

David Nockels is the First Assistant Secretary, Defence Industry Policy, in the Australian Department of Defence, and is responsible for Defence Export Controls, Defence Industry Policy, and Defence Industry Domestic Policy. The Division is responsible for effective implementation of the Government's approach to Defence industry policy and creation of a strategy-led program of industry engagement and innovation.

David previously held the role of First Assistant Secretary of People Policy and Culture. In this role, David was responsible for People Policy & Employment Conditions, Defence Learning, and Culture & People Development.

Prior to his role in Defence, he was responsible for the Identity and Biometrics Division, Department of Home Affairs. While at Home Affairs, he also oversaw Departmental property requirements, major procurement activity, and contract management covering garrison support, health services, and infrastructure in support of the Immigration Detention Network. He was also responsible for contracts relating to supporting Regional Processing Centres in Papua New Guinea and Nauru. Other roles in Home Affairs included Commander in the Australian Border Force, running the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Branch and Investigations Division, and managing the Department's regional processing infrastructure program.

David has also acted as the Executive Director for the Office of Transport Security (OTS) and ran OTS' international program, including capacity-building projects in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. He ran the risk and security aspects of OTS' engagement with the Australian Intelligence Community and the transport industry in Australia. He has significant experience in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with time spent in the USA and Thailand in diplomatic missions.

His private sector experience spanned eight years working for multinational companies as a consultant and strategic sales manager. At Fujitsu Australia, he provided strategic advice to their Australian Federal Government business and developed strategies to meet a wide range of Federal Government ICT needs. David headed up KAZ Group's consulting practice focused on Australia's Federal Government information management challenges. While in the UK working for management consulting organisations PA Consulting and Accenture, he led teams delivering a variety of Change Management/Project Management outcomes for a number of UK public sector clients, including in the criminal justice arena.

David holds an Executive MBA from the Australian Graduate School of Management, University of New South Wales, a Master's Degree in Security Policy Studies from the George Washington University in the USA, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia.