

GISC 2025

Global ICT Standards Conference 2025

Seminar 4: From Standardization Capability to Competitiveness

Capacity building efforts on technology standards in Australia

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ICT Standards and Intellectual Property:
AI for All

Hosted by



Ministry of Science and ICT



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Abstract

The Australian Government Department of Industry, Science and Resources has put in place a Tech Standards Knowledge Program to support Australian technical experts developing international standards for critical technology standards. The Program equips experts with knowledge that can help them better engage in standard setting forums, improving their situational awareness and diplomatic skills. The Program has two streams, a Tech Standards Training Program and a Tech Standards Security Clearance program. This presentation will provide details of the program, how the courses it offers build capacity on tech standards and about the experts that participate in the program.

ICT Standards

Background – Who are we?

| The tech standards work program of the Standards and Conformance Strategy policy section in the Australian Government Department of Industry, Science and Resources:

- **Engages closely with industry** on technology standards topics
- **Coordinates government activities** on priority technology standards
- **Manages key international partnerships** (bilateral and multilateral)
- **Provides information** for government and industry stakeholders

Scope

List of Critical Technologies in the national interest.

These fields represent technologies for which Australia:

- has research, intellectual or industrial strengths and capabilities
- needs uninterrupted access through trusted supply chains.
- must retain strategic capability or maintain awareness.

Advanced
manufacturing and
materials technologies

Artificial intelligence
(AI) technologies

Advanced information
and communication
technologies

Quantum technologies

Autonomous systems,
robotics, positioning,
timing and sensing

Biotechnologies

Clean energy
generation and storage
technologies.

<https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/list-critical-technologies-national-interest>

What We Are Doing

- | The Australian Government has developed a **coordinated approach to support and enable industry-led development of technology standards** by:
- **Investing in skills programs** to support Australian experts in international technology standards development
 - **Enhancing information sharing** between government and industry
 - **Collaborating with international partners** and promoting Australia's interests in technology standards

The Tech Standards Knowledge Program

| The Program supports Australian technical experts developing international standards for critical technologies. It equips them with knowledge that can help them better engage in standards setting forums.

This includes:

- Greater understanding of the geopolitical landscape in which standards are set
- How standards can impact the national interest
- How to communicate and engage effectively in international standards forums

Tech Standards Skills & Security Programs

- Increases the influence of Australia's technical expert representatives by providing targeted training programs on non-technical skills.
- Security clearances increase situational awareness on a need-to-know basis



Key Initiative: Skills Program

Geopolitics of Standards

- Introduces the concept of 'standards-making power'
- Half-day seminar with opportunities for discussion and information sharing

Cultural Intelligence

- Cultural effectiveness in standards development scenarios
- 2 x half-day interactive workshops and supplementary eLearning module

Advanced Negotiation for Standards Committees

- Best practice negotiation frameworks
- Negotiation style development

Stakeholder Feedback in 2024-25

- **The Geopolitics of International Standards**
 - **Over 95% agreed** that the **training was informative, relevant to their role in standard setting**, and a **valuable learning experience**
 - **Over 90% agreed** the training **increased their understanding** of the relevant issues
- **Cultural Intelligence**
 - **94% agreed** that the content was relevant to their standards development work
 - **95% would recommend** this training to others
- **Advanced Negotiation for Standards Committees**
 - **85% agreed** that the training met their needs and expectations
 - **100% would recommend** this training to others

Key Initiative: Security Clearance Program

- The Australian Government funds and sponsors security clearances for eligible Australian experts participating in setting international critical technology standards.
- Cleared experts can access a limited volume of relevant classified information on a need-to-know basis, to support situational awareness.
- Classified Briefing – February 2025
 - 91% found the briefing overwhelmingly positive
 - 88% agreed that the briefing was relevant and engaging to their work

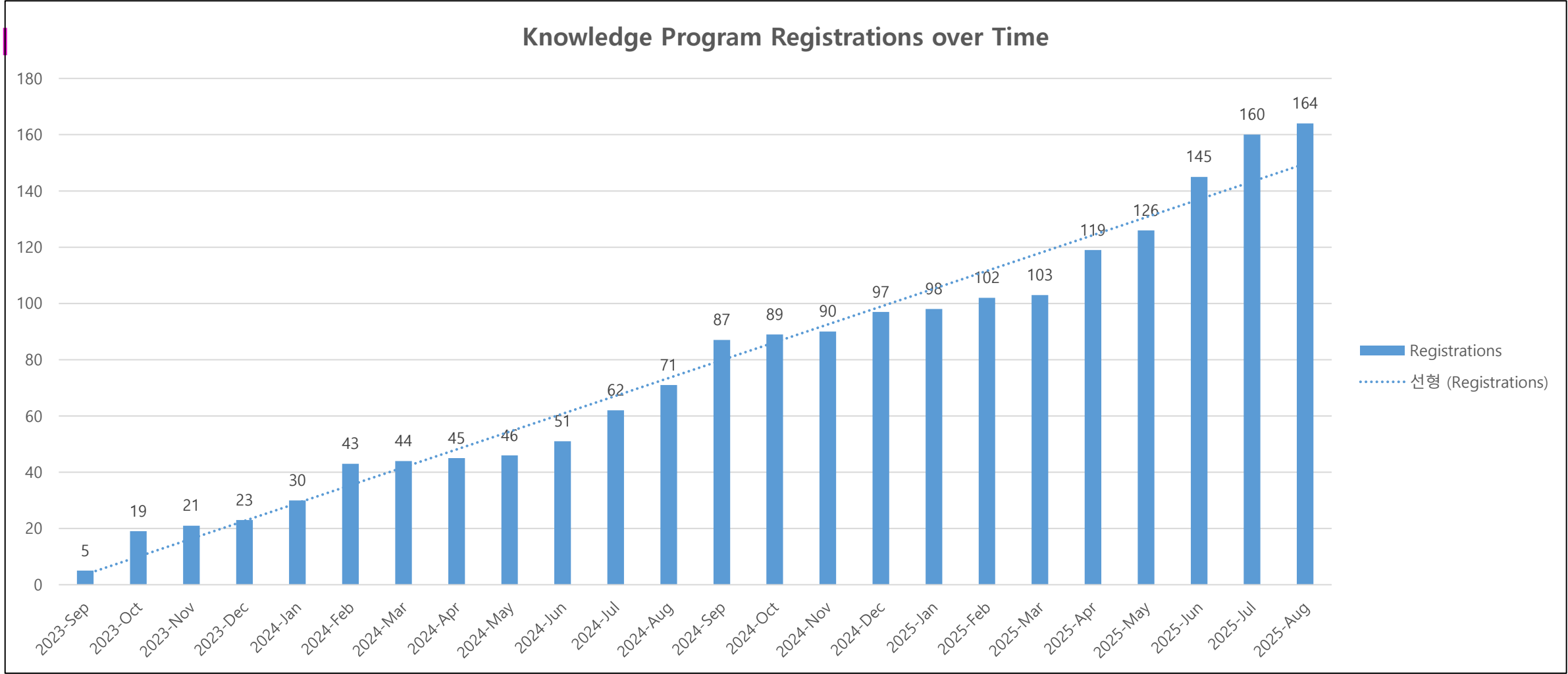


Stakeholder Briefings

- Based on feedback from participants in the Tech Standards Knowledge Program.
- Topics cover policy issues and priorities, such as the national interest.
- 90-minute sessions that help to connect the dots between high level concepts, and practical principles.
- Feedback has been positive, and attendance exceeded expectations.



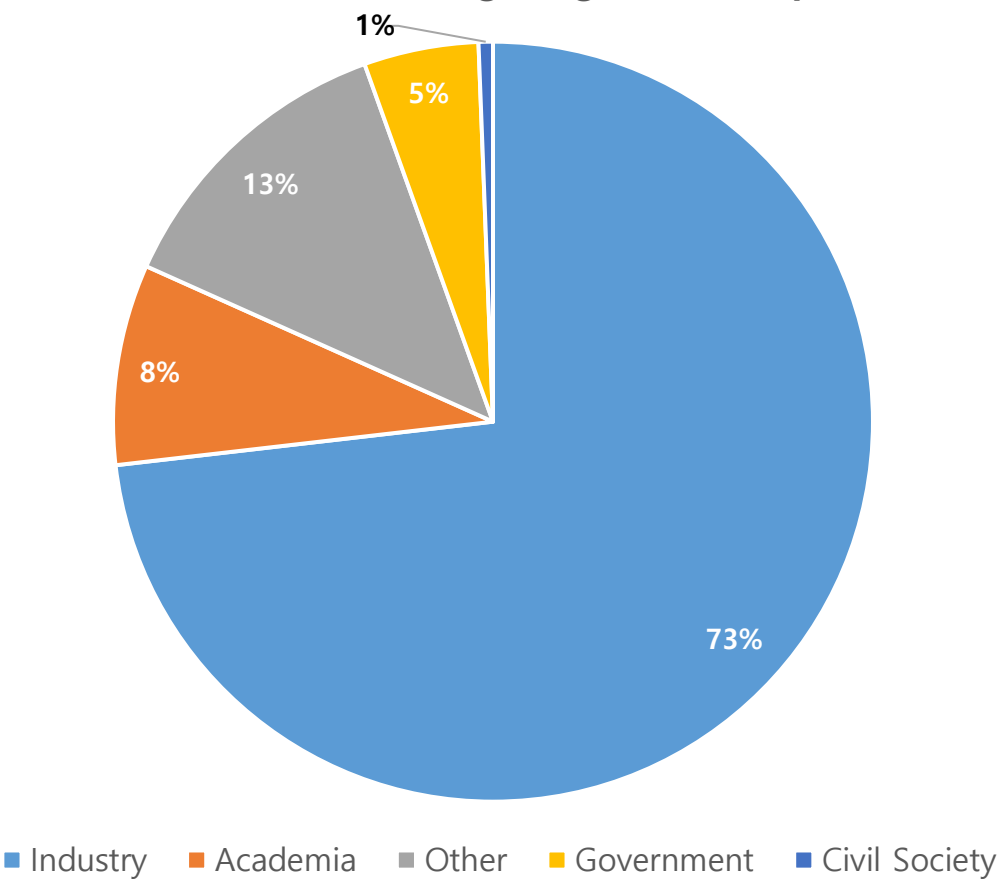
Tracking and Reporting



Sectors – Tech Standards Knowledge Program Participants

I

Breakdown of Training Program Participants



Key Takeaways

- Regular engagement with stakeholders is essential to drive uptake
- Engagement has improved as experts have progressed through multiple sessions
- Early signs of referrals by participants
- Added stakeholder briefings in response to questions raised by participants
- Feedback has been consistently positive – leading to stronger relationships between government and experts

Regional initiatives

In addition to our Tech Standards Knowledge Program, the Australian Government Department of Industry, Science and Resources also funds a number of standards capacity-building programs in our region.

- Through Australia's APEC Support Program, we support Standards Australia to lead a project on Strengthening Collaboration on Standardisation for Quantum Technologies in the APEC Region.
- Through ASEAN, Australia is funding projects on International Standards Cooperation in Renewable, Green and Clean Energy and Digital Transformation in Standards Development
- Standards Australia is also progressing several other regional capacity building projects

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- Thank you -

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