workforce planning, organisational change and business performance services. Clients have included DFAT, ANAO, and in Defence: Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group, Joint Logistics Command, Navy, People Group, Joint Health Command, CIO, DAIGO, and the ADC.

Major General Steve Meekin, AM (Retd) – Director

Steve Meekin retired as Deputy Secretary of Defence in July 2016. He had led the Department’s Intelligence and Security Group since March 2012. Earlier, he had been Director of the Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation, following a career in the Australian Army. Before retiring as a Major General in 2010, he gained extensive operational and intelligence experience as an artillery and intelligence officer and in senior appointments in all three Defence strategic intelligence agencies. He has served with the UK and US armed forces and completed a number of operational deployments in the Middle East, including command of a task force in Iraq. He is an Officer of the United States Legion of Merit; and a Member of the Order of Australia.

Captain Paul Willee RFD, QC RANR (Retd) - Director

Paul Willee enlisted in 1961 and became OC of Diving Team 6 after qualifying as a Ships Diving Officer (SDO2), before transferring to the legal branch. He set up the Commercial Crime Group, and was one of the four founding members of the Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand, He served as a Judge-advocate (1985-2004), Defence Force Magistrate (1996-2004) and a Section 154 Defence Force Discipline Act Reviewing Officer (2000-2006). He was Victorian Vice President of the RAN Ski Club until 1995 and President of the Naval and Military Club from 1995-8. He was Advisor to the Chief of The Defence Force 1997-2001 and Chief of Navy (2000). His final posting was as Head of the Military Bar (2002-2006). Earlier this year he completed 50 years in practice at the Victorian Bar.

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