

Security Standards and Support Systems (4S) Project

The Security Standards and Support Systems (4S) Project was developed to promote a framework for collaboration between the private sector, the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, the Trusted Information Sharing Network and Standards Australia's National Centre for Security Standards. The objective was to develop standards designed to assist the private sector in the protection of Australia's critical infrastructure.

The key outcomes for this project were to:

- describe some of the issues, barriers and solutions related to protecting critical infrastructure;
- identify the importance of standards to securing critical infrastructure;
- identify and prioritise the standards required by the owners and operators of critical infrastructure;
- identify the gaps between existing standards and the needs of the owners and operators of critical infrastructure;
- make recommendations on how the gaps in standards may be addressed; and
- develop a blue-print for the development of a security standards framework that may be useful in identifying and categorising security standards.

This project took an all hazards approach to critical infrastructure protection as critical infrastructure can be damaged or destroyed by a number of factors including the following:

- natural disasters
- negligence
- accidents
- terrorism
- hacking and vandalism
- criminal activity
- malicious damage

The standards identified under this project should assist the owners and operators of privately owned critical infrastructure at an organisational level of activity rather than at a community level (for example the ambulance service). However it does not restrict application to the public sector, in particular first responders and emergency services.

One very important aspect of this project is that it is supported and driven by the owners and operators of critical infrastructure. For this reason this project has consulted extensively with owners and operators of infrastructure through the Trusted Information Sharing Network developed by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

StanCert was the consultant to Standards Australia on this project, which was successfully led by Mark Bezzina, Managing Director. This project formed the basis for the Critical Infrastructure and Support Systems Standardisation Project (co-sponsored by APEC and Standards Australia) that is currently underway. StanCert is also consultant to Standards Australia on this important new initiative in the Asia Pacific Region.