

## Media Release

# auDA grants \$2.5m to protect DNS from quantum risk and vulnerable Australians from scams

15 July 2025

auDA is pleased to award \$2.5 million over three years (2025–2028) for research and development (R&D) grant funding for two projects to safeguard the encryption used by the Domain Name System (DNS) against the threat of quantum computing, and reduce the impact of scams among people with cognitive disability.

The two projects were selected from a competitive application process and each impressed the assessment panel with their innovative, multi-stakeholder approach to improving how people access and benefit from the internet. The projects are:

- **Safe transition to a quantum-safe DNS**

Increasing computational power made possible by quantum computers requires new encryption approaches to support the continued resilience of the global DNS.

Led by Deakin University, in partnership with CSIRO-Data61 and QuintessenceLabs this project seeks to identify, implement and evaluate modifications to the encryption used in Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC), aiding the transition to a quantum-safe DNS while maintaining operational reliability.

- **Enhancing digital inclusion through strengthening vulnerable Australians' resilience to cyberscams**

Monash University together with the National Anti-Scam Centre, Westpac, QUT, Brain Injury Matters and disability consumers will develop prevention and support strategies and resources to help people with cognitive disability, such as brain injury, intellectual disability, or dementia avoid and recover from online scams.

The project will strengthen frontline responses for cyberscam victims, conduct a national trial of a co-designed support program for victims, and distribute free education material nationwide, empowering people with disability to participate more securely online.

**auDA Chair, Alan Cameron AO said,** “auDA’s Research and Development Program focuses on making a positive impact for internet users by strengthening the DNS and digital inclusion, and



supporting internet governance. auDA is pleased to support Deakin, Monash and their research partners to boost the security of the DNS, and help protect vulnerable Australians affected by cyberscams.”

**auDA CEO Bruce Tonkin said,** “The two auDA supported R&D projects will make a direct and meaningful contribution to the future security and stability of the DNS and support vulnerable Australians to recover from and protect themselves from online scams. I congratulate the research teams in their successful applications and look forward to the immense benefit these projects will bring to Australians.”

**Deakin University Chief Investigator Professor Robin Doss said,** “We acknowledge the support from auDA, which will enable us to proactively address the critical challenge of strengthening the resilience of the Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNNSEC) against quantum threats – providing greater confidence in the trustworthiness of the global Internet for industry, business, and the broader community.”

**Monash University Chief Investigator Dr Kate Gould said,** “Scams have significant financial, emotional and social impacts on Australians. Anyone can be scammed, but people with cognitive disabilities are particularly vulnerable. Funding from auDA will enable leading research to enhance Australia’s prevention, disruption and response to scams, ensuring safer internet participation.”

The inaugural grant round of auDA’s R&D Program was announced in August 2024. The Program is part of auDA’s [Public Benefit Program](#), designed to unlock positive social and economic value for Australians from the internet. Since 2006 auDA has supported research and innovation, funding over 185 community projects that contribute to improving the utility of the internet for all Australians.

#### **Note to media:**

auDA will contribute \$1.047 million to Deakin University’s Safe transition to a quantum-safe DNS project and \$1.5 million to Monash University’s Enhancing digital inclusion project, delivered over three years.

#### **About the lead researchers:**

##### **Professor Robin Doss – Deakin University**

Professor Robin Doss is the Director of the Deakin Cyber Research and Innovation Centre (Deakin Cyber) and a globally recognised expert in system security. At Deakin Cyber, he leads a multidisciplinary team of researchers working with industry, business and government to advance cyber security technology, strategy, policy and governance. He is a multi-award winning innovator and recipient of the 2019 AISA Cyber Security Researcher of the Year award. He was a founding researcher of the \$140M Cyber Security Cooperative Research Centre (CSCRC), leading Deakin University’s participation in the consortium and providing scientific leadership to



the CSCRC's research theme on the 'Development of Next Generation Authentication Technologies'.

### **Dr Kate Gould – Monash University**

Dr Kate Gould established the CyberAbility project in 2014 to conduct innovative and co-designed research solutions in cybersafety for people with cognitive impairment. Dr Gould harnesses expertise through her work as a clinical neuropsychologist focussing on neurorehabilitation, and as a Monash University Senior Research Fellow within the Monash-Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre (MERRC). Her empirical research has a highly translational focus and features strong community partnerships to improve the lives of people with brain injury. Dr Gould is a Deputy Vice Chancellor's Research Talent Accelerator Fellow, leads two professional training clinics at Monash University, and is host of the Relentless Optimism podcast.

### **For further information:**

Rebecca Papillo, Director, Media and Communications, auDA  
M. 0428 168 540 / E. [rebecca.papillo@auda.org.au](mailto:rebecca.papillo@auda.org.au)

### **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 interoperable.

Follow auDA on social media for the latest domain and internet industry updates:

- [Facebook](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [X](#)