



## Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the Australian Journal of Defence and Strategic Studies (AJDSS). On behalf of the Editorial Review Board, I am pleased to launch the AJDSS as another step in the ongoing tradition of the Australian Defence Forces' support for informed debate and encouragement of professional and intellectual engagement on defence issues and concerns.

Australia is currently experiencing significant changes in its strategic circumstances that are affecting how we see the future of our nation and the role of the Australian Defence Force and the wider Department of Defence.

Despite these changes, there is still continuity. Recurrent challenges persist in our study and practice of the profession of arms. War remains an enduring part of the human condition and states will continue to seek to protect their sovereignty through national military forces. These military forces, if they are to be effective must anticipate a broad spectrum of requirements, possess excellent institutional leadership, and cultivate an intellectual edge.

Since the publication of the very first professional journal by the Australian military in 1948, generations of leaders have honed their intellect through writing, critiquing and reading about the many and varied aspects of their profession. The new AJDSS builds on this tradition. It will provide insights and analysis that stimulate critical thinking and be a platform for addressing issues relevant to Australia's defence and strategic interests.

If we are to push the boundaries of knowledge critical to building a cohort of diverse, creative and collaborative Defence and national security professionals then robust and contextually driven conversations are essential. These must be inclusive debates that also seek input from leading academics and experts, industry partners and interagency professionals. Such conversations will drive adaptation in the defence and national security environment, focusing our attention on the

intellectual, moral, technological and human components that make conflict and strategic competition a complex national endeavour.

The AJDSS is committed to publishing high-quality professional discourse and peer reviewed scholarship that contributes to national, regional and global defence and national security dialogue. It should be a leading source of contemporary defence and strategic thinking and practice, which nurtures the desire in military and civilian personnel to achieve individual, and collective, professional excellence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Ryan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**MAJGEN Mick Ryan, AM**

Chair, Australian Journal of Defence and Strategic Studies  
Commander, Australian Defence College