TAS-PSPF Tasmania's Protective Security Policy Framework

GOVSEC-1

Establish security governance

What to know

This summary sheet outlines key points from **GOVSEC-1: Establish security governance** – a policy under Tasmania's Protective Security Policy Framework (TAS-PSPF).

The TAS-PSPF supports Tasmanian Government agencies to protect their people, information and assets from compromise and harm.

To read the TAS-PSPF or to find other summaries, policies and resources, go to **www.security.tas.gov.au**

To successfully implement and maintain protective security measures, Tasmanian Government agencies must first establish effective security governance. This means security is reflected and adopted in every aspect of agencies' outputs to protect our information, people and assets from compromise and harm.

Each of us is a participant in this process and each of us has an active role to play in the protective security governance structures within our own agency.

Policy GOVSEC-1 sets out the essential elements of the security governance structure required under the TAS-PSPF.

Action the roles and responsibilities

The Accountable Authority is the person or people responsible for, and with control over, a Tasmanian Government public authority, including agencies. The Accountable Authority for your agency:

- owns the protective security risk of your agency and is responsible to their portfolio minister/s, the Tasmanian Government and the Tasmanian community
- has overall responsibility for your agency's security risk management
- owns the responsibility for appropriate security governance strategies in accordance with your agency's criticality and risk assessments.

Other people in your agency also have important roles to play in the governance of the TAS PSPF framework. It is the responsibility of the Accountable Authority to make sure that the following roles and responsibilities are carried out:

Responsible Executive: This member of your agency's executive facilitates implementation of the TAS-PSPF in your agency. They are responsible for leading and managing protective security arrangements and coordinating the annual TAS-PSPF report.

Agency Security Advisor (ASA): The ASA manages implementation of the TAS-PSPF and supporting materials, performs quality assurance of your agency's protective security functions, and completes annual reporting. They also monitor and advise on your agency's operating environment, threat context and emerging risks.

People: All people employed, contracted or otherwise engaged with your agency assist to achieve a strengthened security culture. They take personal responsibility for their actions, understand their responsibilities under the TAS-PSPF, and comply with your agency's protective security policies and procedures.

Determine the threat context and environment

Security threats can be either malicious or accidental. Determining the threat environment applicable to your agency is crucial to efficient security risk management. To determine the level of threat to your agency, or its people and assets, the Accountable Authority is required to consider the intent and capability of a potential threat actor/adversary (an entity that is partially or wholly responsible for an incident that impacts – or has the potential to impact – an agency's security) to cause harm or damage. This will depend on the business services your agency provides to the government and the community, which means that the threat environment will be different for each Tasmanian Government agency.

Determine security risk tolerance

Risk tolerance is an informed decision to accept risk after risk treatments have been applied. Each agency's level of risk tolerance will vary depending on the level of potential damage from an identified risk. Typically, the level of risk tolerance should decrease as the level of risk increases.

Your Accountable Authority is responsible for making informed decisions on your agency's priorities and balancing the capacity to deliver business objectives with maintaining a secure environment. This is achieved by determining your agency's risk appetite, which is the level of risk your agency is willing, or able, to accept. Doing this allows a very practical application of protective security measures.

Ensure an ongoing cycle of improvement through monitoring and reporting

Situational awareness of an agency's operating and threat environment is crucial to maintaining an ongoing cycle of improvement and overall security maturity. Your agency can increase situational awareness and enhance its ability to monitor and report on security risks by adopting sound security governance policies, practices, processes and procedures.

The most effective practices and procedures to support this are those that are:

- embedded into day-to-day operations
- well understood by all agency people
- demonstrated by senior management.