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auDA

Email: policies@auda.org.au

Internet Australia, a national Chapter of the Internet Society, appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on auDA's Draft Engagement Charter and its Draft Conduct Complaints Policy.

Internet Australia is a non-profit society founded in 1996, which promotes the Internet development in Australia for the whole community. Internet Australia is a chapter of the worldwide Internet Society and is a peak body organisation, representing the interests of Internet users in Australia. Internet Australia represents the interests of end users of the Internet, and includes smaller providers of Internet access.

Internet Australia supports the draft Conduct Complaints Policy for its detailed provisions to ensure that public complaints will be fairly and quickly responded to and address issues raised by the complaint.

Internet Australia generally supports the draft Engagement Charter, with the following two comments. The first relates to ensuring the ongoing independence of the Nominations Committee (NomCom) in its selection of Board members. Currently, two auDA Board members are also members of the NomCom. While they can add to the NomComm's understanding of auDA, any further cross-membership potentially undermines the independence of the NomCom and should be avoided.

Recommendation: We recommend that the existing text under Governance should be amended to read: 'A **demonstrably** independent process for appointing directors.

The second relates to auDA's Core Functions, which include advocating for and actively participating in 'multi-stakeholder internet governance processes both domestically and internationally.' auDA is also playing an increasingly important role in the education, growth and sustainment of the Internet community both domestically and internationally. Specifically, that includes its important role in the involvement of civil society in discussions on Internet governance including its ongoing support for the auIGF.

Recommendation: Consider strengthening auDA's Core Functions to recognise its increasing role in the education, growth and support for the Internet Community both domestically and internationally.

Holly Raiche

Chair, Policy Committee
Internet Australia
Secretary@Internet.org.au