

Information for candidates

**Chief Technology and Data Officer, Chief
Technology and Data Officer Branch**

The Opportunity

Job Reference Number 2026-089 15390 SES

Title: Chief Technology and Data Officer, Chief Technology and Data Officer Branch

Classification: SES Band 1

Reports to: First Assistant Commissioner and Chief Information and Artificial Intelligence Officer

Tenure: Ongoing, Full-time

Location: National Office - Canberra

Security requirement: Ability to obtain and hold a security clearance of Negative Vetting Level 1

Closing Date: Tuesday 21 July 2026, 11:59pm AEST

If you have any questions, please contact Tania Wilson, First Assistant Commissioner and Chief Information Officer, Chief Information Officer Division, Enterprise Transformation Group via tania.wilson@aec.gov.au.

Lead delivery and strategic direction of nationally significant technology and digital environment capability.

The Australian Electoral Commission

We run elections and referendums.

At the **Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)**, our people enable one of the nation's most important democratic institutions. Every federal election is a complex, high-profile national operation delivered under intense public scrutiny and prepared for on an unknown timetable, making the AEC a uniquely purposeful and challenging place to work.

The AEC's information technology and systems capability have a critical role in delivering electoral events. The agency also leads major enterprise programs that strengthen its long-term capability, giving senior leaders the opportunity to help shape how the AEC operates into the future.

It is a significant and exciting time to join the Chief Information Officer Division (CIOD). CIOD plays a critical role in supporting day-to-day operations, significant reform Programs and major electoral events, requiring technology and data services that are reliable, secure and responsive, and able to operate at scale in time-critical environments. As the Chief Information Officer Division and Chief Technology and Data Officer Branch evolves, this role offers a rare opportunity to help shape the AEC's future strategic capability at a pivotal moment.

What we offer

We know senior leaders are looking for both impact and sustainability. The AEC supports this through flexible working options, a supportive team environment and a strong focus on wellbeing, including access to employee assistance and wellbeing programs.

We invest in our people through learning and development opportunities, study assistance and the chance to lead complex, visible work with meaningful national impact.

We want our workforce to reflect the diversity of the Australian community. We value the different perspectives, experiences and capabilities our people bring, and we support inclusion through active diversity networks across the agency.

As an AEC employee, you will have access to purchased leave, a paid Christmas and New Year shutdown period, competitive pay and conditions, a generous 15.4% superannuation contribution, employee assistance support for you and your family, and an annual flu vaccination program. Terms and conditions for AEC SES staff are provided under section 24 of the Public Service Act 1999.

The Team

The Chief Technology and Data Officer will join a team of highly motivated and collaborative professionals that work in the Enterprise Transformation Group (ETG). The ETG is made up of two divisions – the Chief Information Officer Division (CIOD) and the Indigo Division.

The Chief Technology and Data Officer operates within the Chief Information Officer Division (CIOD), which is responsible for delivering and sustaining the AEC's technology and digital environment. This includes planning and funding technology initiatives, developing and supporting enterprise systems, operating and securing ICT infrastructure, overseeing our information management and data governance functions, and managing relationships with external vendors.

CIOD plays a critical role in supporting both day-to-day operations and major electoral events, requiring technology and data services that are reliable, secure, responsive, and able to operate at scale in time-critical environments.

CIOD delivers its work through a combination of branches, delivery groups and specialised functions, each with a distinct focus:

- **The Chief Technology and Data Officer Branch (CTDO)**, responsible for the AEC's core technology foundations and data capabilities, including infrastructure, cloud services, service operations, and enterprise data management.
- **The Platforms and Application Development Branch (P&AD)**, responsible for developing, enhancing and supporting the applications and platforms used across the AEC.
- **The Portfolio Transformation Management Governance section (PTMG)**, responsible for portfolio planning, prioritisation, performance tracking, and oversight of ICT investment and delivery.
- **The ICT Vendor Management Office (ICT VMO)**, responsible for managing vendor relationships, contracts, performance and supplier risk.
- **The Website Modernisation Project**, delivering targeted uplift of the AEC's web presence and digital engagement capabilities.

Within CIOD, the Chief Technology and Data Officer leads the delivery and operation of the AEC's core technology foundations and data capabilities. The role oversees the following functions:

- **Enterprise Technical Enablement**, including enterprise architecture, network and endpoint management, and technology uplift initiatives.
- **IT Service Operations**, including IT service management, service desk operations and end-user computing services.
- **Cloud and Infrastructure Operations**, including hosting platforms, cloud services, identity and access management, and core infrastructure support.
- **Information and Data Governance**, including data management, data engineering, analytics and visualisation, and information governance practices.

These functions collectively underpin reliable, secure and contemporary ICT and data services across the organisation.

CIOD is committed to establishing and maintaining a high-performing and positive workplace culture. You will operate in a fast-paced and dynamic environment, working closely with the First Assistant Commissioner and Chief Information and Artificial Intelligence Officer, Assistant Commissioners, and senior leaders across the AEC to support the delivery of strategic and operational outcomes.

The Opportunity

The Chief Technology and Data Officer plays a critical role in ensuring the service experiences for internal staff and external stakeholders are of a high standard with a particular focus on identifying AEC's strategic ICT needs, along with developing and implementing strategies to meet those needs and ensuring that ongoing ICT service delivery facilitates the achievement of the AEC's business objectives. This role operates as a combined Chief Technology and Data Officer, accountable for enterprise technology, data and analytics capability, and alignment to organisational strategy. This role operates as a combined Chief Technology Data Officer, accountable for enterprise technology, data and analytics capability, and alignment to organisational strategy.

This role is accountable for establishing and delivering the AEC's enterprise technology, information management practices, and data, analytics and artificial intelligence strategy. This role supports the Artificial Intelligence Accountable Officer and the Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer to ensure that technology and data are managed as strategic assets to drive enterprise performance and uphold electoral integrity.

The Chief Technology and Data Officer provides strategic advice to the AEC Executive Leadership Team on approaches to ensuring the delivery of critical technology and data services that support the AEC's operational and electoral priorities. The role sets the direction for enterprise technology and digital capability, including establishing structured innovation practices such as horizon scanning and evaluation of emerging technologies, and ensuring that initiatives are aligned with organisational strategy.

As a senior leader, the Chief Technology and Data Officer leads a high-performing, multidisciplinary workforce and fosters a culture of collaboration, accountability and continuous improvement. The role provides authoritative advice on complex technology and enterprise architecture matters, leading the development and ongoing evolution of the AEC Enterprise Architecture. This includes coordinating architecture activities across information, applications and infrastructure environments to ensure consistency, scalability and alignment with strategic objectives.

The position drives technology-enabled innovation while maintaining strong governance and risk management practices. This includes ensuring compliance with legislative and policy frameworks, strengthening enterprise data capability through improved data strategy, governance and analytics, supporting the ethical use of artificial intelligence, and uplifting and implementing enterprise information management practices in line with policy and legislative requirements. The Chief Technology and Data Officer works closely with senior executives, business areas and external stakeholders to understand organisational needs and deliver integrated solutions that enable business outcomes and supports enhanced service delivery and investment prioritisation.

Operational oversight remains a core responsibility, with accountability for IT service management, infrastructure functions, and first-line support services. The role identifies opportunities for process optimisation to improve efficiency and service quality, supports investment prioritisation, and promotes a culture of data literacy and evidence-based decision making. The Chief Technology and Data Officer also represents the AEC externally and contributes to whole-of-government initiatives, while supporting election readiness and broader agency strategic objectives.

The Chief Technology and Data Officer may also undertake additional duties or assume responsibility for additional functions as directed by the Electoral Commissioner or the Executive Leadership Team.

Additional responsibilities during an Electoral Event:

- Manage staffing and additional resourcing requirements during the flex up phase of electoral event readiness, ensuring all additional resources are obtained within contractual arrangements and budget.
- The volume of requests for advice and matters, along with the urgency to resolve matters, will increase significantly prior to and during both electoral and referendum events. As a result, the staffing profile of the Chief Technology Officer Branch may expand. The Chief Technology and Data Officer may be required to manage a larger cohort of staff and be available extended hours.
- Contribute to the provision of support by the Chief Information Officer Division by providing technical advice on projects within the Chief Technology and Data Officer's area of responsibility.

What you will bring

We are looking for an accomplished senior leader with the qualifications, judgement and experience to lead in a complex, visible and evolving regulatory environment. You will demonstrate leadership behaviours consistent with the APS Secretaries Charter of Leadership Behaviours and work with the SES cohort across the agency to deliver shared priorities, with a strong focus on stewardship, collaboration, integrity and accountability.

You will also have:

- Proven experience in strategic leadership and management at a senior level in a critical and complex ICT operating environment.
- Demonstrated sound judgement, strategic and creative thinking, and business intelligence, with the capacity to provide sound and appropriate advice, and to explore innovative ICT solutions in delivering services in a governmental context.

- Demonstrated representation, stakeholder management and client service skills, and evidence of highly effective written and oral communication skills to communicate with and influence people at all levels.
- Demonstrated resilience and capacity to handle uncertainty, change and ambiguity in the formulation, integration and implementation of ICT strategies and services.
- Demonstrated awareness and understanding of contemporary Commonwealth public sector and ICT industry policies and practice.
- Demonstrated ability to build and maintain high performing teams, ensuring effective delivery and quality assurance in alignment the [AEC Corporate Plan](#), policies and frameworks.

Desirable:

- Knowledge of, or ability to quickly gain knowledge of, Australian electoral law and public sector governance requirements.

Apply Now

[Chief Technology and Data Officer, Chief Technology and Data Officer Branch – Vacancy Details – AEC Jobs](#)

The AEC is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive workplace and is proud to be an equal opportunity employer.

All applications for this role must be submitted through the AEC jobs portal link listed above prior to the closing date. To apply, you will need to provide the following:

- Based on the duties and responsibilities of the role, and the qualities of an ideal candidate, a one-page pitch outlining why you are the best person for this role, and
- Your resume, including the names and contact details of at least two referees, of no more than three pages.

Please note – exceeding the page limits outlined above may result in not all evidence provided being reviewed by the recruitment panel.

RecruitAbility

This scheme aims to attract and develop applicants with disability and facilitate cultural changes in selection panels and agency recruitment.

If you are a person living with disability and opt into the scheme; you are required to declare you have disability; and must meet the minimum requirements of this vacancy. Once these requirements are met, you are advanced to a further stage in the selection process. Merit remains the basis for engagement and promotion.

You do not need to provide further information about your disability.

For further information visit the [APSC website](#).

Relocation assistance

In the case of interstate appointees, relocation assistance may be approved for costs associated with the appointee moving to Canberra. This will be provided in the form of reimbursement of reasonable costs as determined and agreed by the Electoral Commissioner.

Politically sensitive position

It is an inherent requirement of employment at the AEC that employees must be, and must be seen to be, impartial and politically neutral. Any person who is active in political affairs or referendum issues, may compromise the strict neutrality of the AEC and will be ineligible for employment with the AEC. This requirement is outlined in the AEC Enterprise Agreement and Political Neutrality Policy.

Merit Pool

Candidates who are found suitable but not offered a position may be placed in a merit pool for up to 18 months from the date of advertisement. The AEC and other APS agencies may use merit pools to fill future similar vacancies.

Security Requirements

Some positions may require an applicant to gain and maintain a security clearance in addition to pre-employment screening.

This position requires candidates to obtain and hold a **Negative Vetting 1** security clearance.

Pre employment screening includes a check on police records, identity checks and political neutrality checks. Assessments to uphold suitability form part of all positions at the AEC.

For more information, please see the [Australian Government Protective Security Policy Framework](#).

Artificial Intelligence

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in the recruitment process.

The AEC may use the AI tool 'Microsoft Copilot Chat' for low-risk administrative purposes. All outputs are reviewed and approved by a human and will not influence selection decisions. The AEC may use AI for drafting and refining recruitment documentation and general administrative support. The AEC will not use AI in any assessment or decision-making, including screening, shortlisting, or evaluating candidates. Candidate personal information will not be entered into AI tools, and AI transcription will not be used.

The AEC also sets clear expectations for candidate use of AI tools in accordance with the [APSC Guide to managing candidate use of AI in recruitment](#). Candidates may use AI tools to assist with drafting application materials, such as resumes and pitches, provided all content is an accurate and truthful reflection of their own skills, experience, and capabilities in line with [the APSC Principles for candidate use of AI in recruitment](#). AI must not be used in any written assessments, work samples, or during

interviews (including real-time responses). Candidates may be required to discuss, verify, or demonstrate the claims made in their application as part of the assessment process.

Australian Citizenship

All positions in the AEC require employees to be Australian citizens and is a condition of engagement.

Information on Australian citizenship including how to obtain evidence of Australian citizenship is available from the [Department of Home Affairs](#).

Other key information

Working in the Senior Executive Service

All SES employees are expected to model and promote the APS Values and Code of Conduct and leadership behaviours outlined in the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) [Integrated Leadership System](#) and [Secretaries Charter of Behaviours](#).

Further information about working in the SES is available on the APSC website at [SES Information](#).

Privacy

The AEC understands and respects your right to privacy and has safeguards in place in line with the requirements of the *Privacy Act 1988*. The information provided in your job application will only be used for the selection process and related procedures. Should you be the successful candidate, your personal details will be used in the agency's systems necessary for the management and engagement of staff and your name will appear in APS Jobs.