

Overview

ASIO was established in 1949 as Australia's national security intelligence service. ASIO operates under the direction of the Director-General of Security who is responsible to the Attorney-General.

ASIO's role is to identify and investigate threats to security, wherever they arise, and to provide advice to protect Australia, its people and its interests. ASIO's functions are set out in the the [Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979](#) (the ASIO Act).

Security is defined in the ASIO Act as espionage, serious threats to Australia's territorial and border integrity, sabotage, politically motivated violence, the promotion of communal violence, attacks on Australia's defence system, and acts of foreign interference. It also includes the carrying out of Australia's responsibilities to any foreign country in relation to threats to security with a particular focus on politically motivated violence.

What we do

ASIO is Australia's national security intelligence service.

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Mission and Values

ASIO plays a vital role in the Australian community.

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Oversight and Accountability

ASIO operates within a particularly stringent oversight and accountability framework.

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Legislation

ASIO's functions and powers are determined by the Parliament of Australia and set out in legislation.

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Organisational Structure

The Director-General of Security leads ASIO and is responsible to the Attorney-General of Australia.

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Ben Chifley Building

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FAQs

Answers to your frequently asked questions.

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