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Australian confronts a range of Strategic, Security and Transnational Challenges

Improving Cybersecurity practice is a vital tool to addressing how Australia addresses strategic, security and transnational challenges.

In light of the Census 2016 failures and reported manipulation of the 2016 US election by Russian operatives, it's clear that Australia's interests are being targeted and that there are consequential outcomes from those respective examples.

As such, I propose that the government supports investment in this area bolstering tertiary level training and improving the IT infrastructure to allow for institutions to conduct war game scenarios to test out cyber security skill.

Senior public servants should also be mandated to understand the importance of IT improvement and should be IT skill capable as part of their position descriptions as they administer a significant amount of public interest data and personal information.

A combination of these two recommendations would ensure a pipeline of cybersecurity specialists to meet Australia's needs, and ensure that the administration of Australia is done so by individuals knowledgeable of future public security risks.

AUSTRALIA'S FOREIGN POLICY NEEDS TO BE GROUNDED IN A CLEAR-EYED ASSESSMENT OF OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS

Australia should discontinue its policy of mandatory detention as deterrence as it is not in Australia's strategic national interests.

As Australia seeks to hold roles on various international-governance boards, such as the United Nations Human Rights Council, the appropriateness of our applications are being weighed against policies such as these.

I recommend that Australia discontinue mandatory detention and promote a regional solution with a more transparent and responsive asylum seek resettlement.