

# MEDIA RELEASE

8 November 2016

## **Australia Lags in Interest Among Young Adults in Cybersecurity Careers: Survey**

CANBERRA – 8 November 2016: An international survey of millennials shows that Australia trails a range of other nations in encouraging young people into careers in cybersecurity.

Raytheon, a global defence and cybersecurity company, and the U.S. National Cyber Security Alliance commissioned a 12-country survey on the preparedness of millennials aged 18 to 26 to enter the cybersecurity profession. *Securing Our Future: Closing the Cybersecurity Talent Gap*, fielded by Zogby Analytics, surveyed 3,779 participants ages 18 to 26 in Australia, Germany, Japan, Jordan, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Turkey, the UAE, the U.K. and the U.S. The survey provides an insight into the root causes of the global shortage in cybersecurity professionals and suggests possible strategies to address the problem.

The survey found:

- Australia was performing well to introduce children to computers in the classroom from an early age with 38.9 per cent introduced to computers by the age of eight and only 29.9 per cent reporting they were not formally taught methods to stay safe online.
- 25.4 per cent of young Australian adults are more likely today than a year ago to choose a cybersecurity career.
- 47.5 per cent of Australian millennials surveyed said they were unaware of the typical range of responsibilities and job tasks of a cybersecurity professional.
- 62.8 per cent of young Australians reported that no-one had ever mentioned the idea of a cybersecurity career at high school.
- 17.1 per cent millennials in Australia had ever met someone working in cybersecurity.
- 33.8 per cent of young Australians were not confident that their parents would know how to guide them on pursuing a career in cybersecurity.

The survey also found an apparent gender gap —young women are less aware of cybersecurity roles and less prepared to take up such opportunities. For example, while 41.5 per cent of young Australian men said their secondary school computer classes offered them skills necessary to pursue a cyber career the figure for Australian women was 17.7 per cent. It was also found that at secondary school the idea of a cyber career was only raised with 11.0 per cent of women but 44.6 per cent of men.

To address these issues, young Australians identified a range of strategies that would increase their interest in cybersecurity. These included the provision of more information about what such jobs might entail, more relevant classes to determine their proficiency, an assurance that they would earn a suitable livelihood from such a career and opportunities to be able to speak to cyber professionals.

“The Raytheon-NCSA survey is a reminder that cybersecurity is not just a career of the future — it is career of the present,” Michael Ward, managing director of Raytheon Australia, said. “As a company with a large engineering and technical workforce, Raytheon is acutely aware of the need to motivate young Australian men and women to continue their maths and science studies, so they can be equipped for cybersecurity careers.”



**Raytheon**  
**Australia**

Since 2007, Raytheon Australia has partnered with Australia's National Science and Technology Centre, Questacon, to extend the Centre's ability to reach and motivate more young Australians into science, maths and engineering related careers.

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**About Raytheon Company**

Raytheon Company, with 2015 sales of \$23 billion and 61,000 employees, is a technology and innovation leader specializing in defense, civil government and cybersecurity solutions. With a history of innovation spanning 94 years, Raytheon provides state-of-the-art electronics, mission systems integration, C5I™ products and services, sensing, effects, and mission support for customers in more than 80 countries. Raytheon is headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts. Follow us on Twitter [@Raytheon](https://twitter.com/Raytheon).

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