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SPR-A Newsletter December 2013

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Security Professionals' Register – Australasia. I am pleased to report that the Registry and the Board have had an extremely productive 12 months.

We now have 15 Registered Security Professionals (RSecP), with several presently undergoing the peer review process. Whilst the take up of registered members has been slower than we had anticipated for the first 12 months we are aware that attracting registrants can be a slow process. We look to our British equivalent organisation, the *Register of Chartered Security Professionals*, who have been in operation for over two and a half years and have registered 51 Security Professionals with a much larger potential pool than in Australasia, in recognising this fact.

This year the Registry Board focused on reviewing and simplifying the registration process to create several paths to registration which now recognises significant industry experience in addition to academic qualifications. The creation of an additional path called the "Experiential" pathway is a result of consultation with many in the industry. This pathway recognises that many of those holding security professional positions do not have security-specific qualifications, in most cases because they did not exist when the person entered the field. Under the revamped process an applicant can now select either the "Educational" or "Experiential" path.

As might be expected, the Experiential path requires additional information as the applicant has to demonstrate in writing their knowledge and application of the management discipline that is security or each of the sub-disciplines against which they wish to be recognised.

As a result of the Board's hard work, we now have a downloadable application form that is available on our website for applicants to complete and submit. We abandoned the requirement for Police Checks and have substituted this process with requiring applicants to complete a Statutory Declaration setting out a range of matters, including their criminal history.

We have also changed our provider of secretariat services and updated the website substantially. The changes should simplify the application process for Registration or Enrolment on the Security Professionals' Register. In making these changes it is important to note however that the standards required of a security professional have not been lowered.

Additionally, we have also amended the registration path to allow entities, firms, or organisations, to become Associates to the Registry. An Associate Entity will be required to confirm its support and acceptance of the Principles, Code of Ethical Conduct and Behaviours established by the Registry and demonstrate a culture consistent with the objectives of the Registry. It is anticipated that Associates will participate in activities developed by the Registry and the Australasian Council of Security Professionals (ACSP) and demonstrate high standards of professionalism, ethics and commitment to the community. The benefits of becoming an associate entity include:

- Use of the SPR-A logo on marketing and promotional materials;
- Access to research and educational programmes developed by the Registry;
- Reciprocal rights and benefits with other national and international security associations in terms of delivery of CDP for example; and
- Networking opportunities through events established by the Registry and the ACSP as well as by other associated entities in the security field.

We will be developing other programs, including creation or recognition of CPD programs, management systems that promote ethical behaviour and additional education programs in ethics for the benefit of Associated Entities.

Over the next coming months we will continue to work on simplifying the process. We are now working on separating the "Information Management sub-discipline" into sub-disciplines of "Information Security Management" and "ICT". We recognise that the two are related but different skills. We will, of course, retain the emphasis on professional-level knowledge and skills in both sub-disciplines.

You should also expect to see, in the coming months, increased marketing for the Register to both practitioners and to employers and users. We have already outlined the benefits to individuals and entities in registering but we need other mediums to market the Registry and the benefits. We have had discussions with a wide range of employers and users of security advisors about the Registry. These discussions have reinforced our belief that employers want to be able to measure security professionals in the same way that they do any other managerial professional. Registration is a big step in that direction.

We have already seen one Australian federal department advertise "Registered Security Professional preferred" in recruitment and as the number of registered professionals grows we expect this criteria to become more prevalent.

The Registry Board continues to meet quarterly, and when necessary more frequently, to review and develop the registration process.

We have had a challenging but rewarding first year. The registration process is now much easier to access; the review system has been streamlined and the administrative "back of house" functions improved.

As Registrar I would like to thank the Board for all of its hard work over the past 12 months, but in particular Don Williams the Executive Officer and Jason Brown the Deputy Registrar. I look forward to an exciting 2014 and wish everybody a prosperous upcoming year.

If you have been considering registration now is the time to put in your application. We look forward to many more RSecP out there. Apply now at http://www.spr-a.com/

Steve Mark
Registrar
Security Professionals' Register – Australasia