Kylie Davies

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I am an Australian mainly of Anglo-Celtic ethnic background. However, my nana’s nana was indigenous; we don’t know much about that part of our background – it’s a piece of history that was partially hidden long ago and my nana was a ward of the state.

I live in Queensland but moved here from New South Wales 15 years ago.

I am currently undertaking my 8th, 9th and 10th subjects towards a Bachelor of Information Technology from RMIT. This will be my first completed undergraduate degree. I elected to tackle 3 subjects this study period as I have deliberately taken a break from paid work. The timing was right as I was on a Program of work that just ended. Something a little different about me is that I have an active left and right brain, so I approach problems from both a creative and analytical perspective. I also like to explore different projects. For example, 8 years ago, I started the Sunshine Coast’s first food magazine. It was short lived (and nearly bankrupted me) but beautiful and informative.

**When did your interest in IT start? Was there a particular event or person that sparked your interest?**

My interest in IT was sparked as a really young child, by my dad, who bought a Sinclair ZX81 back from Cambridge UK. He couldn’t work it. I taught myself to program in Basic and could get a few tricks out of the simple machine. I programmed a bit in the 90s, then support and disaster recovery (now called business continuity) but these days I work in business analysis and project management.

**What is your interest in IT? Outline your IT experience (if any).**

My interest in IT has been mainly career focused and centred around large corporate programs of work. I have worked in IT for over 20 years.

I am not adept at PC building nor am I a gamer. I am interested in the user experience and enjoyed User Centred Design here at RMIT. However, I am keenly interested in two IT business areas: software defect/quality management; and security. I just finished a contract as Defect Manager on an EAMS Transformation Program for Urban Utilities (Brisbane Water). What I like about defect management is building a cross functional bug hunting team out of a number of disparate and usually hitherto silo-orientated development teams. There is a revelation that happens when teams from different development teams realise they will not have a working solution unless their segments of code interface effectively with another team’s segments of code. I have found that using deliberate team building techniques and a cadence of short sharp and fun daily meetings accelerates this team building.

Security is a relatively new interest for me, growing over the last two to three years. I am yet to have the opportunity to work in a focused Security role, but started searching information regarding hacking and attacks, particularly large scale and politically motivated attacks like Stuxnet and the Sony attack a couple of years ago. A great introductory source for me was the Great Courses series on Cybersecurity with Paul Rosenzweig: titled “Thinking about Cybersecurity: From Cyber Crime to Cyber Warfare”. Here is a link:

<https://www.audible.com.au/pd/Thinking-about-Cybersecurity-From-Cyber-Crime-to-Cyber-Warfare-Audiobook/B00FQC7JBU?source_code=M2MOR131091619005N&ds_rl=1252391&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIpIqo6PKK6gIVjX4rCh1KTwg1EAAYAiAAEgK_BPD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds>

I think the need for cyber security specialists will explode in the next few years. As I write this today, the Prime Minister is speaking about a sophisticated state actor currently attacking many state and commercial organisations in Australia.

I am also studying Security in Computing and IT at RMIT this study period concurrently with this subject, so that is quite exciting.

**Why did you choose to come to RMIT?**

I chose RMIT to study with because I wanted a comprehensive technical degree and my research told me RMIT was one of the best universities for this. Our local university (Sunshine Coast) does not have the meaty IT content within its degrees and its reputation in IT suffers accordingly.

**What do you expect to learn during your studies?**

My aim is to build and finesse my technical skills so that I can more effectively manage teams and be able to sniff out the best path to problem resolution in my work, through having a good understanding of IT. Ideally I would like to move into Cybersecurity, possibly in a government based role, working to thwart state based malicious actors, or in a governance role in Security for a major utility.

**Ideal Job**

Job link and screenshot of ad.

**A description (in your own words) of the position, and particularly what makes this position appealing to you.**

This Security Governance and Assurance Manager is responsible for developing, advising on and ensuring the adherence to policy for security governance and assurance, with reference to security frameworks but also bringing the expertise to advise the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO). This position appeals to me because of the opportunity to affect policy and outcomes and create the right security culture at a large organisation.

**A description (in your own words) of the skills, qualifications and experience required for the position.**

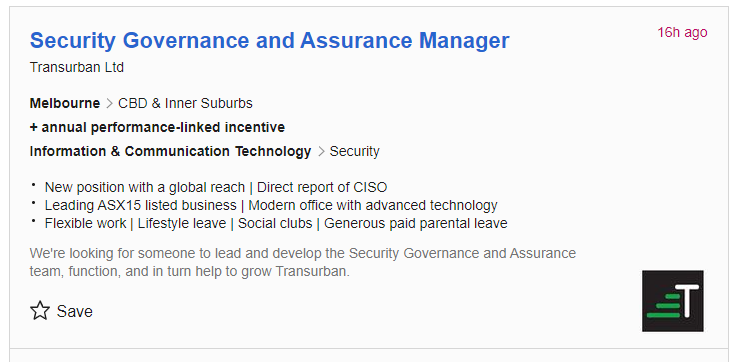
Clearly this is a senior management role, reporting directly into the CISO, probably with input and presentations to board required. The incumbent would need to be skilled and experienced at people management, while also bringing industry expertise in the area of security governance and assurance.

**A description (in your own words) of the skills, qualifications and experience you currently have.**

I have about 60% of the management experience I would need for this position. A key strength is my background in Project Management and Governance. I have prepared reports for Board but always for more senior managers to present. I have reported directly into Program Managers but not to a CISO. I have nearly completed half my degree and have completed several industry training courses. I am very lacking in Security experience.

**A plan describing how you will obtain the skills, qualifications and experience required for the position, building on those you have now. This need not be greatly detailed, (and will probably change significantly over time anyway), but try to be as specific as you can.**

In order to move into a position like this I will complete my Bachelor’s degree and try to incorporate as many security courses as possible. I will try to gain some hands-on Security experience. I will continue to grow my management profile in the IT industry through carefully chosen contracts. I will complete my PMP certification by October and will look for opportunities for future governance focused positions with even minor input to board to gain board input experience.



<https://www.seek.com.au/job/50112429?type=standout#searchRequestToken=d371c676-ec97-4d16-a802-825ca1352d33>

**Full ad text**

**Security Governance and Assurance Manager**

Reporting directly into Transurban’s CISO, the Security Governance and Assurance Manager is responsible for leading a high-performing team of Security Governance and Assurance Specialists in their engagements with business and technology initiatives globally.

The Security Governance and Assurance team play a critical role in managing and developing Transurban’s Security governance, compliance, risk management and assurance practice, inline with appropriate frameworks and safeguards to ensure the continued delivery and operation of around the clock infrastructure.

This is a newly formed position covering both information and operational technology environments. We’re looking for someone to lead and develop the team, function, and in turn help to grow Transurban.

**The impact you’ll have**

* You’ll be a people leader, a mentor, and a thought leader representing the practice within Transurban globally and the wider information and cyber security industry as required
* You’ll establish and maintain key relationships to understand risk priorities and continuously optimise processes, standards, and training to further improve Transurban’s security posture
* You’ll provide leadership and expertise on the management of contractual and regulatory compliance obligations alongside managing the engagements of internal and independent audit teams
* You’ll manage and maintain the Transurban Cyber Security Maturity Model, the Security Metrics Framework, and lead initiatives to create and effectively manage risk management strategies including an effective and innovative security awareness program

**The talents you’ll bring**

* You’ll have demonstrated experience in leading a high performing team to further the security posture of a large and complex enterprise environment
* You’ll have working knowledge of best practice standards and guidelines, security governance frameworks, and regulations and compliance requirements
* You’ll have the ability to understand, develop and articulate the business value to be derived from technological advancement to a broad cross-section of personnel ensuring the appropriate level understanding and adherence
* You’ll have an understanding of current audit techniques, testing and measurement of controls effectiveness in both information technology (required) and operational technology (desired) environments

**About us**  
Transurban is driven by bringing people and places closer. The roads we plan, build, operate and maintain make communities stronger, across Australia and beyond. Together, we’re building a future that marries traditional infrastructure with emerging technology. We’re making roads ready for driverless cars and predicting accidents before they happen. We’re getting people where they’re going. And we’re doing it faster, smarter and safer, every last one of us.  
  
Transurban is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from candidates of diverse backgrounds, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.  
  
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