Media Release

APIGA Australia returns in 2026 to empower future leaders of internet governance

1 September 2025

auDA's Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy Australia (APIGA Australia) will return in February 2026 to develop the next generation of leaders in internet governance.

Internet governance is the development and use of the principles, rules and procedures that shape how the internet evolves – and how we want it to shape our society.

APIGA Australia is a three-day leadership program that equips young Australians with the knowledge, skills and networks to engage meaningfully in internet governance.

The 2026 program will be the second iteration of the youth academy, following a successful pilot program in 2024.

auDA CEO Bruce Tonkin said, "APIGA Australia plays an important role building a diverse pipeline of emerging leaders to support the future of internet governance in Australia and the Asia Pacific region."

"APIGA Australia provides a unique opportunity for young people to explore how the internet is governed and how they can positively impact the internet ecosystem.

"After the success of the 2024 program, we're excited to welcome a new cohort in 2026 and help foster Australia's voice in the global internet governance landscape."

Participants will learn from global and local experts, engage in hands-on sessions and join an ongoing peer network with fellow emerging leaders.

Top participants will be invited to represent Australia at the prestigious regional APIGA program in South Korea later in 2026.

Applications are now open and close at 5pm on Tuesday 30 September 2025 (AEST/UTC+10).

For more information and to apply for APIGA Australia visit www.apiga.au.

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Note to media:

APIGA Australia 2026 will take place in Melbourne over 10–12 February 2026. The program is open to Australian residents aged 18–35, from technical and non-technical backgrounds.

A limited number of places are available for participants who are citizens of Pacific Island nations or territories and live in the region (not including New Zealand).

All selected participants will receive a full fellowship covering travel, accommodation and meals.

Full eligibility criteria and program details are available on the APIGA Australia website: www.apiga.au.

APIGA Australia is hosted by auDA and is the local chapter of the regional Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy (APIGA) hosted annually in South Korea by the Korean Internet & Security Agency (KISA) and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). The program is delivered with the support of ICANN and other partners.

For further information:

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About auDA:

.au Domain Administration Limited (auDA) is the trusted administrator of the .au domain name system (DNS), which is Australian critical infrastructure, supporting more than 4 million .au domain names. auDA is a not-for-profit, community-based organisation, endorsed by the Australian Government to innovate and invest in the Australian internet ecosystem to improve the utility of the .au domain for all Australians. Through its steady stewardship of the .au domain and support of internet governance through multi-stakeholder decision making, auDA strives to ensure the internet remains open, free, secure and global.

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