

# Superannuation Ecosystem

## Cyber Security Incident Response Discussion Exercise

April 2025

### Overview

Building on the success and industry learnings of the previous two ecosystem exercises, Gateway Network Governance Body (GNGB) is inviting ecosystem participants to register interest for the **2025 Superannuation Ecosystem Cyber Incident Response Exercise**.

Australia's superannuation system is the envy of the world and a critical part of the financial services sector, responsible for managing the retirement savings of millions of Australians. With the increasing frequency and sophistication of cyber threats, the ecosystem faces growing risks that have the potential to impact not just individual organisations, but the broader financial system and public trust.

The highly interconnected nature of the superannuation ecosystem can see a cyber incident affecting one entity quickly ripple across the network, creating systemic risk. Testing cyber resilience together allows organisations to understand dependencies, coordination points and collaborate to understand how to mitigate the risk to the superannuation system and its members.

The aim of the exercise is to explore how organisations within Australia's superannuation ecosystem plan to respond to a significant cybersecurity incident. It will help identify where response and recovery plans align, where they differ, and where potential gaps exist.

If you are interested in collaborating with your peers across the Superannuation Ecosystem to strengthen both individual and collective cyber response capabilities, the following outlines the proposed approach and program of work.

We look forward to working with you on this important initiative.

### Exercise Outline

The cyber security exercise for Australia's superannuation ecosystem will be conducted as a tabletop discussion, where participants will work through

a simulated scenario, exploring key issues in depth and providing verbal responses to unfolding events.

Throughout the exercise, participants will be presented with a series of escalating or increasingly complex scenarios – referred to as “special ideas” – to guide discussion and explore response strategies.

### Participation

We are inviting a diverse range of organisations from across the Superannuation Ecosystem to participate. To ensure the right mix of ecosystem participants, an expression of interest does not guarantee participation however we will endeavour to include interested parties wherever possible.

Each selected organisation will be offered a place for up to two participants and one planner.

### The Planner Role

The planner role is integral to the success of the exercise, contributing to the development of a scenario that is both realistic and aligned with the exercise objectives. Planners will form part of the planning group, which are responsible for the following activities:

- developing the aim and objectives
- developing the scenario
- managing internal administrative activities
- supporting the evaluation of the exercise.

Each participating organisation will be offered one place in the exercise planning group. This individual should have a solid understanding of the threat landscape facing the ecosystem, as well as familiarity with your organisation's response and recovery processes. Please provide your nominated planning team member's details when submitting your registration.

**NB: Providing a planner is encouraged but not mandatory for participation in the exercise.**

## The Participant Role

The participant role requires a high degree of familiarity with your organisation's Cyber Incident Response and crisis management plans, enabling your organisation to contribute insights during the exercise. The choice of your participants should reflect those who would be involved in the case of a live cyber incident response.

The scenario being discussed may not have a single solution, as the exercise is designed to explore various potential responses, with participants helping to identify and highlight these options.

Participants are encouraged to propose innovative approaches to addressing the challenges that arise during the exercise. It's important to note that the discussions and ideas shared are not intended to represent an official position. The goal is to create a collaborative environment where diverse perspectives can contribute to the exploration of potential solutions.

## Commitment

**Planners** will be required to commit to a series of planning meetings to develop and agree the aim and objectives for the day, develop the scenarios and injects, and prepare the supporting documentation to ensure the success of the exercise.

Activity	Date	Time
Kick off meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> June	10am-12 noon
Planning meeting 1	17 <sup>th</sup> June	10am-12 noon
Planning meeting 2	8 <sup>th</sup> July	10am-12 noon
Planning meeting 3	29 <sup>th</sup> July	10am-12 noon
Planning meeting 4	12 <sup>th</sup> August	10am-12 noon
<b>Exercise</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>9:45am – 2pm</b>

Planners will be required to review draft documents and provide feedback between meetings as necessary.

Planners are also welcome and encouraged to attend the exercise as observers.

Participants' commitment includes preparing for and attending the exercise in person on **4<sup>th</sup> of September**. The exercise will be held in Sydney, with arrivals between 9:30am and 9:45am, and activities scheduled until approximately 2:00pm.

## Cost and Risks

There is no registration fee for participation. Registered organisations will be responsible for covering their own costs and managing their own risks.

## Governance

Michelle Bower, Chief Executive Officer of GNGB, will serve as Exercise Director overseeing the delivery of the cyber security discussion exercise and will be supported by the exercise planning group, with regular reporting to GNGB Board of Directors.

## Location

The exercise will be conducted in person in a location in Sydney to be determined.

Planners will meet regularly in the lead up to the exercise via Microsoft Teams.

## Evaluation

The exercise evaluation will be developed by the exercise planning group through the collection of observations and insights gathered during the exercise. These evaluations will be compiled into an after-action report, which will be shared with the organisations that participated and a summary that may be shared more broadly with stakeholders.

## Registration

All registrations are requested by **16<sup>th</sup> of May**.

Once the participant and planning groups are finalised, the planning group will meet at regular intervals in the lead up to the proposed conduct of the exercise **4<sup>th</sup> of September**.

## Points of Contact

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