

auDA 2026 Elected Director Ballot – Candidate Information

Name	Kate Hughes	Insert photo
State	Victoria	
Candidate statement	<p>I am standing for election to the auDA Board because strong, independent governance is fundamental to safeguarding the integrity, resilience and public-interest value of Australia's .au domain in an increasingly complex and heightened risk environment.</p> <p>I have more than 25 years of governance, risk, resilience and regulatory oversight experience. I held Chief Risk Officer roles at Telstra, RMIT University, Pacific Brands and AWB. These roles enhanced and embedded my deep commercial experience in organisations navigating disruption, complex operational environments and heightened regulatory and public expectations.</p> <p>As Chair of ClinicTech, a small med-tech company, I also bring contemporary insight into AI-enabled service delivery, digital ethics and the governance of emerging technologies which are commercial capabilities that will be increasingly important to auDA's future.</p> <p>I currently serve on Commonwealth, State and commercial boards and chair several Audit & Risk Committees, with a strong record of independent judgement, public-interest stewardship and constructive engagement with diverse stakeholders and industries.</p> <p>I bring a fresh clear-eyed and independent perspective shaped by my stewardship of complex organisations through transformation, disruption and heightened regulatory and community expectations.</p>	



	<p>If elected, I will bring a disciplined and independent focus on member value and support to auDA's continued evolution as a trusted steward of the .au domain.</p> <p>To ensure my full capacity for this role, I am willing to step down from two existing board positions.</p>
Board experience	<p>My current board portfolio spans Commonwealth, State and listed entities, and includes chairing both Audit & Risk and People & Culture committees.</p> <p>My current and past roles include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australian Maritime Safety Authority• Australian Prudential Regulation Authority• Department of Health• SkyCity Entertainment• ClinicTech• SuniTAFE• Lower Murray Water Corporation• Department of Justice and Community Safety• Department of Transport• VicRoads• Comcare
Career summary	<p>I am a respected board director and former Chief Risk Officer with more than 25 years' experience leading governance, risk, resilience, regulatory compliance and organisational integrity across nationally significant, technology-enabled sectors. I am highly regarded for my inclusive, pragmatic and common-sense approach to my governance and oversight responsibilities.</p> <p>My career spans telecommunications, tertiary education, financial services, agribusiness, FMCG and government, including senior regulatory roles at ASIC and NSW Treasury. I have overseen governance of critical infrastructure and essential services, stewarded policy and regulatory frameworks, and provided independent oversight of operational, technology and strategic risks for complex and global organisations.</p> <p>I held executive leadership roles at Telstra, RMIT University, Pacific Brands and AWB, where I built enterprise-wide assurance functions, led crisis and resilience capabilities, governed major technology</p>



	and infrastructure programs, and strengthened compliance cultures in high risk environments.
Academic qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bachelor of Commerce (Economics and Finance)• Graduate Diploma in Applied Finance• Graduate Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety• Graduate, Australian Institute of Company Directors
Appointments, awards, other	N/A