

## COURSE OUTLINE · 2026

# Advanced Intelligence *Tradecraft* Intensive

*Five days of pressure-tested analytic training, of a calibre rarely accessible outside closed intelligence environments.*

This document outlines the indicative structure of the week. Topics are delivered at an advanced level, and the expectation is that participants demonstrate the translation of theory into practice throughout the program. The evolving exercise — at the core of the daily briefings — is designed to push participants intellectually and operationally, and forms the spine of the course. Final exercise content and injects are tailored to the makeup of the cohort.

DATES	LOCATION	COHORT	LED BY
21–25 September 2026	Sydney Rydges World Square	30 places capped	Dr Donald Pruefer Georgetown PhD · ex-DHS

## THE WEEK

DAY 01

**The Analyst's Mind***Understanding how you think*

DAY 02

**Breaking Assumptions***Bias, pressure, flawed reasoning*

DAY 03

**Structured Analysis***Methodologies in practice*

DAY 04

**Testing the Assessment***Challenge and stress-testing*

DAY 05

**Defending the Judgement***Briefing under pressure*

## PROGRAM DETAIL · DAYS 1-3

# From cognition to conviction.

*Each day builds on the last. Participants begin by examining how they think, are progressively pushed through structured technique and adversarial challenge, and finish by defending a judgement to a decision-maker under pressure.*

## 01

DAY / 05

### The Analyst's Mind

*Understanding how you think before you try to improve it.*

The opening day examines how analysts think in practice — not in theory. Participants are asked to surface their own cognitive approaches, observe how assumptions take hold, and recognise the moments where early judgements begin to shape outcomes. The evolving exercise is introduced and runs across the full week.

#### TOPICS

Understanding decision-maker needs · Critical thinking · Critical reading · Preparing effective presentation · Hypothesis generation · Exercise introduction

## 02

DAY / 05

### Breaking Assumptions

*Challenging bias, pressure points, and flawed reasoning.*

Participants are pushed to challenge their own thinking — identifying cognitive bias, questioning source reliability, and recognising where confidence is not supported by evidence. The day opens with the first morning briefing; these continue daily and culminate in a formal decision-maker briefing on Day 5.

#### TOPICS

Mindsets and perceptions · Quality of information · Analysis of competing hypotheses · Evolving exercise

## 03

DAY / 05

### Structured Analysis in Practice

*Applying methodologies to real-world problems.*

Core structured analytic techniques are introduced and applied within a live scenario. Participants move from instinctive judgement to disciplined analysis — using hypothesis testing, key assumptions checks, and structured reasoning to develop the day's analysis under realistic conditions.

#### TOPICS

Writing effective briefings · Cognitive errors · Key assumptions check · Evolving exercise (analysis development)

## PROGRAM DETAIL · DAYS 4-5

# Pressure-tested, then defended.

The closing days move from analysis to advocacy. Assessments are stress-tested through challenge, then prepared for a formal decision-maker briefing — where clarity, defensibility, and confidence under pressure are tested in real time.

## 04

DAY / 05

### Testing the Assessment

*Competing hypotheses, challenge, and analytical stress-testing.*

Assessments are stress-tested using competing hypotheses, alternative analysis, and peer challenge. Participants are required to defend, revise, and refine their positions as new information lands and competing interpretations emerge. The day closes with a short product draft.

#### TOPICS

Creative thinking · Devil's advocacy and red teaming · Finalisation of analysis · Short product draft

## 05

DAY / 05

### Defending the Judgement

*Briefing, persuasion, and standing behind your analysis.*

On the final day, participants prepare and deliver a formal decision-maker briefing. The focus is on clarity, defensibility, and confidence under pressure — ensuring analysis can be explained, justified, and acted upon. The course closes with a final product review.

TOPICS Completion of group work · Final briefing · Final product review · Course conclusion

#### OUTCOME

Participants leave able to apply structured analytic techniques under pressure, counter the biases shaping their team's products, and defend an assessment to a hostile decision-maker.

#### FOR TEAMS

Bookings of five or more from one organisation include a tailored capstone scenario built around your team's current operating priorities.

#### REGISTER

**Early-bird pricing closes 30 June.** Cohort capped at 30. Register or request a tailored briefing at [intelligencerising.com/events](https://intelligencerising.com/events).