

Annual Report 2025-26

auda.org.au

Celebrating 40 years of .au,
Australians' trusted online address.





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In the spirit of reconciliation, auDA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We also acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' commitment to innovation and technology over many millennia, a commitment we deeply respect and share.



auDA's 2025-26 Annual Report



The .au Domain Administration Limited (auDA) Annual Report provides an overview of our activities and performance across our core functions and strategic objectives in the financial year. It covers the activities of auDA, its subsidiaries, the auDA Foundation charitable trust and trustee the auDA Foundation Pty Ltd over the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. It focuses on delivery and performance against our core functions and 2026-30 Strategy and highlights our work across the year delivering benefits for Australians through the internet.

The 2025-26 auDA Annual Report celebrates 40 years of .au, a milestone reached on 5 March 2026.

The auDA Board is active in the preparation and review of the auDA Annual Report, providing input and feedback in August and September. The Board approved the Report at the October 2026 Board meeting.

auDA's Annual Financial Report, found on page 87, complies with the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) and Australian Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

Integrated Reporting

The Integrated Reporting Framework promotes a comprehensive approach to report on an organisation’s operations. It focuses on matters that are most important to stakeholders. auDA uses Integrated Reporting to describe how we create value through our activities and resources.

On this page, we explain key Integrated Reporting terms to help readers understand our report.

auDA's key resources

The Integrated Reporting Framework refers to six capitals, which are resources organisations use to create value.

In this report, we have adapted the terms used in the Framework to describe the capitals for the auDA environment.

Integrated Reporting term	auDA term
human capital	our people
social and relationship capital	our multi-stakeholder community
manufactured capital	our infrastructure
intellectual capital	our expertise
financial capital	our finances
natural capital	our environment

Value over time

The Integrated Reporting Framework asks organisations to consider and report on how value changes in the short, medium and long term. In auDA's 2025-26 report, we consider:



Integrated Reporting key terms

Integrated thinking:

A way of thinking that supports our decision-making, taking into account financial and non-financial resources

Inputs:

The resources that support our work

Outputs:

The infrastructure, products, services and programs we produce and maintain

Outcomes:

The consequences of our work and outputs. Outcomes include the value we create and impacts from our activity

Material themes:

What our external and internal stakeholders deem the most important – or material – issues for auDA

Strategy:

Where we concentrate our efforts to achieve our goals

Value creation:

How we manage our resources to create sustainable value for our stakeholders over time.

Icons used in this report

Key resources



Our people



Our expertise



Our finances



Our multi-stakeholder community



Our infrastructure



Our environment

Material themes



Reliable infrastructure



Licensing rules, compliance and dispute resolution



Technological innovation



Cyber security and domain name system (DNS) abuse



Representing .au in the public interest



Consumer protection



Governance and transparency



Financially sustainable not-for-profit



Internet governance



Stakeholder relationships

From the Chair

I am pleased to present auDA's 2025–26 Annual Report to auDA members and stakeholders on behalf of the auDA Board.

This financial year, we celebrated 40 years of .au. Since it was established in 1986, .au has evolved into an essential component of Australia's communications infrastructure, supporting Australians to connect, communicate and participate in the digital economy and society.



Marina Go AM,
Independent Chairperson,
auDA Board

Today, more than 4.3 million .au domain names provide Australian businesses, organisations and individuals with a trusted and recognisable online identity.

I joined auDA as Chair in November 2025, at the beginning of an important chapter for the organisation. The 2025–26 financial year marked the first year of auDA's 2026–30 Strategy, which sets out auDA's purpose to connect Australians to an open internet with trust and confidence.

Throughout 2025–26, auDA maintained the secure and reliable operation of .au while commencing an ambitious program of work to deliver its new strategic priorities. This included establishing auDA's new Innovation unit, supporting DNS and internet governance capacity in

Australia and the Pacific region, and developing internal capability to respond to a rapidly changing operating environment.

During this time, key focus areas for the Board included monitoring the delivery of auDA's core functions, progress against strategic objectives and compliance with new legislative requirements under the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* (Cth). The Board also oversaw a refreshed enterprise risk approach and the .au Licensing Rules Review, led by an external Policy Advisory Panel appointed by the auDA Board. The Panel's work is vitally important to gather feedback from the Australian community on the .au Licensing Rules and how they can be strengthened to better serve the community to improve trust and confidence as digital technology evolves.

The Panel commenced consultation on the .au Licensing Rules in September 2025 and provided its Draft Report to the Board in June 2026. The review continued into financial year 2026–27, and the Panel shared its Final Report to the Board in August 2026. I extend my thanks to the Panel for its consultation and thoughtful consideration of community feedback.

Today's operating landscape requires auDA to navigate evolving technology, increasingly sophisticated cyber threats, changing Government regulation and geopolitical uncertainty.

In response, auDA continues to strengthen its people, systems and partnerships, and maintain prudent financial management to continue delivering for the benefit of Australians. The auDA Board recognises the importance of maintaining robust governance in this environment and

remains committed to upholding transparency and accountability to members, stakeholders and the wider Australian community.

I thank my fellow Directors for their insight and stewardship throughout the year, as well as Alan Cameron AO, who stepped down from the auDA Board after six years as Chair. Under Alan's stewardship, auDA enhanced its governance framework and built a strong foundation for the organisation's future. My thanks also to Bruce Tonkin and the auDA team for their work throughout 2025–26 delivering a trusted .au and progressing the organisation's strategy. Finally, I acknowledge our .au members, registrars, registrants and stakeholders, whose expertise, participation and commitment to .au and auDA strengthen our work and the value we deliver.

As we look ahead, the Board will remain focused on delivery of auDA's strategy, effective management of emerging risks and opportunities, and maintaining the trust placed in auDA as steward of .au, connecting Australians with trust and confidence online and building lasting value through .au.



From the CEO



Bruce Tonkin,
auDA Chief Executive Officer

The .au domain was established on 5 March 1986 by Robert Elz at the University of Melbourne. Four decades later, .au is critical communications infrastructure and a trusted online identifier for Australians.

Throughout the year, auDA maintained the secure and reliable operation of .au, working with registrars and key stakeholders to strengthen its security and integrity. The administration of the .au Licensing Rules was also a significant focus. The auDA team supported the external Policy Advisory Panel's Review of the .au Licensing Rules, providing secretariat support and promoting opportunities for auDA members, stakeholders and the public to provide feedback to the Panel. The Review concluded in the first quarter of the 2026-27 financial year, with the auDA Board approving in principle all recommendations in the Panel's Final Report.

Another ongoing focus in 2025-26 was continuing to invest in our public impact work. Through our Public Benefit Program, we funded initiatives across Australia to support under-served communities online. We strengthened internet governance capability by hosting the second Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy (APIGA) Australia and launching the auDA Internet Governance Fellowship, both of which help develop the next generation of internet governance and DNS experts.

During the year, auDA celebrated 40 years of .au, recognising the people and organisations who have shaped .au, and our shared responsibility to ensure it remains trusted, secure and reliable for the future.

We closed out the financial year with more than 4.3 million .au domain names for the first time. Registrations grew 2.6% in the year to 30 June 2026 with almost 620,000 new .au domain names registered in the period, demonstrating the ongoing value of .au to the Australian community.

Alongside this milestone, we focused on delivering the first year of our 2026-30 Strategy and upholding our purpose, to connect Australians to an open internet with trust and confidence.

We also continued to advocate for an open and interoperable internet at local, regional and global internet governance forums.

In June 2026, we established a new Innovation unit and welcomed Glenn Wightwick as Chief Innovation Officer. Innovation is a core pillar of our 2026–30 Strategy and will strengthen our ability to explore emerging opportunities from new technologies such as AI, improve the utility of .au and support the ongoing financial sustainability of auDA. Further developing the capability of our people is another focus area, to support auDA to be nimble and resilient in a constantly evolving operating environment.

The year brought further leadership transitions. Thank you to Alan Cameron AO whose judgement, experience and commitment during his time as auDA Chair helped guide the organisation

through a period of significant change and left the organisation well positioned for our next chapter.

Thanks also to Sophie Mitchell and Jane Smith AM for their substantial contributions during their time at auDA. As Chief Strategy Officer, Sophie helped launch the direct .au namespace, renew and grow auDA's membership, and strengthen stakeholder engagement and international partnerships. As Chief People and Culture Officer, Jane contributed to the growth of auDA's People and Culture function, and the development of the Public Benefit Program and auDA's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

During the year we also farewelled senior staff including Shelley Golden (General Counsel), Jordan Carter (Internet Governance and Policy Director) and Steph Viljoen (Manager Licensing Framework Compliance). My thanks to them for their work in engaging with external stakeholders and improving auDA's capabilities during their time at auDA, and wish them well for their new roles in Australia and overseas.

Finally, thank you to the auDA team, Board, Marina Go AM who joined auDA as auDA's Chair this year, members, registrars and the broader auDA community.



As we deliver the 2026–30 Strategy, I look forward to continuing our work together to ensure .au remains trusted, secure and resilient, and meets the evolving needs of Australian and global internet users.

About auDA

.au Domain Administration Limited (auDA) is an Australian not-for-profit endorsed by the Australian Government to be the self-regulatory policy body for, and administrator of, the .au Domain Name System (DNS). The .au DNS is Australian critical communications infrastructure that supports more than 4.3 million .au domain names.

Established in 1997 by the Australian internet community, auDA was officially endorsed by the Australian Government in 2000 as the administrator of the .au Domain Name System (DNS). auDA's Terms of Endorsement from the Australian Government set out core functions and core principles that require auDA to administer the .au domain for the benefit of all Australians. The Terms are reviewed by the Government every three years with the most recent review completed in March 2025.

auDA also administers .au under an agreement with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the international body that coordinates the internet's naming and numbering systems. auDA has held formal delegation for .au from ICANN since 2001.

We work with our community across the Australian public, .au members, industry, government, civil society and academia to deliver work that is inclusive, consensus-based, transparent and accountable. We engage with our community through multi-stakeholder processes that enable all interested stakeholders to have a voice in developing and refining the rules that determine how we run the .au DNS.

auDA is an Australian public company limited by guarantee with more than 6,000 members. Any person who is 18 years old or over and is eligible for a domain name licence in au is eligible to become a member. There are no fees to become a member. The auDA Constitution governs our operations, including the appointment and duties of our Board Directors, Nomination Committee, Advisory Committees and members.

Our [Terms of Endorsement](#), [ICANN Sponsorship Agreement](#) and [Constitution](#) are available on the auDA website.





Terms of Endorsement from the Australian Government

The core functions set out by Government are to:

- Ensure the stable, secure and reliable operation of the .au domain, as part of Australia's suite of critical infrastructure
- Administer a licensing regime for .au domain names based in multi-stakeholder processes that is transparent, responsive, accountable, accessible and efficient
- Actively advocate for, participate in, and support multi-stakeholder internet governance processes domestically, regionally and internationally.

The core principles set out by Government are:

- Engage with the Australian Government
- Support trust and confidence in .au
- Promote principles of competition, fair trading and consumer protection
- Support fair and transparent multi-stakeholder engagement
- Support a membership structure that reflects the diversity of the Australian community
- Maintain effective governance processes that are transparent, accountable, support effective decision-making, and promote the interests of the Australian community.

auDA Board Directors

auDA's operations and strategy are guided by our Board of Directors.

During the financial year the auDA Board farewellled Chair Alan Cameron AO and Wendy Thorpe OAM who stepped down from the Board in November 2025. Alan served as Chair

of the auDA Board from 2019 to 2025. Wendy served as Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee. We thank Alan and Wendy for their contributions during their time on the Board.

Read more about auDA's Board on page 88.



Marina Go AM

Appointed Director and Independent Chairperson
Appointed 20 November 2025.



Sandra Davey

Elected Director
Elected 15 November 2019, appointed 16 November 2022, elected 20 November 2025.



Peter Elford

Elected Director
Appointed 15 November 2019, reappointed 16 November 2022, elected 15 November 2023.



Brett Fenton

Appointed Director
Appointed 19 November 2024.



Dr Sarv Gira

Appointed Director
Appointed 20 November 2025.



Sandra Hook

Appointed Director
Appointed 16 November 2022, reappointed 20 November 2025.



Claire Rogers

Elected Director
Elected 19 November 2024.



Thu-Trang Tran

Appointed Director
Appointed 15 November 2023.



Michael Trovato

Elected Director
Elected 16 November 2022, re-elected 20 November 2025.



Tina Wyer

Appointed Director
Appointed 19 November 2024.

auDA Executive Team

auDA's Executive Team manages operations at auDA and is led by CEO Bruce Tonkin. Each Executive contributes to the effective functioning of auDA and achievement of our core functions and strategy.

During the financial year, we farewelled two auDA Executives. In June 2026, we farewelled Sophie Mitchell, auDA's Chief Strategy Officer who joined auDA as Chief Communications Officer in 2021.

During her time at auDA Sophie made significant contributions to building auDA's relationships, strengthening its reputation and supporting trust in .au.

In December 2025 we farewelled Jane Smith AM, who joined auDA as Chief People and Culture Officer in 2023. As Chief People and Culture Officer Jane supported notable growth in auDA's people and culture function and in the Board advisory committees.



Bruce Tonkin
Chief Executive Officer

Bruce leads the organisation and Executive Team. He is responsible for the overall operation and governance of auDA. Bruce previously served as auDA's Chief Operating Officer from 2018 to 2024.



Sharon Copeland-Smith
Chief Operating Officer

Sharon leads the Operations Team. She is responsible for Information Technology (IT), security and administration of the .au Licensing Framework and Internet Governance. She oversees the stable, secure and reliable operation of the .au domain.



James Shady
Chief Financial Officer

James leads the Finance Team. He is responsible for the effective financial management of auDA's financial resources, sustainability and risk management



Glenn Wightwick
Chief Innovation Officer

Glenn commenced at auDA on 1 June 2026, to lead auDA's innovation program of work. He is responsible for auDA's innovation strategic pillar, product development, and the auDA Public Benefit Program.

Celebrating 40 years of .au



In 2025-26 auDA celebrated 40 years of .au. Established on 5 March 1986, over the past 40 years .au has grown to become a recognisable marker of trust online for Australians and Australian organisations. Today, the role of .au is more important than ever, providing a stable foundation for innovation and emerging technologies to support Australia's digital future.



The Australian Government officially endorsed auDA as the administrator of .au

auDA was established by the Australian internet community, with the aim to administer the .au domain and support its reliable operation.



1986

The .au domain was created. Management was delegated to Robert Elz at the University of Melbourne, by Jon Postel at the University of Southern California.



1997

2000

.au reached 1 million registrations

1 million

2002

2007

auDA began accrediting .au registrars, marking the beginning of the competition model which remains in place.



40 years of .au, with over 4.3 million domain names registered and .au a marker of trust online for Australians

4.3 million

.au direct

On 24 March, Australian's newest .au domain namespace launched with .au direct (forexample.au)

2022 2026

2013-14

auDA introduced the Information Security Standard to improve registrar security and deployed DNSSEC to increase security of .au



Year at-a-glance

Operations

4,387,430 .au domain names
+ 2.6%

30,842 Compliance audits
+ 37%

100% Availability for .au DNS service

> **.au Licensing Rules Review** Draft Report published

> **CIRMP** (Critical Infrastructure Risk Management Plan) annual report submitted to the Department of Home Affairs

Engagement

6,587 .au members
+ 13%

39 Graduates from APIGA Australia 2026

\$750,000

Awarded to 15 Community Grant Program projects

\$573,500

Awarded to .au registrars under the auDA Co-Marketing Program

Variations are year-on-year

People

69 Staff
51% men, 49% women

94% Staff using AI to support productivity

100% Leadership team completed leadership training

> **Chief Innovation Officer** appointed

Governance

45% Reduction in net carbon emissions

1 July 2025

Collaborated with peers to host the **Pacific ccTLD Forum** and participated at the **Pacific IGF**

Announced inaugural **R&D Grant Program** recipients

Launched **Digital Lives of Australians 2025**

Completed **ISO 22301 audit** for business continuity

Staff **leadership training** commenced

Announced inaugural **auDA Churchill Fellows**

Announced **.au Licensing Rules Review Policy Advisory Panel** and consultation commenced

Announced incoming **auDA Chair**, Appointed **Board Directors** and candidates for Elected Director Ballot

Participated and presented at **APTLD88**

Participated at and supported **auIGF 2025**

.au member survey

Participated at **Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum**

Hosted Elected Director Ballot **candidate webinar**

Participated at the **ICANN84**

Hosted auDA's annual **Registrar Summit**

auDA **Annual General Meeting**

Announced auDA will host **APTLD91** in Brisbane 2027

.au Licensing Rules Review virtual town hall

1 January 2026

auDA Chief Operating Officer Sharon Copeland-Smith elected to the **APTLD Board**

Announced **2025 Community Grant** projects and hosted celebration event

Participated and presented at **APTLD89**

Hosted **APIGA Australia 2026**

auDA team planning retreat and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation activity

Completed **ISO 27001** audit for information security

.au Licensing Rules Review virtual town halls and workshops in Canberra, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne

40 year anniversary of .au on 5 March 2026

Participated at **ICANN85**

Participated at the **Young Australians in International Affairs National Conference**

Consulted on changes to **edu.au** rules and auDA's **purpose statement**

Announced the inaugural **auDA Internet Governance Fellows**

Published 2026 **Why .au?** report

Sponsored **Tech for Social Justice** conference

Launched the **Build your own website guide**

Glenn Wightwick commenced as **auDA Chief Innovation Officer**

Published the Policy Advisory Panel's Draft Report on the **.au Licensing Rules Review** and phase two consultation commenced

Participated at **ICANN86**

30 June 2026

Our material themes

auDA's material themes are areas our stakeholders consider most important – or material – to auDA's work. They guide how we prioritise resources and deliver our core functions, core principles and Strategy, guide our corporate reporting, and support engagement with our community.

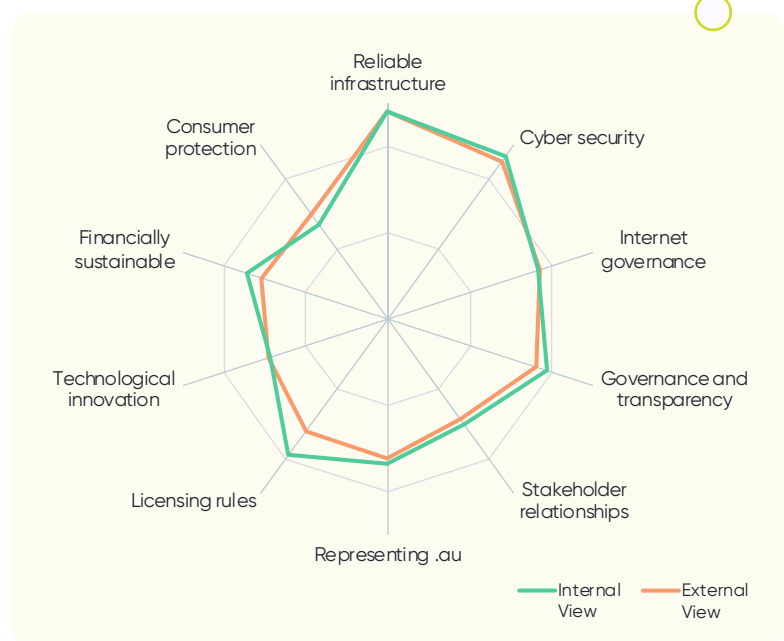
Materiality results show a high level of alignment between internal and external perspectives.

The 2025-26 process is auDA's fourth materiality process. It was conducted by an external provider from January to March 2026. The process included:

1

Materiality survey

.au members, key external stakeholders, and auDA's staff and Board Directors were invited to participate in auDA's materiality survey. Participants were provided a list of themes and asked to indicate which were most important to auDA's work. Seventy-three external stakeholders and 40 internal stakeholders completed the survey.



2

Stakeholder interviews

One-on-one interviews were conducted with 31 internal and external stakeholders. The interviews explored the participants' top three priorities and provided context as to why certain themes were deemed most important for auDA.

3

Materiality results

auDA's top 10 material themes were identified from the survey and were relatively consistent with auDA's last materiality process in 2023-24. There was some movement to the order of themes within the top 10, and "Consumer protection" moved to 10th position, in place of "Community value from the internet".

4

Executive Team and Board briefings

Results from the materiality process were presented to the Executive Team and Board. Insights from the survey and interviews will support auDA's planning and strategic initiatives for 2026-27.

auDA's top 10 material themes in priority order



1

Reliable infrastructure

Maintain reliable .au infrastructure with 100% availability. Australians rely on .au to access applications and services that operate over the internet, including to connect with the community, do business and engage with government services.



2

Cyber security and DNS abuse

Maintain international cyber security standards to support a secure .au domain free from cyber breaches and malicious activity. Take an active approach to drive down DNS abuse and uphold the integrity of .au domain names for internet users.



3

Governance and transparency

Uphold transparent, accountable and responsible corporate governance to maintain the integrity of the .au domain and stakeholder trust in the effectiveness of auDA's operations.



4

Internet governance

Participate in, advocate for and support multi-stakeholder internet governance locally, regionally and globally to ensure the internet remains secure, accessible and globally interoperable. Grow the cohort of Australians participating in internet governance.



5

Licensing rules, compliance and dispute resolution

Uphold transparent, accessible .au Licensing Rules that are applied consistently, with best practice dispute and complaints resolution. Facilitate periodic multi-stakeholder reviews to ensure they reflect community expectations and remain effective over time.



6

Representing .au in the public interest

Represent .au in the public interest, independent of the government, in domestic, regional and international policy discussions on internet governance, regulatory developments and DNS abuse.



7

Financially sustainable not-for-profit

Ensure auDA's financial sustainability as a self-funding not-for-profit through innovation and productivity. Maintain funds for the efficient administration of .au, to invest in innovation and public benefit activity, and respond to unforeseen expenses.



8

Stakeholder relationships

Maintain and build strong relationships and trust in auDA's effectiveness through engagement with the multi-stakeholder community. Uphold transparent, accountable and responsive practices in engagement with stakeholders.



9

Technological innovation

Explore the use of new technologies and approaches, including AI, to ensure auDA's financial sustainability, improve the utility of .au, respond to competition and technology changes that impact the DNS, and continue to meet community expectations.



10

Consumer protection

Enable a secure space for consumers to interact and transact online by promoting competition, fair trading and consumer protection within the .au domain.



Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals to support the end of poverty, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity by 2030.

auDA considers the SDGs in our strategic planning and we contribute to a range of SDGs through our work. Each year we review the SDGs to report on those that we contribute to most meaningfully. These SDGs have been identified through input from our team and our first materiality process in 2022.



SDG 8 /
Decent work and economic growth: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

The .au domain underpins Australia's digital economy and supports Australians online. We contribute to positive economic outcomes for individuals and businesses through our effective management of .au, our research, Public Benefit Program, and public policy and internet governance advocacy.



SDG 9 /
Industry, innovation and infrastructure: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.

The .au DNS is part of Australia's critical infrastructure and an essential enabler for today's digital economy and society. Through our careful management, we ensure it remains stable, secure and reliable. In 2025-26, a new Chief Innovation Officer role was established to drive auDA's innovation strategic pillar, which includes improving the utility of .au. We also support innovation through research and our Public Benefit Program to enhance the value of the internet in Australia, the Asia Pacific and globally.



SDG 10 /
Reduced inequalities: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

We actively advocate for multi-stakeholder internet governance; an inclusive approach that enables all interested stakeholders to participate on an equal footing. We support under-represented groups to participate in internet governance processes, including support for young people in the Pacific to attend APIGA Australia. In 2025-26, we also delivered initiatives under our first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), continued to encourage diversity in .au membership, provide technical support to Pacific ccTLDs, and promote digital inclusion through our Public Benefit Program.



SDG 12 /
Responsible consumption and production: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

auDA aims to be a leading voice on sustainable practices in the domain sector. auDA's Sustainability Framework sets targets to deliver an organisation that is environmentally and socially responsible and influence the domain name sector to become more sustainable. auDA's 2026-30 Strategy sets an objective to achieve net zero carbon emissions in the operation of .au. In 2025-26 we conducted a baseline assessment of our carbon emissions to establish a starting point from which to work on reducing our scope one, two and three emissions.



SDG 17 /
Partnerships for the goals: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

We take a leading role in the Australian internet community and partner with likeminded ccTLD managers from around the world to support ongoing, effective multi-stakeholder internet governance processes. We support and collaborate with organisations at the local, regional and global level to champion an open, free, secure and globally interoperable internet and to sustain the social and economic benefits of the internet.

How we create value

Our resources



Our people

69 staff



Our multi-stakeholder community

- Over 6,000 .au members
- Relationships with government, industry, civil society, academia, domain name registrars, resellers and registrants, technical community



Our infrastructure

Globally distributed .au DNS infrastructure



Our expertise

Expert staff skilled to deliver core functions and strategic pillars



Our finances

- Sustainable financial position
- Public Benefit Program supports digital innovation and inclusion for Australians



Our environment

Sustainability Framework and carbon emission tracking

Value creating activities



Purpose

Connecting Australians to an open internet with trust and confidence.



Vision

.au is the primary online identity for Australian individuals and organisations, supported by a nimble and resilient auDA.



Key activities

- Administer **.au Licensing Framework**
- Operate a secure, stable **DNS**
- Advocate for multi-stakeholder **internet governance** and contribute to Australian **public policy discussions** on regulations that affect internet software and services
- Engage with the **Australian community** and maintain an engaged .au membership
- Support **digital inclusion and innovation**.

Outputs



Our people

All leaders have completed leadership training



Our multi-stakeholder community

- 775 new **.au members** in 2025–26
- Members and stakeholders contributed to **events and consultations** including the .au Licensing Rules Review
- Hosted Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy (**APIGA**) Australia in Feb 2026
- Continued participation in multi-stakeholder **communities and events** including Technical Community Coalition for Multistakeholderism (TCCM), ICANN and Internet Governance Forums (IGFs)



Our infrastructure

100% availability during 2025–26 for **.au DNS, registry and WHOIS**



Our expertise

- Staff trained in responsible use of **AI** to increase productivity
- **Innovation unit** established to support delivery of our Innovation strategic pillar



Our finances

- \$1.7 million **operating surplus**
- Delivered \$1.78 million in **funding** through our Public Benefit Program to support digital inclusion and innovation for Australians



Our environment

Baseline **carbon emissions** established for 2024–25. Emissions reduced 45% in 2025–26 from 2024–25 baseline.

Outcomes

.au is trusted and resilient critical infrastructure that supports the Australian economy and global connectivity.



Input to Australian public policy discussions is valued and auDA provides a voice on the technical realities of internet infrastructure to support effective regulation.



A robust .au Licensing Framework delivers trust and confidence in .au websites and email addresses for Australians and internet users.



.au members provide valuable input to how auDA and the .au operate.



auDA's Public Benefit Program positively impacts our ecosystem and advances digital inclusion and innovation for Australians.



Skilled auDA staff are equipped to deliver for all Australians.



auDA's contributions to internet governance increase support for, and engagement with, the multi-stakeholder model.



Sustainability is built into auDA's operations supporting environmental sustainability.



auDA's Strategy

2026-30 Strategy

auDA's 2026-30 Strategy sets our strategic priorities through to 2030.

The Strategy was approved in June 2025, allowing auDA to commence delivery of a new strategic program of work in financial year 2025-26.

The four pillars under our 2026-30 Strategy support auDA to navigate a rapidly evolving operating environment driven by technical and geopolitical change. The pillars complement auDA's Terms of Endorsement from the Australian Government, and enable the continued stability and resilience of the .au DNS, ongoing innovation and capability building to keep pace with change, and continued impact to deliver positive outcomes in the internet ecosystem.

To facilitate delivery on our strategic objectives, we develop and track progress against an internal operating plan each financial year.

In June 2026, auDA updated our purpose statement, as published in the 2026-30 Strategy, to "Connecting Australians to an open internet with trust and confidence". This followed public consultation and Board approval. The change simplifies auDA's purpose statement to ensure it is accessible, memorable and better expresses auDA's role.

To learn more about auDA's strategic planning process, analysis of our strategic environment and our Objectives and Key Results, [read auDA's 2026-30 Strategy](#).

Long term

Consider potential future risks and opportunities for 2031-44 with reference to our Future Scenarios Project Report and ongoing analysis of our operating environment and technological innovations.

Medium term

Deliver our 2026-30 Strategy; continue to assess and respond to our evolving operating environment through annual internal operating plans that consider emerging risks and opportunities

Short term

Deliver our 2026-27 internal operating plan and strategic objectives

auDA's Strategy over time

In our strategic planning, we consider the short, medium and long term.

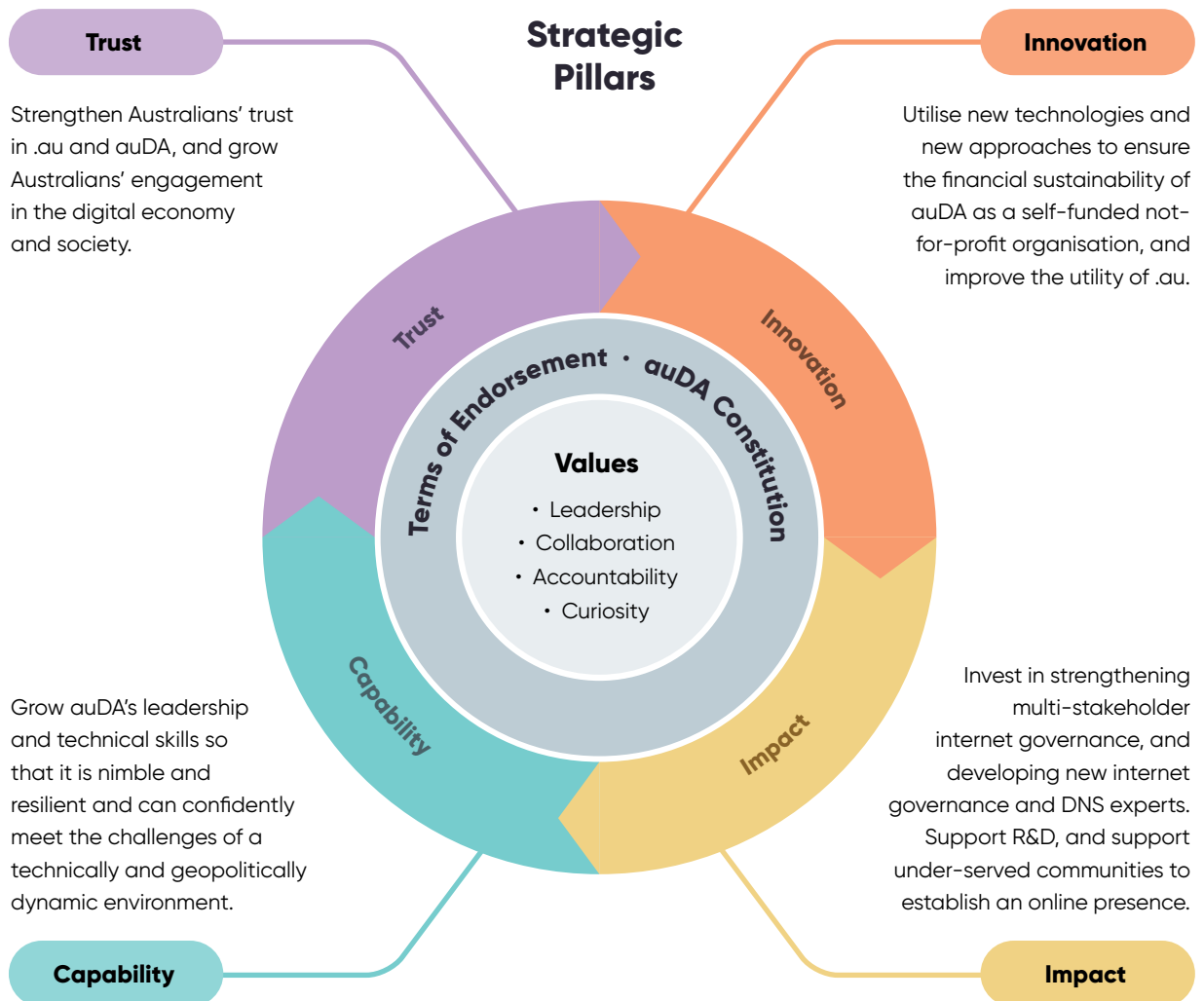
Overview of our 2026–30 Strategy

Purpose

Connecting Australians to an open internet with trust and confidence.

Vision

.au is the primary online identity for Australian individuals and organisations, supported by a nimble and resilient auDA.



Delivering our Strategy

auDA aims to strengthen the value we deliver to our stakeholders through the considered, strategic deployment of our resources – our people, multi-stakeholder community, infrastructure, expertise, finances and environment.

We invest in our resources so they function optimally and help us generate positive outcomes for Australians over the short, medium and long term.

In the 2025–26 financial year changes to our resources included:



Our people

Staff retention fell to 80% in 2025–26 compared to 86% in 2024–25 and our staff engagement survey found engagement of 78% for 2025–26 compared to 77% in 2024–25. As part of the 2026 survey, auDA also introduced a broader eight-question engagement measure to better understand staff experiences. This established a new baseline of 66% engagement for future measurement, which is not comparable to previous engagement survey results. The insights from this expanded survey have informed new initiatives to increase staff engagement and retention in 2026–27.

How they support our Strategy:

- Staff and Board expertise contribute to stakeholder trust and confidence in .au and auDA
- Values and corporate policies guide how we work and support a positive culture.

Read more on page 67.



Our multi-stakeholder community

auDA engaged with our multi-stakeholder community on the periodic review of the .au Licensing Rules, our latest materiality survey, .au member survey and at events and other consultations throughout the year. Our community provides important feedback and insights that enable auDA to deliver on our core functions and support an open, trusted internet for Australians.

How they support our Strategy:

- .au members help us understand and meet Australians' evolving online needs
- We work with the .au domain sector to deliver trusted .au services
- Strong relationships within domestic, regional and global internet policy and governance communities help us support an open, free, secure and interoperable internet
- Endorsement from the Federal Government and our agreement with ICANN enables us to administer .au on behalf of all Australians
- External panels, public consultations and our edu.au Advisory Committee provide independent advice to the auDA Board.

Read more on page 53.



Our infrastructure

auDA continued to strengthen the security and resilience of .au infrastructure and delivered 100% availability of the .au DNS, WHOIS and registry database. In 2026, auDA worked with .au registrars to resolve data incidents related to .au registrations, which you can read about on page 51. auDA took steps to immediately respond to the issues and implement additional measures to protect the data of .au registrants.

How it supports our strategy:

- A reliable, secure .au DNS and registry enables Australians to navigate to .au websites and email addresses so they can engage and do business online
- The .au WHOIS service supports accountability of the .au licensing system
- The auDA Board and Security and Technology Committee provide expert oversight of the stability, security and reliability of auDA's infrastructure.

Read more on page 39.



Our expertise

Guided by our Innovation and Capability strategic pillars, we sought to increase our expertise in key areas during the financial year. We introduced a new Chief Innovation Officer role to support our innovation objectives, delivered leadership training to people managers and emerging leaders, and provided tailored learning and development opportunities for staff.

How it supports our strategy:

- Compliance activity supports trust and delivers low levels of DNS abuse in .au
- Advocacy and active participation encourages improvements in the multi-stakeholder model of internet governance and Australian internet ecosystem
- Robust governance supports transparency and accountability
- auDA's Board and Board Committees provide expert oversight and guidance for delivery of auDA's operations and strategy.

Read more on page 69.



Our finances

In the financial year, we experienced stronger than forecast growth in .au domain names and investment returns. Coupled with ongoing effective cost management, we ended the financial year in a positive financial position. A focus for 2026–27 will be increased investment in Innovation and Impact initiatives to deliver value for Australians.

How it support our strategy:

- Financially sustainable not-for-profit, for-purpose organisation
- Efficient financial management supports the administration of .au and investment in Innovation and Impact initiatives
- auDA's Co-Marketing Program supports a dynamic registrar environment and promotes competition in the .au market
- The auDA Board and the Finance and Audit Committee oversee the prudent management of auDA's finances.

Read more on page 87.



Our environment

In the financial year, auDA began work under our 2025–30 Sustainability Framework, including benchmarking our carbon emissions, introducing sustainability components to our Community Grant Program and improving our waste management practices. We continued to maintain strong governance processes and commenced development of a reporting process for our Sustainability Framework.

How it supports our strategy:

- Focus on sustainability efforts to support our work delivering public benefit and contributing locally, regionally and globally
- The auDA Board and Finance and Audit Committee provide oversight of sustainability activity, guided by our Sustainability Framework.

Read more on page 79.

Our performance

In the first year of the 2026–30 Strategy, auDA delivered our core functions while progressing key strategic initiatives. Our targets for the financial year were achieved or managed within tolerance.

Our performance scorecard provides an overview of progress against key objectives aligned to our core functions and strategic pillars. Measures and targets are approved and monitored by the auDA Board.

In 2025–26, auDA achieved the majority of our performance targets, supporting a stable, secure and trusted .au and material progress of our strategic initiatives.



Under our Trust pillar we continued to strengthen the integrity of .au by validating the Australian presence requirement for new registrations and renewals. Validation of new registrations remained on track, while renewals were managed within tolerance at 93% against a target of 95%. We continue to focus on uplifting renewal validation with registrars to uplift this metric in 2026–27.

Under our Capability pillar, we sought to have 100% of employees using AI to support their productivity. As at 30 June 2026, 94% of employees were using AI.

While slightly short of our target, this is being managed within tolerance. Into 2026–27, we will continue to provide AI training opportunities and identify specific use cases in each functional area to support staff in their work, enabling greater uptake of these tools.

While auDA commenced work under our Innovation pillar in 2025–26, we welcomed Glenn Wightwick as our inaugural Chief Innovation Officer and created an Innovation unit in June 2026. Responsible for delivering initiatives under our Innovation strategic pillar, establishment of this new unit will enable auDA to scale up Innovation strategic activity in 2026–27 and support our 2026–30 strategic objective to ensure the financial sustainability of auDA and improve the utility of .au.

Objective	Key results	Measure	Target by 30 June 2026	Actual	Status
Core function					
Ensure stable, secure and reliable operation of the .au domain	.au DNS continuously available	DNS service availability	100% per month	100%	
Administer a licensing regime for .au domain names based in multi-stakeholder processes	.au domain name space is trusted	Number of proactive audits per month	>1,000	2,570	
		.au names reported and verified for DNS abuse	<100 per month	28	
Advocate for, participate in, and support multi-stakeholder internet governance	Strengthen multi-stakeholder internet governance processes	Licensing Rules Review Panel recommendations	Recommendations delivered by Policy Advisory Panel that have multi-stakeholder support	Panel draft recommendations released for consultation in June 2026	
Strategic pillar: Trust					
Strengthen Australians' trust in .au and auDA and grow Australians' engagement in the digital economy and society.	Raise the trust and integrity of .au domain names	Monthly percentage of new registrations and renewals with validated Australian presence	99% creates	99%	
			95% renewals	93%	
	Diversify membership and grow member engagement	Gender diversity	26% women	25% women	
Strategic pillar: Innovation					
Use new technologies and approaches to ensure the financial sustainability of auDA and improve the utility of .au	Ensure auDA is financially sustainable and improve organisation productivity	Chief Innovation Officer commenced and Innovation unit established in June 2026 to lead Innovation strategic initiatives.			
Strategic pillar: Impact					
Strengthen multi-stakeholder internet governance, develop new DNS and internet governance experts, support R&D and digital inclusion.	Increase the number of Australians skilled and participating in internet governance and the DNS	Number of graduates from APIGA Australia and auDA Fellowships awarded	85 (cumulative)	82	
	Support Australian communities challenged by digital inclusion and concerns about online safety to participate online	Number of people from under-served communities using the online materials funded from the Community Grant Program	50,000 people per annum	157,300	
	Achieve net zero carbon emissions in the operation of .au	Net carbon emissions trend toward zero*	Reductions and offsets equal a 5% reduction	1,435 tCO ₂ e, 45% reduction on 2024–25 levels	
Strategic pillar: Capability					
Grow leadership and technical skills to confidently meet the challenges of our dynamic environment.	Leadership Team members have completed a leadership training program	Percentage of leadership team that have completed leadership training	90% of Leadership Team have completed foundational leadership program	100%	
	AI is integrated into the business, enabling greater productivity	Percentage of employees using AI tools to support productivity.	100% active users	94%	
	Staff rate auDA as a great place to work	Favourable staff engagement survey results	77%	78% (comparative to previous surveys). New baseline 66% based on expanded question set	

* GreenHouse Gases (GHGs) are measured in Tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalents (tCO₂e)

Status: ■ On track ■ Managed within tolerance ■ Outside tolerance



Risk management

auDA's approach to managing risk

auDA takes an organisation-wide risk management approach aligned to ISO 31000 Risk Management Guidelines. Our approach is set out in the auDA Risk Management Framework, which includes how risks are identified, assessed, treated and reported.

auDA's Risk Appetite Statement is approved by the auDA Board and defines the risk tolerance levels the Board is willing to accept in pursuing our core functions and strategic objectives. It supports consistent decision-making and helps us maintain stable and secure operations while pursuing informed innovation, continuous improvement and investment in initiatives that deliver value for Australians.

Key risks are monitored through auDA's Enterprise Risk Register, supported by assurance activity and risk treatment plans managed by auDA Executives. During the financial year, risk treatment plans were reported to the Board twice and to the Security and Technology Committee quarterly, and all enterprise risks were managed within the Board risk appetite tolerance.

The information on the next page sets out auDA's 2025–26 enterprise risks, how we managed those risks in the financial year and how they are shaped by our external environment.



In April 2026, the auDA Board revised its Board Committees and reallocated responsibility for coordinating overall enterprise risk management to the Finance and Audit Committee. The Security and Risk Committee, renamed the Security and Technology Committee, will oversee risks related to Cyber and Information Security, Operational Resilience, Technology and Innovation, and related legal and regulatory risks. The Governance and Culture Committee will oversee

risks related to People and Culture, Reputation and Governance and related legal and regulatory risks. With oversight from the Committees, auDA Executives and senior leaders reviewed auDA's risk approach to ensure it remains fit for purpose. In June 2026, the auDA Board approved the revised Risk Appetite Statement and Key Risk Indicators, which auDA will commence reporting on in 2026–27. More information on Board Committees can be found on page 76.

auDA's external environment and enterprise risks

Administration of .au

auDA's role as administrator of .au depends on continued endorsement from the Federal Government and our agreement with ICANN. Constructive relationships with Australia's multi-stakeholder community underpin our ability to effectively deliver our core functions and strategic objectives.

Risk:

- Loss of confidence by the Federal Government or ICANN leading to withdrawal of auDA's authorisation to operate.
- Inability to engage a diverse stakeholder community leading to reduced confidence in auDA.

Response:

- Delivery of our obligations under the Federal Government Terms of Endorsement and auDA's .au agreement with ICANN
- Robust corporate governance, reporting and assurance
- Regular engagement with Federal Government, ICANN, registrars, .au members, the .au domain name sector and the broader multi-stakeholder community
- Stakeholder and member surveys, advice from Advisory Committees and Panels, and community consultations
- Delivery of auDA's Public Benefit Program to support under-served internet users.

Cyber security and resilience

Technological advancements continue to reshape the cyber threat landscape, with cybercrime reported every six minutes on average in the Australian Cyber Security Centre's Cyber Threat Report 2024-25.

DNS abuse is identified in only 0.0077% of .au domain names at any point in time.

Risk:

Inability to respond to threats to the stability, security and integrity of the domain name ecosystem.

Response:

- Continuous monitoring of new and emerging threats
- Maintain a highly resilient critical domain name system
- Adherence to *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* (Cth) requirements and international information security and business continuity standards
- Ongoing monitoring, testing and evaluation of security defences
- Registrar Security Assurance program to support a secure .au ecosystem
- DNS abuse review program to identify and mitigate DNS abuse in .au
- Robust .au Licensing Rules to minimise misuse of .au domain names
- Security awareness and specialist training for staff and Board Directors
- Robust staff and Director background checks including AusCheck.

Competition and innovation

The global domain name sector returned to modest growth in 2025-26, despite ongoing competition from social media and online marketplaces. AI tools appear to be making it easier for people and organisations to create websites, which is driving recent growth in domain name registrations. On the other hand, mobile phone applications, AI chat interfaces and AI assisted internet search tools place less emphasis on displaying the underlying domain names to end users.

Market research shows Australians prefer and trust .au domain names over other domain options, and the number of accredited .au registrars increased from 30 to 32, indicating renewed market activity after a period of consolidation.

Risk:

Failure to effectively innovate, manage or respond to competition and technology changes that affect the DNS leads to reduced relevance of the DNS for internet users.

Response:

- Chief Innovation Officer appointed to lead auDA's innovation agenda
- Innovation and Capability strategic pillars to guide auDA's ability to respond to change
- National awareness and co-marketing activity to build trust in .au domain names, support registrations and sustain a competitive registrar market
- Multi-stakeholder .au Licensing Rules Review to ensure the policy framework remains fit for purpose
- Ongoing market and *Digital Lives of Australians* research to understand user needs.

Constructive relationships with Australia's multi-stakeholder community underpin our ability to effectively deliver our core functions and strategic objectives.

Market research shows Australians prefer and trust .au domain names over other domain options.

Internet governance

The December 2025 WSIS+20 review reaffirmed the multi-stakeholder model of internet governance and introduced a permanent mandate for the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF). However, the model continues to face pressure for greater government control, especially as governments around the world create inconsistent national laws to regulate the digital economy.

Continued advocacy and investment are needed to strengthen the model's effectiveness.

Risk:

Geopolitical outcomes could lead to a splintered internet with different technical standards and different government regulations, leading to reduced interoperability.

Response:

- Investment in advocacy and partnerships to strengthen multi-stakeholder internet governance
- Leadership in the Australian community to build a shared approach on key issues
- Active engagement in local, regional and global forums, consultations and committees
- Outreach and capability-building programs, including APIGA Australia and Internet Governance Fellowships, to broaden participation and develop future leaders
- Dedicated Internet Governance Team to lead auDA's contribution.

Operational delivery

Rapid advances in AI and other emerging technologies are changing the skills organisations need to deliver effectively.

Due to technological advancements and competitive markets, recruiting and retaining people with specialist technology and security capabilities remains challenging.

Risk:

- Failure to optimise strategic and operational delivery to ensure the efficient achievement of auDA's core functions and objectives
- Failure to sustain a culture where staff feel supported and confident leads to low satisfaction and under achievement of auDA's core functions and objectives

Response:

- Annual operating plans, project governance and capacity planning to align resources with core functions and strategic priorities
- People and Culture policies, auDA values and wellbeing programs to support ability to attract and retain staff
- Annual psychosocial safety risk and controls assessment to support staff wellbeing
- Succession planning, professional development and leadership training to build capability and retain critical skills.





Operations

auDA manages the .au DNS, which is critical infrastructure, and the .au Licensing Framework to enable internet users to connect to .au websites and email addresses with confidence. We focus on trust, security and reliability to deliver .au for the benefit of all Australians.

Strategic pillars and objectives

• Trust

Strengthen Australians' trust in .au and auDA, and grow Australians' engagement in the digital economy and society.

Terms of Endorsement

• Core functions:

Stable operation of .au; administer .au licensing regime

• Core principles:

Support trust and confidence in .au; promote competition and consumer protection

Performance

2,570

Proactive audits per month (average)

Target: >1,000

● On track

● Managed within tolerance

● Outside tolerance

28

.au names reported and verified for DNS abuse per month (average)

Target: <100 per month

99%

Monthly % of new registrations with validated Australian presence

Target: 99% creates

93%

Monthly % of registration renewals with validated Australian presence

Target: 95% renewals

Licensing Rules Review Panel recommendations: Draft recommendations released for consultation in June 2026

Target: Recommendations have multi-stakeholder support

Material themes



Reliable infrastructure



Cyber security and
DNS abuse



Licensing rules, compliance
and dispute resolution

Sustainable Development Goals



SDG 8: Decent work
and economic growth



SDG 9: Industry, innovation
and infrastructure

Key resources



Our people



Our infrastructure



Our expertise

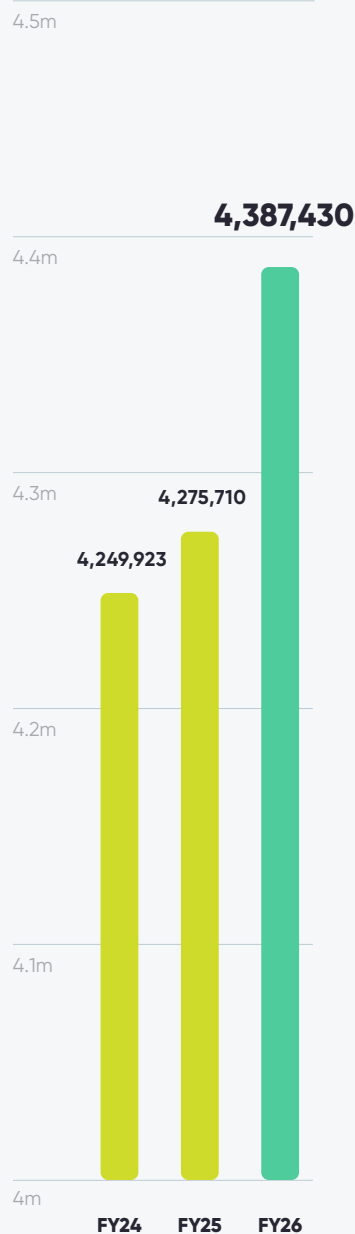
Registrations and registry operations

At 30 June 2026, there were 4,387,430 .au domain names under management, up 2.6% from 4,275,710 at 30 June 2025. During the year, 690,415 new .au domain names were created, an increase of 14.1% on 2024–25 and an average of 57,535 new .au domain names created each month. This aligns to global trends in domain names which saw modest growth in 2025–26 following several years of limited growth. Domain industry insights indicate this may be driven by the emergence of AI tools that enable registrants to quickly and easily build websites, alongside cost-of-living pressures encouraging them to establish side-hustle businesses.

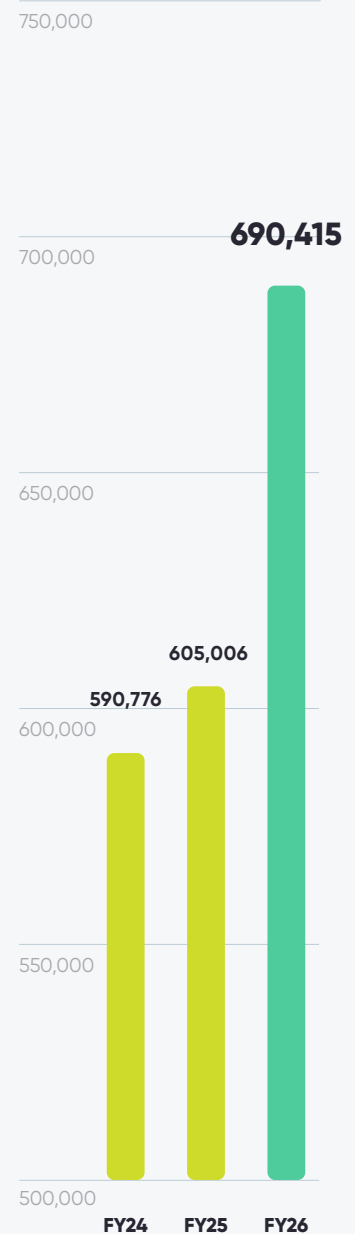
57,535

Average new .au domain names created each month during FY26

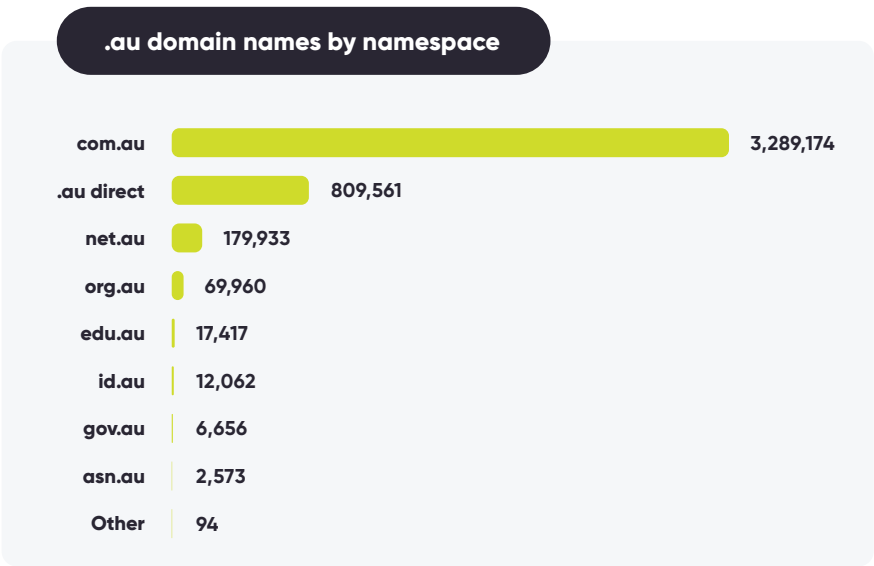
Total .au domain names by financial year



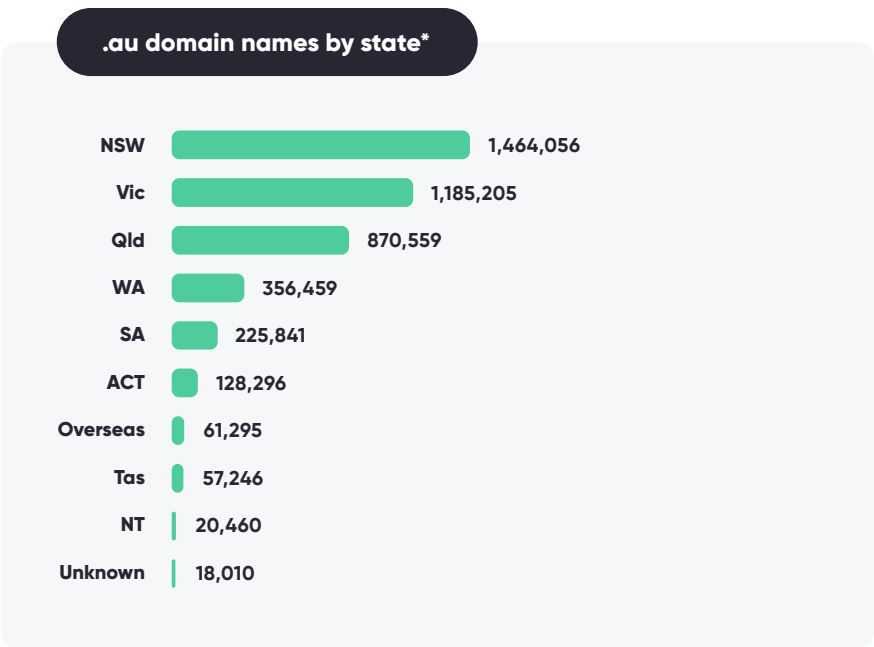
New domain names created by financial year



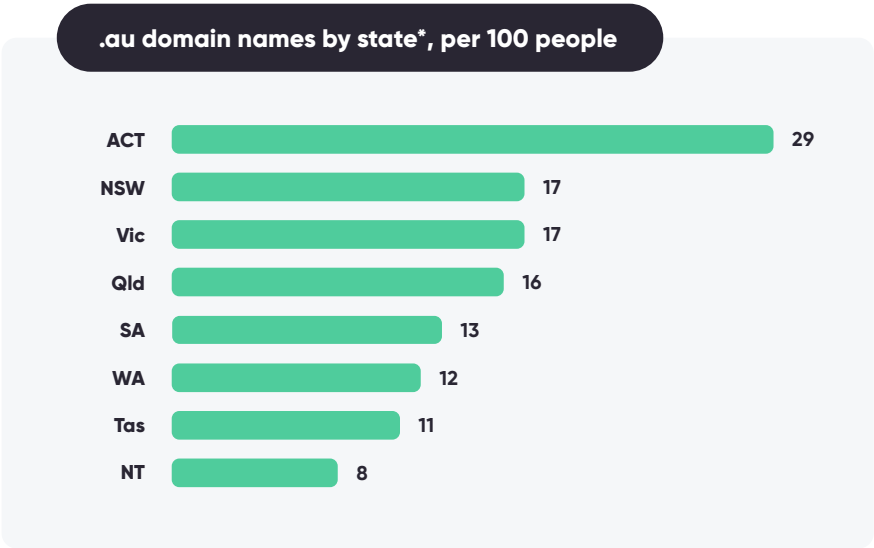
com.au remained the largest namespace comprising 75% of .au domain name registrations, followed by .au direct which grew slightly to 18.5% of all .au domain name registrations.



New South Wales and Victoria remained the largest registration markets, together accounting for more than 2.6 million domain names.



*
ACT – Australian Capital Territory
NSW – New South Wales
NT – Northern Territory
Qld – Queensland
SA – South Australia
Tas – Tasmania
Vic – Victoria
WA – Western Australia



.au DNS traffic – queries per second



auDA works closely with .au registry operator Identity Digital Australia Pty Ltd to deliver reliable .au DNS and registry services.

In 2025–26, we maintained 100% availability of the DNS, WHOIS and registry services, providing stability and reliability for internet users accessing .au websites, email addresses and connected services. The .au nameservers processed an average of 96,650 DNS queries per second, equivalent to 8.35 billion queries each

day, an increase of 27% on 2024–25. DNS query volumes can be influenced by a range of factors, including internet users visiting websites and sending emails and machine-to-machine communications between servers and DNS nameserver settings such as caching policies. The growing use of AI has also become a significant source of internet traffic across the world.

Monthly service level reports are also published on the auDA website.

8.35 billion

DNS queries processed each day, equivalent to an average of 96,650 queries per second

100%

availability of the DNS during FY26



.au Licensing Framework and compliance

auDA administers a licensing regime for .au that is based in multi-stakeholder processes and is transparent, accountable and responsive.

The .au Licensing Framework is made up of the .au Licensing Rules, Registrar Rules and Registrar Agreement, which together set out the rules for registrants and registrars operating in .au.

auDA's compliance activities uphold the .au Licensing Framework to maintain the integrity of the .au domain and promote community trust.

auDA's approach to compliance is set out in our Compliance Posture, which is to communicate and educate our

registrant and registrar community to support understanding of the rules, to guide and facilitate compliance with the rules, and enforce the rules where necessary. Where issues are identified, we work with registrars and registrants to update information, demonstrate eligibility or otherwise resolve non-compliance. Where compliance cannot be achieved or a serious breach has occurred, we take enforcement action to ensure issues are resolved.

.au Licensing Rules Review

auDA periodically reviews the .au Licensing Rules to ensure they remain effective over time, reflect community expectations and continue to support the administration of .au for the benefit of Australians. As part of this periodic review process, in September 2025 the

auDA Board appointed an external Policy Advisory Panel to undertake a multi-stakeholder review of the rules.

The Panel's first consultation phase ran from September 2025 to March 2026. It invited written submissions and held virtual town halls and a series of in-person workshops to enable members of the public to share their views and experiences with the .au Licensing Rules.

Feedback from this engagement informed the Panel's Draft Report, released in June 2026. The report set out the Panel's proposed recommendations for changes to the rules and sought further public input through a second consultation phase. Consultation feedback will inform the Panel's final report, which will be provided to the auDA Board for consideration in August 2026.

Update at October 2026

Completion of the Licensing Rules Review and implementation planning in 2026-27

At its August 2026 meeting the auDA Board resolved to approve the Panel's Recommendations in the Final Report in-principle and directed auDA Management to prepare an Implementation Plan that takes into account the impact of the Recommendations. When prepared, the draft .au Licensing Rules will be published on the auDA website for public consultation, giving stakeholders and the broader community an opportunity to have their say on how the changes give effect to the Panel's Recommendations.

2025-26 compliance activity

Compliance audits

auDA's compliance audit program promotes trust in .au by verifying that registrations comply with the .au Licensing Rules.

In 2025-26, we completed 30,842 audits of .au domain names to ensure compliance with the .au Licensing Rules.

Compliance audits related to:

- **67%** Cancelled Australian Business Numbers (ABN) or deregistered companies with an Australian Company Number (ACN)
- **10%** Missing trustee details
- **9%** Unauthorised business use (using another person's business information without permission)
- **8%** Eligibility
- **5%** Other matters.

Audits were initiated through:

- Checks against registry data and monitoring of registry reports
- Proactive identification of potential DNS abuse
- Complaints or enquiries raised by members of the public.

In 49% of audit cases, the registrant provided updated details to verify their compliance with the .au Licensing Rules. In 41% of cases, the domain name was issued a suspension for non-compliance. The remaining 10% of cases were under assessment at 30 June 2026.

30,842

Compliance audits

Enquiries

auDA received 4,099 enquiries from the public in 2025-26, up 29% from the previous year. Enquiries primarily related to people seeking information or assistance with .au domain names and the .au Licensing Rules. Common topics included cancelled ABNs, domain name renewals, registrant information corrections, registration queries and deregistered companies.

4,099

Enquiries

Complaints

In 2025-26, auDA received 1,354 complaints from the public, down 18% from 1,651 in 2024-25. Complaints can be made by members of the public about .au domain names that they think may not comply with the .au Licensing Rules. The most common category related to alleged unauthorised use of another business's legal information and domain name allocation issues.

1,354

Complaints

DNS abuse reviews*

In 2025-26, auDA assessed 1,213 cases of suspected DNS abuse. Over the year, DNS abuse review cases comprised 57% related to suspected phishing, 22% to suspected malware and 21% to other suspected DNS abuse. Many involved legitimate websites with poor security settings that had been compromised by malicious actors without the registrant's knowledge. Where DNS abuse is confirmed, we work with registrars and affected registrants to address the issue. If the DNS abuse is not resolved in a timely manner, auDA will suspend the domain name in accordance with the .au Licensing Rules.

During the year, in 38% of DNS abuse review cases we determined there was no evidence of DNS abuse under the .au Licensing Rules. In 24% of cases the DNS abuse was resolved after the registrant was able to remedy the abuse. In 18% of cases, we suspended the domain name. For 19% of cases, another outcome was identified or the case had not yet been resolved at 30 June 2026.

1,213

DNS abuse reviews

DNS abuse refers to the following categories of malicious online activity carried out through the DNS:

- Botnets
- Malware
- Pharming
- Phishing
- Spam where the spam facilitates one of the other four categories

* In 2025-26, the DNS abuse review audit category was updated to include only cases from the 25 external threat feeds we monitor daily. Proactive internet searches for non-compliance are now included in the compliance audits category.

If a party to a complaint, enquiry or audit is dissatisfied with auDA's decision, they can request an internal review by a senior auDA staff member who was not involved in the original decision. During the year, 49 cases were referred for internal review. The original decision was upheld in 84% of cases. No cases were referred for external review.

.au Dispute Resolution Policy (auDRP)

auDA maintains a .au Dispute Resolution Policy for resolving disputes between registrants and other parties with an interest in a .au domain name. auDA engages independent providers Resolution Institute and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) to manage auDRP disputes.

In 2025–26, auDA received 71 notifications of auDRP proceedings under the policy, up 31% from 2024–25. At 30 June 2026, 51% of disputes had resulted in the transfer of the domain name to the complainant, 21% had been terminated, 11% had been denied, 6% had been cancelled or dismissed, and 11% remained pending a decision.

71

auDRP disputes

Enforcement body requests

Commonwealth and state agencies and law enforcement bodies can make formal requests to auDA for information or action when they identify potentially unlawful or harmful activity affecting the .au. In 2025–26, auDA received 118 requests from enforcement bodies, up 37% from the previous year.

By sharing information and responding to requests that meet requirements under the relevant laws and .au Licensing Rules, auDA helps protect the integrity, security and trustworthiness of the .au domain.

118

Enforcement body requests

Compliance activity by financial year





Registrar compliance

.au registrars are required to meet a range of obligations under the .au Licensing Framework. Their contributions help us uphold trust and confidence in .au.

When registrar obligations are not met, auDA works with the registrar to address non-compliance and determine appropriate remediation. In 2025-26 one registrar was required to provide an undertaking committing it to remedial action to resolve a privacy breach, and ensure future processes meet the requirements of the .au Licensing Framework.

auDA also works proactively with registrars throughout the year to support their work delivering .au registration services. Our engagement with registrars is set out on page 53.

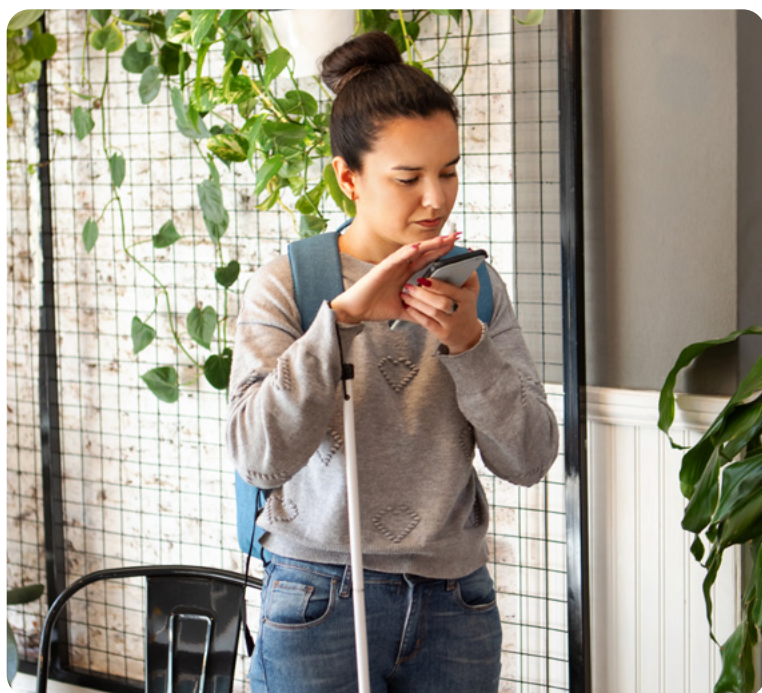
Customer satisfaction

auDA conducts a customer satisfaction survey when closing complaints or enquiries. In 2025-26, 611 people provided feedback with 82% indicating they were satisfied or very satisfied with their experience with auDA and the service they received. This was an increase from 78% in the previous year.

"Diligent, patient and genuinely wanted to help. auDA's speed of response was greatly appreciated."

"Staff really knew their stuff and my issue was addressed promptly and professionally."

Respondents to auDA customer satisfaction surveys in 2025-26.



Achieving our 2025–26 compliance priorities

auDA takes a proactive approach to upholding the .au Licensing Rules and maintaining the integrity of .au. Each year we publish a [Compliance Plan](#) that outlines the key areas of focus for our compliance activity during the year. Our 2025–26 compliance priorities were:

1

Undertake a multi-stakeholder review of the .au Licensing Rules

In 2025–26, auDA's periodic review of the .au Licensing Rules continued, led by an external Policy Advisory Panel. You can read more about the review on page 42.

2

Maintain low levels of DNS abuse in .au

Mitigating DNS abuse is an ongoing focus for auDA and we prioritise activities to address DNS abuse in the .au. We work directly with registrants and registrars to help registrants understand how DNS abuse has occurred and to resolve it. Read more about our approach to DNS abuse on page 43.

3

Targeting registration of domain names using stolen credentials

Identifying domain name registrations that use another party's credentials without authorisation remained a key focus of our compliance audit program in 2025–26. During the year, auDA completed 2,903 audits related to unauthorised use of another business's legal information. This represented 9.4% of all 30,842 compliance audits and a 35% increase on audits related to unauthorised use in 2024–25. Where evidence of unauthorised use is confirmed, auDA cancels the affected licence to protect internet users and maintain the integrity of .au.

4

Undertake a review of the rules governing contested .au direct domain names

In 2022, auDA launched the .au direct namespace. As part of the process, existing registrants could apply to register the exact match of their domain names in .au direct via the [Priority Allocation Process](#). Where there were multiple eligible applications, the domain name is considered contested and placed on hold until there is only one eligible priority application holder remaining.

As part of the 2025 .au Licensing Rules Review, the external Policy Advisory Panel reviewed the rules that govern contested .au direct domain names. All contested .au direct domain name holders were invited to participate in a survey on potential options to resolve contention. The survey results were provided to the Policy Advisory Panel. The Panel also sought feedback during its consultations. More information on the Review is available on page 42.



Security and business continuity

Critical Infrastructure Risk Management Program (CIRMP)

The .au DNS is designated as Australian critical communications infrastructure under the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* (Cth).

Under the Act all organisations responsible for critical infrastructure are required to maintain a CIRMP. auDA's CIRMP outlines how risks to the .au DNS are identified, assessed and mitigated. Each year we provide a report to the Department of Home Affairs' Critical

Infrastructure Security Centre (CISC) that the CIRMP has been updated and approved by auDA's Board.

In 2025–26, we continued to maintain our CIRMP to meet our obligations and uphold .au DNS security under the current threat environment. CIRMP documents are confidential under the Act.



Secure and reliable .au

The auDA Board and staff work to uphold the security and reliability of .au. We regularly assess security and privacy protocols to ensure they remain fit for purpose within our evolving operating and threat environment.

We work closely with stakeholders across the .au domain industry, government and cyber security sectors to identify issues, respond to threats and uphold a robust approach to security and privacy.

auDA continues to implement enhancements to security and privacy across the .au ecosystem. In 2025-26, we responded to two privacy incidents

related to the inadvertent disclosure of registrant data. In April 2026, we became aware personal contact information about certain .au domain name registrants was disclosed by a .au registrar. In June 2026, we identified limited cases where, during the .au registration process, registrants entered personal information in fields intended for public business information and accessible when the domain name was queried on the .au WHOIS service. In both instances auDA took steps to ensure the information was removed from public view and relevant parties were notified, and we took actions to support an uplift in .au registry privacy.

auDA continues to take a proactive approach to assessing data privacy, security and business continuity to align with industry best practice and to address threats as they arise.

How we supported our security and cyber resilience in 2025-26

- Maintained certification for **ISO 22301**, the international standard for Business Continuity Management System (BCMS) following an external audit.
- Maintained certification for **ISO 27001**, the international standard for Information Security Management System (ISMS) following an external audit.
- Regularly held **crisis simulation** exercises to support preparedness and business continuity.
- Participated in **industry forums** on security including the Australian Information Security Association's CyberConnect conference and the Australian Government Critical Infrastructure Security Centre's Critical Infrastructure Security Conference.
- **Mitigated instances of DNS abuse** in the .au domain through a proactive approach to identification and mitigation, outlined on page 43.
- Updated our security activity external **disclosure approach**.
- **Monitored matters related to cyber security** through quarterly meetings of the auDA Board Security and Technology Committee.
- Continued to apply **Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC)**, a security technology that facilitates digital signing of DNS records to ensure the authenticity of DNS information.





Engagement

auDA's engagement with our multi-stakeholder community enables us to deliver on our Terms of Endorsement, achieve objectives under our 2026-30 Strategy and create more opportunities for Australians to benefit from the social and economic potential of the internet.

Strategic pillars and objectives

• Trust

Strengthen Australians' trust in .au and auDA, and grow Australians' engagement in the digital economy and society.

• Impact

Positively impact our ecosystem. Invest in strengthening multi-stakeholder internet governance, and developing new internet governance and DNS experts. We will also support research and development in areas of strategic focus and support under-served communities to establish an online presence.

Terms of Endorsement

• Core functions:

Administer .au licensing regime;
advocate for multi-stakeholder internet governance

• Core principles:

Engagement with the Australian Government;
support trust and confidence in .au; support multi-stakeholder engagement; membership reflects Australian community.

Performance

25% women

Increase membership gender diversity
Target: 26% women

157,300

Number of people from under-served communities using the online materials funded from the Community Grant Program
Target: 50,000 people per annum

82

Number of graduates from APIGA Australia and auDA Fellowships
Target: 85 (cumulative)

- On track
- Managed within tolerance
- Outside tolerance

Material themes



Governance and transparency



Stakeholder relationships



Licensing rules, compliance and dispute resolution



Representing .au in the public interest

Sustainable Development Goals



SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth



SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure



SDG 10: Reduced inequalities



SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

Key resources



Our people



Our multi-stakeholder community



Our infrastructure



Our expertise



Our finances

Engaging with our community

Our .au stakeholders

In 2025–26 auDA engaged with our multi-stakeholder community at local, regional and global levels to deliver a resilient .au.

.au members

Why they matter

.au members are critical stakeholders to auDA and our work. They vote in auDA Board Director elections and at Annual General Meetings, provide insights into the needs of Australian internet users and contribute their views on key matters about .au policies and auDA strategy, supporting our ability to deliver a trusted .au for all Australians.

How we engaged in 2025–26

We connected with .au members at events and webinars, through the monthly member newsletter, and in our .au member and materiality surveys. We shared news and insights and provided opportunities for members to get involved in the future of .au and auDA, including the .au Licensing Rules Review and 2025 Elected Director Ballot.

We also supported member diversity through engagement with innovation hubs, business chambers, women in technology organisations, university student groups and university faculties as part of the auDA Academic Partner Program.

Under our 2026–30 Strategy, we will continue to increase the diversity of members and grow member engagement, including input to .au policies and policy approaches.

.au registrars and resellers

Why they matter

auDA accredited .au registrars provide .au domain name services to the public. They have direct access to the .au registry, facilitate the registration of .au domain names, and contribute to the security and integrity of the .au domain.

Resellers are not accredited by auDA but have agreements in place with .au registrars to offer .au domain name registration services to the public. They facilitate competition in the .au market.

How we engaged in 2025–26

In 2025–26 we continued to liaise with registrars on their compliance obligations, validation practices and security measures. We held regular check-ins with individual registrars, monthly registrar briefings, and the annual .au Registrar Summit in November 2025. The Summit is a key engagement opportunity with registrars, bringing our .au ecosystem together to discuss strategic, operational and policy matters affecting the .au domain and registrar community.

auDA does not engage directly with resellers, however, we provide information through .au registrars and encourage all involved in the .au domain name industry to participate in consultations and engagements we hold.

Domain portfolio holders

Why they matter

Domain portfolio holders register, hold and trade .au domain name licences. They often facilitate domain name licence transfers to business users and are highly active participants in the .au domain name ecosystem.

How we engaged in 2025-26

We held monthly briefings for domain portfolio holders. These briefings are a forum for us to share auDA updates, key information and domain name trends, raise awareness of consultations and for portfolio holders to raise questions and provide feedback.

Government

Why they matter

auDA operates under Terms of Endorsement from the Australian Government. These outline auDA's core functions and core principles in administering the .au domain for the benefit of all Australians.

As critical infrastructure operators, we engage with the government to fulfil our obligations under legislation. We also respond to formal requests from government agencies and law enforcement to improve the security and integrity of the .au domain for internet users, and we contribute to public policy and internet governance discussions.

How we engaged in 2025-26

In the financial year, we engaged with a range of departments, agencies, ministerial and shadow ministerial offices to fulfil our requirements under the Terms of Endorsement and *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* (Cth), to share knowledge on the .au domain and multi-stakeholder internet governance, and contribute to public policy matters relevant to our work.

A representative from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts attended each auDA Board meeting as an observer and to provide an update on relevant government initiatives. A department representative also sits on the auDA Nomination Committee.

Technology and business sectors

Why they matter

The technology community is diverse and contributes to the functioning of the internet. The .au DNS forms just one component of the internet. To support the effective, interoperable functioning of the internet, we engage with organisations across the technology sector, including on technical and policy discussions.

Australian businesses are key users of .au domain names. We engage with peak bodies and small business representatives to ensure small business voices are heard in auDA's work delivering .au and public policy advocacy.

How we engaged in 2025-26

auDA engaged in strategic partnerships, memberships and industry events in 2025-26 to contribute thought leadership, participate in public policy and internet governance discussions, and share knowledge and learn from the technology and business sectors. The technology and business community continually face evolving technical and security challenges, and our engagement in this community is part of how we maintain the knowledge and tools to ensure the continued utility of .au for Australians.

In 2025-26 we participated in events such as the Australian Information Security Association's CyberConnect conference to discuss the opportunities and risks in developing regulation. We also had the opportunity to present to small business organisations on the findings of our *2025 Digital Lives of Australians* report and share useful insights for helping small businesses connect with Australians.

Internet governance community

Why they matter

The internet governance community includes the technical operators, internet governance and advocacy-focused organisations, and other Australian TLD managers. We work with the internet governance community at a local, regional and global level to address shared issues and challenges, advocate for multi-stakeholder internet governance, and contribute to an open, free, secure and interoperable internet.

How we engaged in 2025-26

Over 2025-26, auDA continued to work with local, regional and global internet governance stakeholders.

We engaged with the Australian Government's Internet Governance team to contribute to the local internet governance community and support Australian internet governance in global forums.

The technical community includes the TCCM, APTLD (Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association), CENTR (Council of European National Top-Level Domain Registries), APNIC (Asia Pacific Network Information Centre), ICANN, Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), regional internet registries, other ccTLD managers and gTLD managers. We met with stakeholders from the technical community throughout the year, participating at meetings, events and as representatives on working groups and committees, to progress shared internet governance matters. By taking a leading role in the TCCM, we contributed to a meaningful outcome for the future of internet governance, which you can read about on page 61.

We also hosted and participated at events to support capacity building and engagement such as APIGA Australia, the Australian Internet Governance Forum (auIGF) and the Pacific ccTLD Forum, which you can read about on page 63.

Civil society

Why they matter

Civil society stakeholders include not-for-profit organisations, consumer advocacy groups and individual internet users. We engage with these stakeholders to understand the needs of internet users and to ensure diverse voices contribute to the future of .au and auDA.

How we engaged in 2025-26

We engaged with civil society stakeholders on public policy and internet governance advocacy, as part of our Public Benefit Program and to support innovation and inclusion advancements, on consultations including raising awareness of the .au Licensing Rules Review, and to share findings of our *Digital Lives of Australians* research.

We also asked civil society stakeholders and individual internet users to participate in auDA research including our Digital Lives project and *Why .au?* report. This information helps inform the work we do and our future direction, ensuring the .au continues to deliver benefit to Australians.

In 2026 we were proud to sponsor the Tech for Social Justice conference for the first time. This event aligns to our impact goals as it brings together not-for-profit and technology stakeholders for capability building, upskilling, networking, and exploring how technology can be used to create positive impact.

Academia

Why they matter

Academia stakeholders include think tanks, institutes, universities and research bodies. Engaging with these stakeholders is a key part of our goal to help develop the next generation of DNS and internet governance experts. We also partner with academia stakeholders as we seek to contribute to research and development, deliver our Public Benefit Program, and ensure academic voices have a say in the future of .au and auDA.

How we engaged in 2025-26

In 2025-26 we worked with academic stakeholders as part of our Public Benefit Program and the auDA Academic Partner Program. We also asked academics to participate in our research as a key stakeholder group, which included our *Digital Lives* project, *Why .au?* and 2026 Materiality process.

Academia stakeholders were also involved in internet governance events as part of our efforts to expand knowledge of internet governance and the DNS.

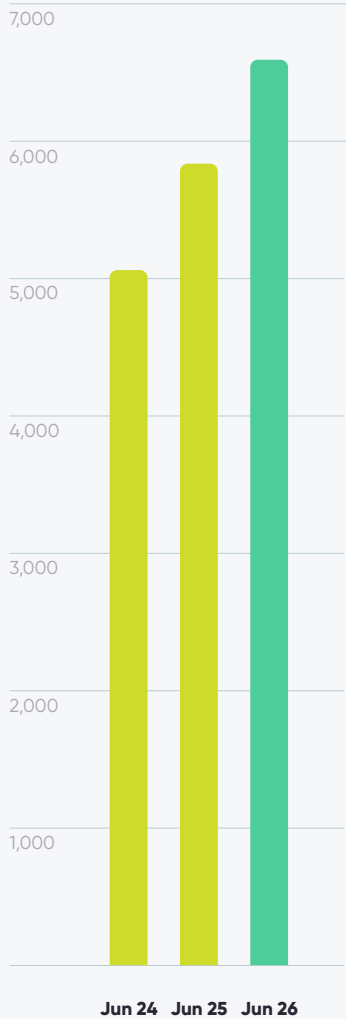
.au members

Through our outreach, .au members grew to 6,587 as at 30 June 2026. We were joined by 775 new members over the financial year.

.au members by state

New South Wales	1,769
Victoria	1,758
Queensland	1,107
Western Australia	516
South Australia	347
Australian Capital Territory	188
Tasmania	100
Northern Territory	46

.au members by financial year



Engaging with .au members and stakeholders in the Northern Territory

In November 2025, the auDA Membership Team visited the Northern Territory (NT) for a three-day program focused on strengthening relationships with current and prospective members, community organisations and government stakeholders.



Sponsoring the NT Digital Excellence Awards.



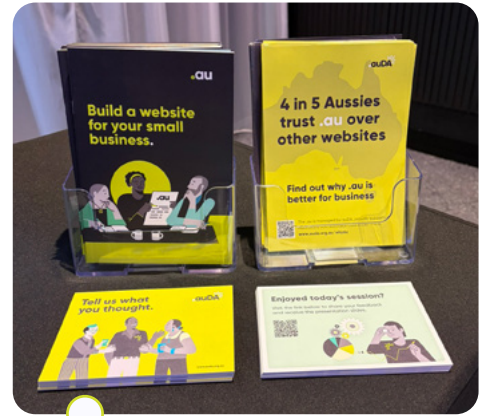
Presenting findings from the 2025 *Digital Lives of Australians* report at an event hosted with Darwin Innovation Hub.

.au members by industry

Technology	1,119
Web development	438
Healthcare	320
Education	243
Marketing/Comms	236
Construction	230
Finance	216
Not-for-profit	211
Manufacturing	170
Telecommunications	147
Did not disclose/other	1,750



Brand, domains, and the power of .au event held in May.



Build a website for your small business guide and *Why .au?* report.

"I would like people to have a better appreciation and understanding of how and why domain management is working so well in Australia and how they can benefit."

Annual member survey

According to our 2025 .au member survey, 73% of respondents said they joined the program to "support the independent administration of the .au domain". Members also indicated that downloadable guides and toolkits (52%) and research, insights and reports (42%) provide value to them as .au members.

The top five most-valued topics identified by members are:

- **35%** Online security
- **33%** Emerging technology
- **31%** Internet governance and technology policy
- **30%** Domain name best practices
- **24%** Small business support.

Informed by the survey results, auDA developed new resources and refined existing resources, making them more accessible for members. This included refreshing the .au member newsletter and improving the member portal to streamline information.

We also provided opportunities for members to join auDA and partner-hosted events, and to contribute to the .au Licensing Rules Review and other consultations, enabling them to support auDA's administration of .au.

"Targeted, relevant information for Australian organisations for legislation and new opportunities has been helpful from auDA, especially when news/media sources are saturated with US or EU regulations/compliance news."

Supporting the .au market

Co-Marketing Program

In 2025-26, the .au Co-Marketing Program awarded a total of \$573,500 in funding to support the growth of, and competition in, the .au domain. The Co-Marketing Program is part of our work to build a diverse, resilient and competitive .au domain market.

We awarded 10 brand activation grants to support the visibility and accuracy of .au information and seven campaign funding grants for marketing campaigns to drive .au registrations.

.au campaign: Aussies get it

In 2025-26 we continued our 'Aussies get it' marketing campaign to promote .au domain names as the foundation of Australian small businesses' online brand. The campaign has contributed to continued growth in .au domain name registrations throughout 2025-26.

Funding awarded
in 2025-26

\$573,500

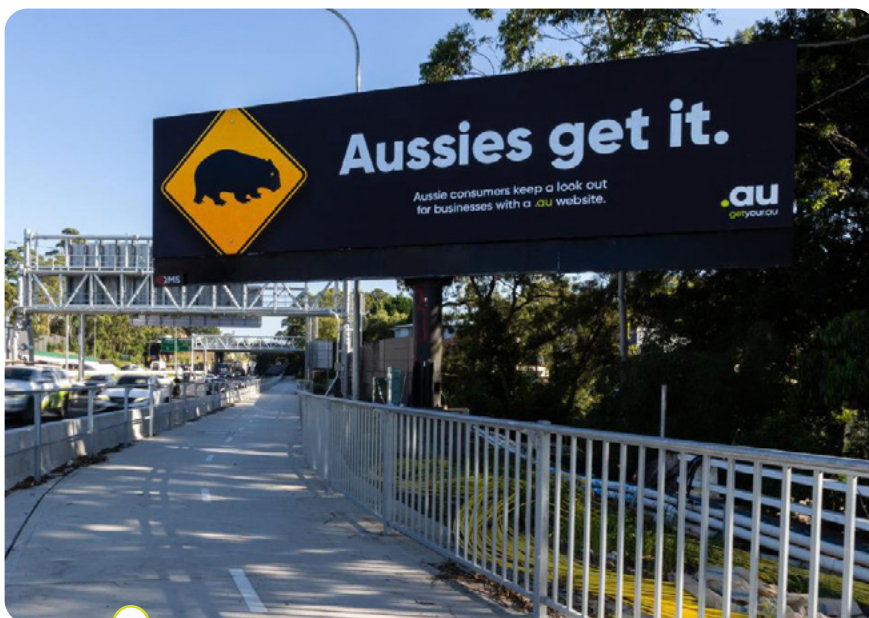
Co-Marketing Grant total

10

Brand activation grants

7

Campaign grants



Aussies get it campaign
out-of-home advertising.

Research and insights

In 2025–26, we released the fifth edition of our *Digital Lives of Australians* and third edition of our *Why .au?* reports.

These research reports help us understand and explore the value .au and the internet provides to Australians, deliver a trusted .au and contribute to public policy discussions.

Digital Lives of Australians 2025

auDA's 2025 *Digital Lives of Australians* report is the fifth edition of our annual research that explores Australians' online behaviours and attitudes. We share our *Digital Lives of Australians* research with policymakers, industry bodies and the education sector to inform their work.

Read the [2025 Digital Lives report](#) on our website.



20%

of small businesses have a **cyber security policy** or offer cyber security **training** to staff, despite broad concern about cyber security

64%

of Australians say they **can't do their job without the internet**

72%

of Australians use the internet to **find savings and resources** to help with cost of living

67%

of Australians avoid certain online activities to **minimise their cyber security risk**

Why .au?

auDA's 2026 *Why .au?* report highlights why everyday Australians and small businesses choose .au. We distribute *Why .au?* to Australian internet users, small businesses and not-for-profits, helping them understand the benefits .au can provide.

Read our [2026 Why .au? report](#) on our website.



51%

will only shop online from a business with a .au website

Why .au?

40 years of .au
Trusted by
Australians
online

auDA

46%

will check a .au website first when shopping online

4 in 5

Australian consumers are more likely to trust an Australian business if it has a .au website

Local, regional and global internet governance

Building the next generation of internet governance leaders

auDA is committed to building capacity in internet governance and ensuring young people have the skills and opportunities to become leaders in this space.

In February 2026, auDA hosted the second APIGA Australia for people aged 18–35 to develop their skills and knowledge in internet governance and the DNS. We hosted 39 emerging leaders, including five from the Pacific, supported by expert mentors from Australia and overseas. Two participants were selected to represent Australia at the regional APIGA program in South Korea in July 2026, to continue building skills and networks with other emerging leaders.

This year, auDA also launched the auDA Internet Governance Fellowship, a new program designed to provide continued opportunities for APIGA Australia graduates to develop their knowledge and experience. Three inaugural fellows were announced in April to research a topic related to internet governance, policy or the DNS, and present their projects to the Australian internet community at the 2026 auIGF in September.



Strengthening the multi-stakeholder model of internet governance

The auIGF brings together the Australian internet community to discuss public policy, technical and social issues related to the internet, helping strengthen Australia's internet governance community, develop shared positions and contribute to regional and global forums. auDA was pleased to sponsor the 2025 auIGF and provide secretariat support and representation on the Multistakeholder Steering Committee.

In 2025–26, auDA continued to collaborate with peers from Pacific Islands to support digital development and internet governance.

auDA supported the second Pacific ccTLD Forum, held alongside the Pacific Internet Governance Forum. The Pacific ccTLD Forum brings together Pacific Island ccTLD managers to discuss shared challenges relating to registry sustainability, governance, policy development, technical operations and capacity building.

Globally, auDA participated in the IGF. At the IGF, auDA supported and participated in workshops delivered by the TCCM, of which auDA is a founding member. Insights from the workshops and our contributions to the TCCM informed advocacy to

the United Nations' WSIS+20, which concluded in December 2025. The review reaffirmed global support for multi-stakeholder internet governance, recognised the technical community, and made the mandate of the global IGF permanent, a meaningful result that secures the internet governance system from increasing intergovernmental involvement.

Read more about the [outcomes of the WSIS+20 review](#) on our website.

Events and forums we participated in, in 2025–26

- 2025 auIGF
- Australian Information Security Association Cyber Connect 2026
- APriGF 2025
- APTLD88
- APTLD89
- CENTR General Assembly
- CENTR Marketing Working Group Forum
- ICANN84
- ICANN85
- ICANN86
- Internet Infrastructure Forum
- ISOC Policymaker program
- Pacific ccTLD meeting
- Pacific IGF
- Tech for Social Justice conference
- Tech Policy Design Institute's Tech Futures
- TPDi Foundations of Tech Policy
- Young Australians in International Affairs conference

Organisations we supported or were members of, in 2025–26

- Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC)
- Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association (APTLD)
- APTLD Members Meeting Program Standing Committee
- Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN)
- Australian Telecommunications Alliance (ATA)
- Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA)
- Council of European National Top-Level Domain Registries (CENTR)
- DNS Operations, Analysis, and Research Centre
- DNS Research Federation
- DotAsia
- eco - Association of the Internet Industry
- ICANN
- International Institute of Communications (IIC)
- Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network (IJPN)
- Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)
- Internet Watch Foundation
- Latin American and Caribbean Top Level Domains (LACTLD)
- Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society (PICISOC)
- Tech Council of Australia
- Tech Policy Design Institute (TPDi)

Public Benefit Program

auDA's Public Benefit Program funds projects that unlock greater utility from the internet for Australians and support underserved communities

auDA Churchill Fellowships

The auDA Churchill Fellowships are an initiative funded by auDA and delivered through the Churchill Trust to support individuals to conduct research or projects that explore the digital and internet landscape and bring benefit to Australians.

In September 2025, we announced the recipients of the inaugural auDA Churchill Fellowships, Jordan O'Reilly and Cara Penton. Both Jordan and Cara's projects are focused on how AI can be used to deliver benefits to Australian communities. You can read more about their projects in the [auDA Churchill Fellowships media release](#) on our website.

auDA looks forward to announcing the next successful fellows in the second half of 2026.



2025 Community Grant Program

In 2025, auDA's Community Grant Program awarded \$750,000 to 15 community projects. Each received \$50,000 to support community projects, education and activities that advance digital inclusion for Australians.

The 2025 Community Grant Program supported projects that aimed to positively impact one of five priority cohorts:

- Rural, regional and remote Australians
- Australians living with disabilities
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Young Australians (12-24)
- Older Australians (65+)

The 2025 Community Grant projects will conclude at the end of 2026 and we look forward to reporting on their positive impact on digital inclusion for Australians.

Case study

Impact delivered by the 2024 Community Grant Program

auDA's 2024 Community Grant round projects were delivered over the 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years.

Seedkit

The University of Melbourne, Melbourne Social Equity Institute received an auDA Community Grant to extend the existing digital social impact measurement platform Seedkit. Co-designed with the for-purpose sector, Seedkit has developed resources to measure and communicate digital inclusion in the Australian context.

Since completing this project, the extended resources have been actively promoted via webinars with the Australian Digital Inclusion Alliance, 2026 Tech for Social Justice Conference and to the 2025 auDA Community Grant Recipients.

seedkit.com.au

Farmers for Climate Action

auDA grant funding enabled Farmers for Climate Action to develop the Climate Smart Farming Toolkit, which provides farmers and landholders with a searchable digital database of climate smart farming information. Co-designed with farmers, industry and farmer climate leaders, the Toolkit provides resources to enable education and peer-to-peer learning about climate-related farming challenges and practices.

Since completing its project, Farmers for Climate Action has integrated the Toolkit into their service offering to farmers. It has been actively shared online and at industry events such as evokeAg 2026.

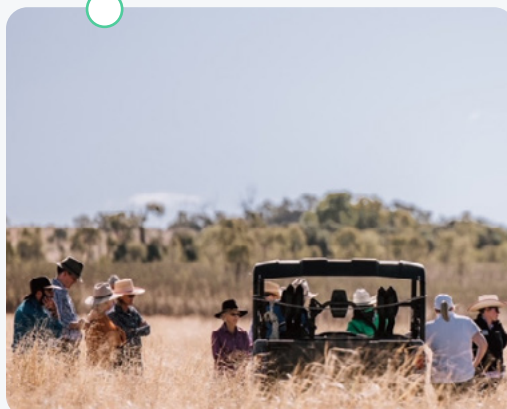
farmersforclimateaction.org.au

The Digital Dilly Bag project

Undertaken by the Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd, auDA provided funding to support the development of the Digital Dilly Bag, a secure digital hub to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data sovereignty.

Digital Dilly Bag is hosted on sovereign ground and is managed by an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation, creating a culturally safe place for Elders and communities to digitally store and preserve stories, cultural practices and language to be passed on to future generations. It has also created a blueprint for sovereign data capabilities that is being shared with communities across Australia through workshops, reports and forums.

tranby.org.au



2025 auDA Research and Development (R&D) Grant Program

Announced in July 2025, the inaugural auDA R&D Grant projects delivered the first year of their three-year projects. The program funds large-scale research projects designed to advance new knowledge and improve how people access and benefit from the internet.

During the financial year, Deakin and Monash project team members shared progress and insights with key stakeholders in Australia and abroad.

auDA was also pleased to connect the project teams with stakeholders from the local, regional and global internet community.

Read more about these projects on the .au blog with posts on [Quantum threat to Australia's digital infrastructure](#) and [Building digital resilience: protecting vulnerable Australians from cyberscams](#).

Deakin University

Safe transition to a quantum-safe DNS led by Chief Investigator Professor Robin Doss

Monash University

Enhancing digital inclusion through strengthening vulnerable Australians' resilience to cyberscams led by Chief Investigator Associate Professor Kate Gould

Public Impact report

auDA published our first Public Impact report in November 2025. The report outlines how we deliver positive impact for Australians through our membership program, Public Benefit Program, community outreach, contributions to tech policy and internet governance, research and insights, reconciliation and sustainability.

Visit the auDA website to read our [2025 Public Impact Report](#). The 2026 Public Impact Report will be published in the second half of 2026.









People

auDA's people are essential to our success. Through their extensive expertise, they help us deliver our core functions, strategy and make a positive public impact. In 2025-26, we focused on building capability, improving how we work together and supporting staff wellbeing.

Strategic pillars and objectives

- **Capability**

Grow auDA's leadership and technical skills so that it is nimble and resilient and can confidently meet the challenges of a technically and geopolitically dynamic environment

Terms of Endorsement

- **Core principles:**

Support trust and confidence in .au

Performance

94%

Employees using AI tools to support productivity
Target: 100%

100%

Leadership Team that have completed leadership training
Target: 90%

78%

Favourable staff engagement survey results
(new expanded survey baseline of 66% established for future measurement)
Target: 77%

- On track
- Managed within tolerance
- Outside tolerance

Material themes



Stakeholder relationships

Sustainable Development Goals



SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth

Key resources



Our people

Who we are

The auDA team grew to 69 employees as of June 2026, up from 64 people in June 2025. New roles created help deliver our 2026–30 Strategy by building capacity and capability in strategically important areas.

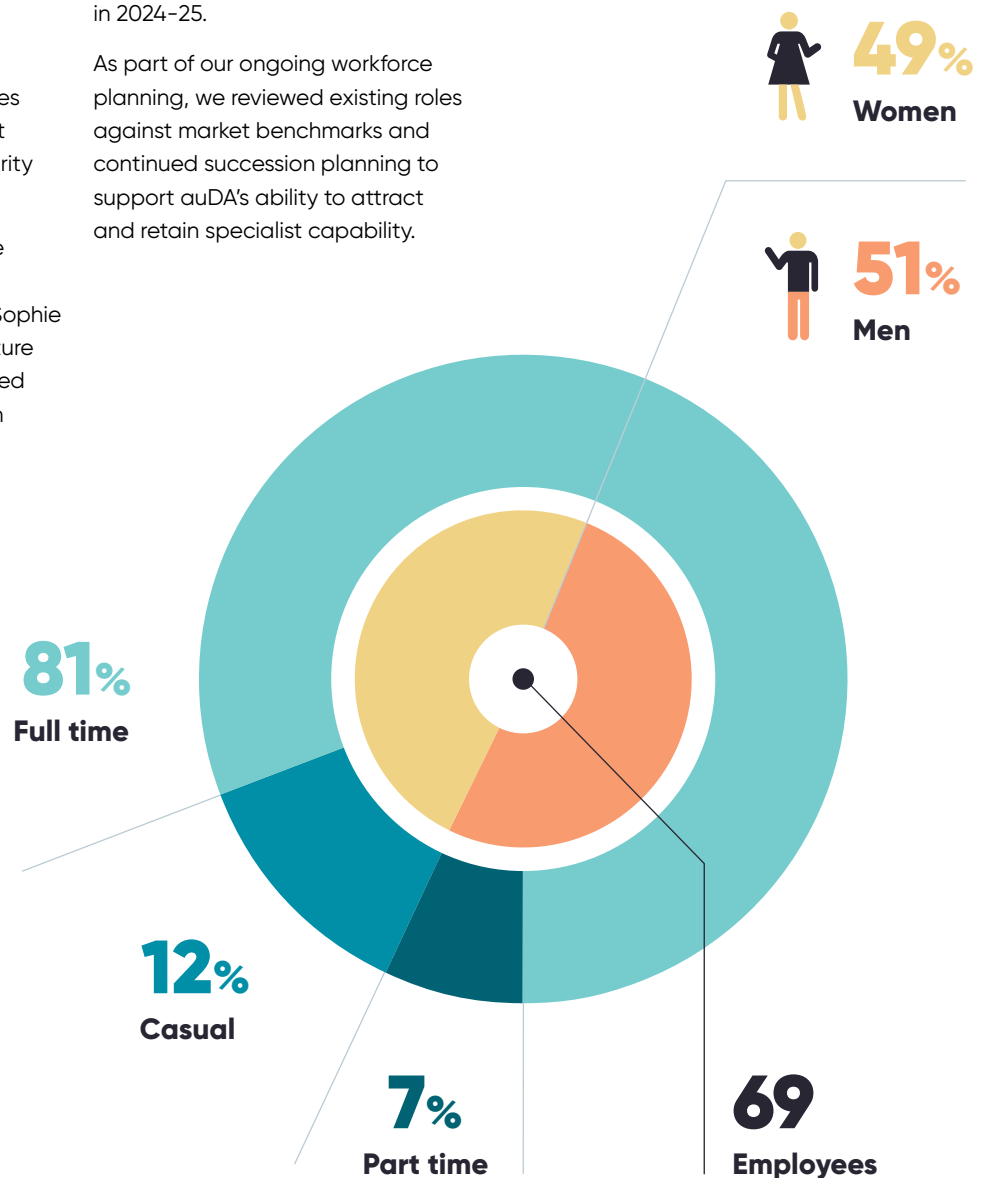
This includes the establishment of a new Innovation unit, led by Glenn Wightwick who joined auDA in June 2026 in the newly created Chief Innovation Officer role. Glenn brings extensive experience in technology and innovation to support the achievement of auDA's innovation strategic objectives.

We also welcomed staff to new roles within our security function, as part of our continued focus on the security and reliability of the .au DNS.

Other changes to auDA's Executive team in the financial year include farewelling Chief Strategy Officer Sophie Mitchell and Chief People and Culture Officer Jane Smith AM, who provided significant contributions to auDA in their time with us.

auDA continued to maintain strong gender diversity across our staff, with 49% women and 51% men as at 30 June 2026, from 48% women and 52% men the previous year. Staff retention remained high in the financial year, although we saw a reduction to 80%, down from 86% in 2024–25.

As part of our ongoing workforce planning, we reviewed existing roles against market benchmarks and continued succession planning to support auDA's ability to attract and retain specialist capability.



Capability and development

Throughout the year, we delivered a leadership development program for current and emerging leaders, which is an initiative under the 2026–30 Strategy. The program supported staff to build on their leadership skills, including a focus on maintaining high performing teams. All auDA leaders completed the course, exceeding our strategic objective for the year.

In 2025–26, we also continued to provide opportunities for all staff to participate in learning and development activity. Staff are enabled and encouraged to seek professional development opportunities that suit their development goals and role requirements. In addition, auDA delivered training to all staff to support effective use of AI. This training supports another key result under our Strategy to enable greater business productivity.

**At the end of June 2026,
94% of staff were actively
using AI in their work, just
short of the financial year
target of 100%.**

To enable staff to be effective in their roles and work collaboratively to deliver shared goals, auDA brought staff together for a strategic planning retreat in February 2026. The retreat focused on exploring auDA's strategic pillars. Cross-team planning and ideation at the retreat informed organisational priorities and the 2026–27 operational plan.



Wellbeing

Wellbeing initiatives during the year included continued delivery of our Be Well program, which supports staff to engage in approved activities or services of their choice that support their continued wellbeing, as well as regular wellbeing sessions covering topics such as nutrition and health information. Staff are also able to make use of flexible work arrangements that enable hybrid working to benefit from

time together in the office and time working from home on select days as agreed with their manager.

In the financial year, we also established a staff occupational health and safety committee to enhance our existing approach to workplace safety.

Engagement

The 2026 employee engagement survey was completed in April, with 86% participation. Across auDA's five key engagement questions which have been tracked over time, we received an engagement score of 78% in 2025-26, achieving our target of 77%.

The survey recorded strong results for pride in working at auDA, wellbeing and connection with colleagues. It also identified opportunities to further improve employee experiences.

During 2026-27, the People and Culture team and auDA leaders will continue to implement initiatives to enrich staff experience based on feedback received through the survey.

As part of the 2026 survey, auDA adopted a broader eight-question engagement measure to gather further information on employee experiences. This established a new baseline of 66% engagement for future measurement. This is not directly comparable with the previous five-question measure.

Our values

Our values guide us in our work. Under our 2026-30 Strategy our values are:

Accountability

We honour our commitments, are responsible for our decisions, actions and performance, and deliver excellence.

Curiosity

We seek to grow our knowledge, including of emerging practices, be adaptive and improve our understanding of our stakeholders and their viewpoints.

Leadership

We are committed to communicating openly, and adding value to our multi-stakeholder community, locally, regionally and globally.

Collaboration

We work together as one auDA in the service of Australian, regional and global internet users.





Governance

auDA is committed to robust, effective governance to meet the highest standards of transparency and accountability as we deliver on our purpose to connect Australians to an open internet with trust and confidence.

Strategic pillars and objectives

• Trust

Strengthen Australians' trust in .au and auDA, and grow Australians' engagement in the digital economy and society.

• Capability

Grow auDA's leadership and technical skills so that it is nimble and resilient and can confidently meet the challenges of a technically and geopolitically dynamic environment.

• Impact

Positively impact our ecosystem. Invest in strengthening multi-stakeholder internet governance, and developing new internet governance and DNS experts. We will also support research & development in areas of strategic focus and support under-served communities to establish an online presence.

Terms of Endorsement

• Core principles:

Maintain effective governance

Performance

45%

Reduction in net carbon emissions (1,435 tCO₂e)

Target: Reductions and offsets equal a 5% reduction (trend toward zero)

- On track
- Managed within tolerance
- Outside tolerance

Material themes



Governance and transparency



Financially sustainable not-for-profit

Sustainable Development Goals



SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure



SDG 10: Reduced inequalities



SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production

Key resources



Our people



Our expertise



Our finances



Our environment

auDA Board of Directors

In 2025–26 the Board guided implementation of the first year of auDA's 2026–30 Strategy, oversaw the management of key risks, and helped ensure auDA continues to administer the .au in the public interest.

Governance framework

The Board is accountable to auDA members, stakeholders and the broader Australian community and responsible for overseeing auDA's work in accordance with the Constitution, the Australian Government's Terms of Endorsement, our agreement with ICANN, and the 2026–30 Strategy.

Role of the Board

The Board provides strategic direction and oversees auDA's operations. Its responsibilities include:

- Guiding implementation of auDA's Strategy and monitoring performance against auDA's Terms of Endorsement and strategic objectives
- Overseeing registry operations and contractual arrangements with .au registrars
- Overseeing financial performance, investment and organisational sustainability
- Monitoring compliance with legislative, reporting and governance requirements
- Monitoring enterprise risk, information security, technology, privacy and business continuity
- Appointing, supporting and overseeing the performance of the CEO
- Overseeing people, culture, remuneration and succession planning.

During 2025–26 Board Directors participated alongside auDA staff and Executives in ICANN meetings, the 2025 auIGF, auDA's Registrar Summit and member events. Directors also joined several .au Licensing Rules Review consultations as observers. Board Director attendance at these events supports knowledge of the domain name sector and multi-stakeholder internet governance, which contributes to informed Board oversight.

Board focus in 2025-26

In 2025-26 the Board focused on supporting the CEO and Executive Team to refine the structure, capability, operating plans and risk settings required to deliver the 2026-30 Strategy. It approved the 2026-27 internal operating plan and organisational objectives and key results.

The Board also approved Terms of Reference and panel members for the external Policy Advisory Panel conducting the .au Licensing Rules Review and monitored progress of the Review. It also provided oversight of consultations on proposed changes to edu.au rules, auDA's Purpose and auDA's WHOIS policy, and reviewed and approved required changes following the consultation periods.

Other areas of oversight included critical infrastructure risk and auDA's CIRMP, enterprise risk, a new Risk Appetite Statement, information security, financial reporting, investment, financial audit arrangements, corporate policies, appointments to the Board including the Board Chair, and the Public Benefit Program.

Board composition and skills

Following the November 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM), Marina Go AM commenced as auDA's Independent Chair, following Alan Cameron AO's decision to step down from the Board. Wendy Thorpe OAM also concluded her service as a Director with the close of the AGM and Dr Sarv Girn joined the Board as an Appointed Director.

At 30 June 2026, the Board comprised 60 per cent women and 40 per cent men. Directors were based across Sydney, regional New South Wales, Canberra, South-East Queensland and Melbourne.

In 2025-26, the Board reviewed and approved an amended Board Skills Matrix to support succession planning and ensure the appropriate mix of skills is present on the Board.

Collectively, Directors bring experience in governance, technology, strategy, innovation, finance, law, people and stakeholder engagement.

Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee provides recommendations on candidates suitable to fill vacant positions on the auDA Board.

It uses the Board-approved skills matrix to support a rigorous, transparent and merit-based process. The Board then approves recommended candidates for direct appointment, or to be included in the Elected Director Ballot voted by .au members.

The Nomination Committee is chaired by the auDA Board Chair and may comprise up to two other auDA Board Directors who are not standing for reappointment or re-election within the

calendar year or have retired from the Board within the last 12 months. It also includes members external to auDA who represent .au members, industry, business, consumers and the public, and a government representative appointed by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts.

In the financial year, the Committee Chair was Alan Cameron AO until

he stepped down at the end of the November 2025 AGM, at which point Marina Go AM became Chair of the auDA Board and Chair of the Nomination Committee. Under Alan's leadership in 2025-26, the committee identified candidates for five Director positions, including a new auDA Board Chair, to commence at the conclusion of the 2025 AGM. In the period since Marina's tenure commenced, the Board reduced the size of the Committee by not replacing two members whose terms concluded on 30 April 2026 and the Committee began the search process for vacancies to be filled at the conclusion of the November 2026 AGM.

Board Committees

auDA Board Committees comprise auDA Board Directors and take an active role in key areas of auDA's governance. They monitor risks within their focus areas, provide guidance to auDA's Executives, and make recommendations to the Board.

Governance and Culture Committee

The Governance and Culture Committee oversees auDA's governance framework and people and culture matters and is chaired by Sandra Hook. In 2025-26, its work included reviewing staff engagement survey results, remuneration and succession planning, auDA's Corporate Governance Statement, Nomination Committee Charter, Board skills matrix and relevant People and Culture policies. It also made recommendations to the Board on auDA's Board Advisory Committee requirements, which you can read about on page 78.

Finance and Audit Committee

The Finance and Audit Committee was chaired by Wendy Thorpe OAM until she stepped down from the auDA Board at the end of the November 2025 AGM, at which point Tina Wyer became Chair of the committee. The Finance and Audit Committee oversees financial policy and performance, investment, external audit and sustainability. From April 2026, the committee also took on oversight of enterprise risk, which was transferred to the Finance and Audit Committee from the Security and Technology Committee. During the year, it reviewed auDA's financial statements, Directors' Report, budget, financial performance and Reserves Policy. It also oversaw a review of auDA's Board Risk Appetite Statement.

Public Benefit Program Committee

The Public Benefit Program Committee was established to provide strategic advice and oversight of auDA's Public Benefit Program and was chaired by Sandra Davey. In February 2026, the auDA Board approved the dissolution of the Public Benefit Program Committee as the Public Benefit Program is well established with governance structures that no longer require dedicated committee oversight. auDA management will report directly to the Board on Public Benefit Program progress and achievements.

Security and Technology Committee

In April 2026, the Security and Risk Committee became the Security and Technology Committee. The committee oversees information, privacy, security, technology and business continuity and is chaired by Peter Elford. In 2025-26, its work included reviewing auDA's CIRMP, monitoring security and technology risks, guiding auDA's approach to AI and monitoring the data retention and disposal program.



Board Advisory Committees

Following a review, the Board approved a change to its approach to advisory committees. To support the receipt of specialised guidance on key topic areas, auDA will establish time-limited committees to provide advice on specific topics of interest. With this decision, the General Advisory Standing Committee and Technical Advisory

Standing Committee concluded in December 2025. The edu.au Advisory Committee (EAC) will continue to provide advice on matters related to the edu.au namespace, and the Policy Advisory Panel will conclude its work on the .au Licensing Rules Review in the first quarter of 2026-27.



Sustainability Framework

In 2025–26, auDA progressed our Sustainability Framework with oversight from the Finance and Audit Committee, supporting auDA's objective to deliver an environmentally and socially responsible organisation that upholds robust corporate governance, and influences the domain name ecosystem to be more sustainable.

Our work in the financial year included establishing a baseline for organisational carbon emissions and improving waste management practices. We also revised auDA's Community Grant Program to introduce an environmental sustainability aspect to the grant assessment guidelines for the first time, welcoming applications for projects with a broader positive impact on sustainability. auDA was pleased to support projects from

Landcare Tasmania, Remote OpShop and Thread Together in the 2025 grant round that will deliver a positive impact on the environment and sustainability in local communities around Australia.

More detail will be provided in auDA's 2025–26 Public Impact Report to be published in the first half of 2026–27.

Read [auDA's Sustainability Framework summary](#) on our website.

Sustainability Framework focus areas

- Climate change and energy
- Resource efficiency and circularity
- Supplier engagement
- Impact investment
- Stakeholder engagement
- Diversity, equity and inclusion
- Governance

Carbon emissions measurement approach

During the year we established our carbon emissions measurement approach, including a baseline reading for 2024–25.

Our approach measures emissions across Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 categories as aligned with recognised carbon emissions accounting practices. For 2025–26, no Scope 1 emissions were recorded, Scope 2 emissions from

purchased electricity were 75 tCO₂e and Scope 3 emissions were 1,360 tCO₂e. Scope 3 emissions represented approximately 95% of auDA's total emissions, with purchased goods and services, business travel, capital goods and leased assets the largest contributors. Total emissions reduced from 2,593 tCO₂e in 2024–25 to 1,435 tCO₂e in 2025–26,

while emissions per domain name licence decreased from 606 to 327 grams of CO₂ emissions.

Our approach to reporting carbon emissions provides a baseline for monitoring progress over time. It is designed to be transparent and enables auDA to report consistently, identify key reduction opportunities, and continue improving our emissions management approach.

Reconciliation Action Plan

Released in June 2025, auDA delivered key initiatives from its inaugural Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) during 2025-26 to meaningfully contribute to reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Activities included staff cultural learning and participation in National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week, engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities, support for their digital inclusion initiatives, and increased procurement from their businesses and charities.

A cross-organisational working group monitored delivery and reported progress to the CEO and Board, as well as an annual update to Reconciliation Australia. More detail will be provided in auDA's 2025-26 Public Impact Report to be published in the first half of 2026-27.

In February 2026 auDA staff attended a cultural immersion experience at Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association Incorporated. This was an opportunity for all auDA staff to learn about the local Aboriginal community on the Mornington Peninsula and their history and culture, understand contemporary issues and participate in promoting reconciliation. This was an important activity under our Reflect RAP, which focuses on engagement, education and cultural awareness to build stronger relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and create business and employment opportunities.



ASX Corporate Governance Statement

The ASX Corporate Governance Council's Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations set out eight practices that support good governance, providing an independent benchmark for governance, transparency and accountability. While designed for entities listed on the Australian Securities Exchange, auDA reports against these practices with modifications that reflect our size, structure and status as an Australian Public Company limited by guarantee. We review our [Corporate Governance Statement](#) annually and updated it in June 2026.



Transparency and accountability

auDA supports transparency and accountability through public reporting and regular review of governance policies and practices. In 2025–26, the Board approved the 2026 Corporate Governance Statement and updates to policies covering conflicts of interest, delegations, remuneration, privacy,

acceptable use of information and communications technology, anti-bribery, fraud and corruption and a new Risk Appetite Statement. It also approved a Board Director Enablement and Professional Development Guideline.

Sustainable financial position

Under our Terms of Endorsement from the Australian Government, auDA is required to operate as a self-funding not-for-profit and for-purpose organisation. Our corporate structure as an Australian public company limited by guarantee is consistent with this, requiring us to reinvest surpluses into the organisation.

In 2025–26, auDA maintained a sustainable financial position, delivering an operating surplus of \$1.7 million. We maintained strong reserves and prudent financial management to ensure auDA's continued ability to operate a secure and reliable .au in the short, medium and long term.

For the financial year ended 30 June 2026, a net surplus of \$10.4 million was \$5.5 million (111.8%) higher than the prior year, due to increases in the fair value of investments. Revenue increased by \$2.17 million (6.3%) to \$36.5 million.

Despite continued inflationary pressures, operating costs were contained, with more significant increases in expenditure largely reflecting planned investment and expenditure in accordance with the annual budget. These included employee-related expenses, DNS infrastructure expenses and grant expenses. These planned increases were partially offset by lower expenditure in a number of areas, including consultancy expenses and travel expenses.

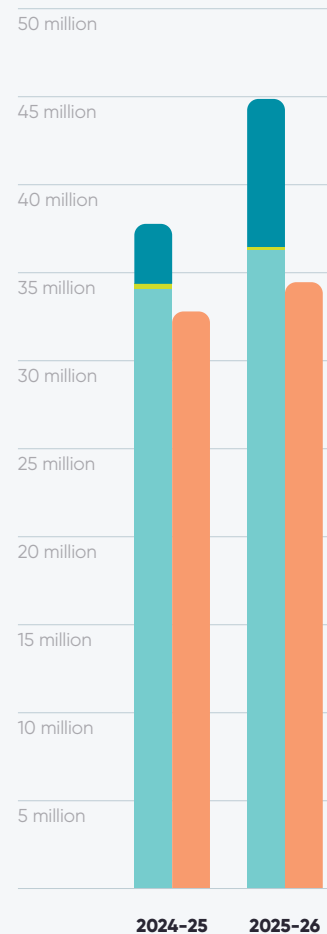
In October 2025, we introduced a modest increase to the wholesale price of .au licenses, following approval by the auDA Board. This decision was taken to support auDA's continued financial sustainability and investment

in the reliability and stability of .au in a complex, evolving operating environment.

This sustainable financial position enabled us to continue investing in initiatives that support our purpose and vision in the medium term. We continued to invest in external innovation and digital inclusion initiatives through our Public Benefit Program, which provides funding for projects that seek to unlock greater utility from the internet for Australians and support under-served communities to establish an online presence. Internally, we established an Innovation unit which will enable auDA to pursue new ideas and initiatives to position .au as the primary online identity for Australian individuals and organisations.

auDA's financial sustainability is monitored closely by the Board and the Finance and Audit Committee.

auDA summary of financial performance by financial year



Change in fair value of assets
Net Finance Income
Gross revenue
Expenditure



Our outlook

In 2026-27, auDA will build on the first year of our 2026-30 Strategy and accelerate delivery across our four strategic pillars: Trust, Innovation, Impact and Capability. Our outlook reflects the opportunities and challenges in a rapidly changing technical, economic and geopolitical environment, and our commitment to maintaining a secure, reliable and trusted .au for the benefit of all Australians.

Short term

2026-27

In 2026-27, auDA will focus on delivering initiatives under our 2026-30 Strategy. During 2025-26, auDA developed the 2026-27 internal operating plan to prioritise strategic projects alongside our core functions. The plan establishes measurable milestones and a regular planning and reporting cycle to support coordinated delivery and early management of risks, resources and dependencies.

The external operating environment continues to present challenges, including a heightened cyber threat environment, geopolitical uncertainty, rapid technological change driven by AI, continued pressure on the multi-stakeholder model of internet governance from Governments focusing on national or multilateral

priorities, increasing Australian regulatory obligations and changing visibility of domain names in common internet applications. In response, auDA will continue to strengthen the security, integrity and resilience of .au while monitoring risks and opportunities.

Key priorities include progressing automated validation of domain name registration data, concluding the .au Licensing Rules Review and implementing required changes to the Rules approved by the auDA Board. We will also introduce a registrar Quality Performance Index to encourage ongoing registrar investment in best practice domain name licence management, scale up activity under our Innovation strategic pillar and continue to explore uses of artificial intelligence

that improve the integrity of .au and organisational productivity.

auDA will continue to invest in advancing digital inclusion, research and development, and building capability in internet governance and the DNS. We will also continue delivering on the commitments of our Reconciliation Action Plan and engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to advance reconciliation. Further strengthening workforce capability will remain a priority to support auDA to deliver our program of work.

Medium term

2027-30

Over the medium term, we will work to realise our vision for .au to be the primary online identity for Australian individuals and organisations, supported by a nimble and resilient auDA. Annual internal operating plans will guide phased delivery of the 2026-30 Strategy and enable us to adjust priorities as technology, regulation, consumer behaviour and the wider internet ecosystem evolve.

We will invest in technical solutions, research and policy approaches that strengthen trust in the internet environment and support Australians to participate confidently in the digital economy and society. We will explore new technologies and approaches that improve the utility of .au and support auDA's long-term financial sustainability as a self-funded not-for-profit organisation, including AI and process redesign to improve productivity.

Our impact will extend beyond the .au domain. We will work with our community to support multi-stakeholder internet governance, develop the next generation of Australian internet governance and DNS experts, support resilient ccTLD infrastructure in the region, advance research in areas of strategic importance and improve digital inclusion. Members will continue to play a central role in our work and we will provide opportunities for members to engage with us on the development of .au policies and policy approaches. Our Sustainability Framework will continue to guide our work across Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) goals to support environmentally and socially responsible operations and uphold robust governance. We will also continue to build the leadership, technical and organisational capabilities needed to respond confidently to a dynamic operating environment.

Long term

2031-44

Over the long term, auDA's focus is on preserving the value, security and resilience of .au and connecting Australians to an open internet with trust and confidence. Geopolitical instability, increasingly sophisticated cyber threats, changing online behaviours, alternative internet naming systems and emerging technologies may significantly reshape how people connect and establish trust online.

We will continue to use long-term foresight and regular analysis of our operating environment to test assumptions and identify emerging risks and opportunities. By strengthening trust and capability, investing in innovation, supporting digital inclusion and taking an active role in multi-stakeholder internet governance, auDA aims to remain a resilient steward of .au and continue delivering value for Australians through to 2044 and beyond.





General Purpose

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General Purpose Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2026
.au Domain Administration Limited and controlled entities

ABN 38 079 009 340

Directors' report

The Directors present their report together with the consolidated financial statements of the Group comprising of .au Domain Administration Limited (the Company) and its subsidiaries for the financial year ended 30 June 2026 and the auditor's report thereon.

1. Directors

The Directors of the Group at any time during or since the end of the financial year are:

	Appointed	Retired
Alan Cameron AO	15 November 2019	20 November 2025
Sandra Davey	15 November 2019	
Peter Elford	15 November 2019	
Brett Fenton	19 November 2024	
Sarv Girn	20 November 2025	
Marina Go AM	20 November 2025	
Sandra Hook	16 November 2022	
Claire Rogers	19 November 2024	
Wendy Thorpe	16 November 2022	20 November 2025
Thu-Trang Tran	15 November 2023	
Michael Trovato	16 November 2022	
Tina Wyer	19 November 2024	

SANDRA DAVEY GAICD

Independent Elected Director

Commercially astute and digitally native, Sandra Davey has worked with teams to deliver more than 30 digital products for B2B and B2C markets across public, for purpose and private sectors. Through her advisory firm, Organa, she helps organisations use technology, strategy and innovation to build financial sustainability and trust with the people, customers and communities they serve. Sandra was an inaugural Director of auDA when it was established in 1999 and is also a Non-Executive Director of Screenrights and The Australian Centre for Social Innovation. Her past roles include Director and Chair of Choice, Chair of the Australian Internet Governance Forum (auIGF), and Director and National President of the Australian Interactive Media Industry Association.

PETER ELFORD BSc (Hons)

Independent Elected Director

Chair Security and Technology Committee

Peter Elford is an Australian Internet veteran and passionate internet advocate having "built the internet in Australia" in 1989 as the second employee at the Australian Academic and Research Network (AARNet).

From 1993-2013 he held a variety of technical and senior management roles at Cisco, before returning to AARNet as Director, Government Relations and eResearch from 2014 until 2019. Peter is currently a Board Member of Pedal Power ACT and has previously served as Director of the Regional Development Australia (RDA) ACT Board and as President of the Gungahlin Community Council.

BRETT FENTON BSc (Hons)

Independent Appointed Director

Brett Fenton is Chief Operating Officer at the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS), bringing commercial expertise to environmental conservation and restoration. He holds a BSc (Hons) in chemistry and geology from the University of Sydney and began his career researching uranium chemistry at UNSW. Following 23 years in the tech sector, including as COO in a successful ASX-listed acquisition, Brett returned to the environmental sector in 2023. He previously served on the auDA Board from 2005 to 2007 before returning as a Director in 2025.

1. Directors (continued)

SARV GIRN PhD BSc (Hons) FAICD

Independent Appointed Director

Sarv Girn brings strong experience to the Board from executive roles at I-Med Radiology Network, Reserve Bank of Australia, Westpac, and Commonwealth Bank. His expertise spans cyber security governance, business transformation and risk management and his current board roles include Non-Executive Director Police Bank and Commonwealth Bank Health Society (CBHS), Board Advisor Liberty IT and Executive Counsellor Info Tech Research Group.

MARINA GO AM BA MBA FAICD

Independent Appointed Director and Chairperson

Marina Go is an experienced chair and non-executive director across a broad range of commercial, not for profit, sporting and cultural organisations. She brings strong strategic, innovation and governance leadership. Marina currently serves as a non-executive director on the boards of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD), Metcash, Southern Cross Austereo and Transurban and is Chair of the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations Advisory Board.

Previously, she has served as the Chair of Adore Beauty, Wests Tigers Rugby League Football Club, Netball Australia, Super Netball Limited and Ovarian Cancer Australia and as board director at Energy Australia and 7-Eleven; and Executive roles at organisations including Hearst-Bauer Media and Fairfax.

SANDRA HOOK GAICD

Independent Appointed Director

Chair Governance and Culture Committee

Sandra Hook is Chair or a Non-Executive Director on the boards of WiseTech Global (ASX: WTC), IVE Group (ASX: IGL), NextEd Group (ASX: NXD), auDA and End Food Waste Australia (EFWA).

Previously, she served on the boards of RXP Technology (ASX: RXP), MedAdvisor (ASX: MDR), Sydney Fish Market, Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust, and Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. She also held CEO, Managing Director and senior leadership roles at some of Australia's largest media organisations, including NewsLife Media (News Corp) and divisions of Foxtel, Federal Publishing, Fairfax and Murdoch Media. As a director Sandra draws on 25 years of operational experience across communications, technology, public benefit and government.

CLAIRE ROGERS BA MBA FAICD

Independent Elected Director

Claire Rogers is a strategic leader with deep expertise in driving growth, innovation, and digital transformation across a broad range of financial services and for purpose entities at executive and board level. Claire is Chair of Australian Red Cross, non executive director of Australian Red Cross Lifeblood, Victorian Funds Management Corporation, Spiire Limited, Melbourne Business School and Co-founder and Non-Executive Director of Dutyofcare Solutions Limited trading as Oho. Claire was previously Chief Executive of World Vision Australia, the country's largest international aid organisation, and held senior leadership roles in multiple divisions of ANZ including Head of Digital Banking.

THU-TRANG TRAN LLM GradDipLP LLB B.Comm, GAICD

Independent Appointed Director

Thu-Trang began her career as a commercial and information technology lawyer in Sydney. She has been able to combine her social justice values, strategic leadership, and regulatory expertise over the past two decades in private and public sector organisations in Australia and overseas. Thu-Trang also serves as a Board Director at Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand, Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman and Language Loop - Victorian Interpreting and Translating Service, and an Ethics Committee Member at Scanlon Foundation Research Institute. She previously served as a Commissioner on the Victorian Liquor Commission, and Victorian Building Authority, and director of Cohealth and has held executive roles in regional and state peak for-purpose organisations.

1. Directors (continued)

MICHAEL TROVATO MBA (Acc, Fin) BSc GAICD

Independent Elected Director

Mike Trovato is a cyber security, privacy and technology risk advisor to boards, board risk committees, and executive management. Mike holds leading Australian and US roles; currently he is IIS Partners Managing Partner; ICG, Global Cyber Practice Leader; Cyber Risk Advisors, Managing Partner, and External Independent Member Wannon Region Water Corporation.

Prior roles include: EY Cyber Security, Asia Pacific, Oceania and FSO Lead Partner; NAB Group, GM Technology Risk and Security; KPMG New York, Partner Information Risk Management; Salomon Brothers, Internal Audit; Mastercard International, Principal; Price Waterhouse Manager; University Computing Services, Programming Consultant.

TINA WYER BCom CA GAICD

Independent Appointed Director

Chair Finance and Audit Committee

Tina Wyer is a Chartered Accountant and former Financial Services executive, with global experience in driving strategic initiatives and advising organisations on leveraging data and technology for operational optimisation and achieving business goals. In addition to her role at auDA, Tina is Deputy Chair of the Fred Hollows Foundation and holds Non-Executive Director roles at Hume Bank, Australian Retirement Trust (ART) and Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service. She is a past Non-Executive Director of the Australian Diabetes Educators Association.

2. Meetings of Directors

The number of meetings of the Board and of each Board Committee and number of meetings attended by each of the Directors of the Group during the financial year were:

	Board Meetings		Finance & Audit Committee		Governance & Culture Committee		Security & Technology Committee		Public Benefit Program Committee	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
Alan Cameron AO	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brett Fenton	6	6	-	-	4	4	4	4	-	-
Claire Rogers	5	6	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	3
Tina Wyer	6	6	3	3	-	-	-	-	3	3
Peter Elford	6	6	-	-	-	-	4	4	3	3
Sandra Davey	6	6	2	2	-	-	2	2	3	3
Sandra Hook	6	6	3	3	4	4	-	-	-	-
Sarv Girn	4	4	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
Marina Go AM	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Michael Trovato	6	6	3	3	-	-	4	4	-	-
Thu-Trang Tran	6	6	-	-	4	4	-	-	3	3
Wendy Thorpe OAM	2	2	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-

A Number of meetings attended.

B Number of meetings held during the time the Director held office during the year and that the Director was eligible to attend, and for committees the number of meetings where the Director held office during the year and was also a member of the committee.

3. Secretaries

The secretaries of the Company at any time during or since the end of the financial year are:

Sonia Joksimovic	Appointed 20 May 2019
Linda Brown	Appointed 9 June 2020

Sonia Joksimovic is a qualified company secretary and has more than 10 years' experience working in company secretarial and governance positions in publicly listed and unlisted companies.

Linda Brown is an experienced governance practitioner with 30 years' experience in management and consulting roles including providing board support and company secretarial services to not-for-profit entities.

4. Principal activities and objectives

Principal activities

The principal activities of the Group during the year ended 30 June 2026 comprised of management of the .au domain.

There were no changes in the nature of the activities of the Group during the year.

Objectives

auDA is endorsed by the Federal Government to administer the .au domain for the benefit of all Australians. The Government's Terms of Endorsement for auDA sets out the Company's core functions, which are to:

- Ensure stable, secure and reliable operation of the .au domain, which is part of Australia's suite of critical infrastructure
- Administer a licensing regime for .au domain names based on multi-stakeholder processes that are transparent, responsive, accountable, accessible and efficient
- Advocate for and actively participate in multi-stakeholder internet governance processes domestically, regionally and internationally.

The Company's 2026–30 Strategy was released in June 2025. In June 2026, following public consultation, the Board approved an updated purpose statement, which was published in July 2026: "Connecting Australians to an open internet with trust and confidence." The Company's vision is for .au to be the primary online identity for Australian individuals and organisations, supported by a nimble and resilient auDA.

To deliver on its purpose and vision, auDA's Strategy sets out four strategic pillars on which it will concentrate its efforts, together with the values that guide how auDA works within its multi-stakeholder community.

5. Operating and financial review

Revenue from operations for the year ended 30 June 2026 was \$36,506,819 (2025: \$34,336,373). The result for the year ended 30 June 2026 is a profit of \$10,428,107 (2025: \$4,924,438).

For the year to 30 June 2026 the Group generated net cash from operating activities of \$3,491,116 (2025: \$4,584,395).

	2026 \$	2025 \$	Variance \$
Revenue from operations	36,506,819	34,336,373	2,170,446
Profit for the year	10,428,107	4,924,438	5,503,669
Change in fair value of financial assets*	8,504,243	3,407,603	5,096,640
Net cash from operating activities	3,491,116	4,584,395	(1,093,279)

*included in the profit for the year

For the financial year ended 30 June 2026, profit was \$5,503,669 (111.8%) higher than the prior year. Revenue increased by \$2,170,446 (6.3%) to \$36,506,819.

Despite continued inflationary pressures, operating costs were generally contained, with the more significant increases in expenditure largely reflecting planned investment and expenditure in accordance with the annual budget. These included employee-related expenses, which increased by \$1,059,645 (92%), marketing and communication expenses by \$484,900 (28.6%), staff development and related expenses by \$296,339 (63.4%), Domain Name System infrastructure expenses by \$274,855 (13.4%), and grant expenses by \$135,000 (22.5%).

These planned increases were partially offset by lower expenditure in a number of areas, including consultancy expenses, which decreased by \$256,141 (13.9%), research and development grants by \$254,323 (19.4%), and travel expenses by \$213,903 (20.4%).

Significant changes in the state of affairs

There were no significant changes in the state of affairs that had an effect on the Group's operations or the results of its operations.

6. Events subsequent to reporting date

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the directors of the Group, to affect significantly the operations, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Group, in future financial years.

7. Likely developments

auDA is progressing delivery of its 2026–30 Strategy, guided by its purpose of "Connecting Australians to an open internet with trust and confidence". Implementation is focused on strengthening the security, reliability and resilience of the .au domain.

8. Member's guarantee

The Company is limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up its Constitution states that each member of the Company is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the Company. Following the membership transition on 27 September 2022, the number of members of the Company has increased significantly and as of 30 June 2026, the number of members was 6,587 (2025: 5,831).

9. Non-audit services

KPMG consented to act as auditor of the Group on 27 June 2017 and has continued to provide valued audit services to auDA. Kate Rowswell is serving her third year as lead audit partner for the financial year ending 30 June 2026. As part of the directors' commitment to sound governance and good practice, auDA is currently undertaking a competitive request for proposal process for external audit services for the financial year commencing 1 July 2026 and subsequent years.

During the year KPMG, the Group's auditor, has performed certain other services in addition to the audit and review of the financial statements.

The Board has considered the non-audit services provided during the year by the auditor and, in accordance with written advice provided by resolution of the Finance and Audit Committee, is satisfied that the provision of those non-audit services during the year by the auditor is compatible with, and did not compromise, the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* for the following reasons:

- All non-audit services were subject to the corporate governance procedures adopted by the Group and have been reviewed by the Finance and Audit Committee to ensure they do not impact the integrity and objectivity of the auditor; and
- The non-audit services provided do not undermine the general principles relating to auditor independence as set out in APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, as they did not involve reviewing or auditing the auditor's own work, acting in a management or decision-making capacity for the Group, acting as an advocate for the Group or jointly sharing risks and rewards.

Details of the amounts paid to the auditor of the Group, KPMG, and its network firms for audit and non-audit services provided during the year are set out below:

Audit and non-audit services	2026 \$	2025 \$
Financial statement compilation services (non-audit services)	12,260	14,660
Audit of financial statements	90,650	94,660
TOTAL	102,910	109,320

10. Environmental regulation

In February 2023, the Group established the Finance and Sustainability Committee to enhance the Group's focus on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues impacting on operating performance. In 2025 the Finance and Sustainability Committee absorbed the role of the Audit Committee and was renamed the Finance and Audit Committee.

The Finance and Audit Committee has oversight of the development, maintenance and communication of the Sustainability Framework to ensure the sustainability of business operations, the application of ESG principles for investment management and environmental considerations applicable to operating activities.

The Company's 2026–30 Strategy reaffirms auDA's commitment to operating in an environmentally and socially responsible way, setting out environmental and social strategic initiatives and building on auDA's Sustainability Framework, which was finalised in late 2024.

The Federal Government's Terms of Endorsement and the ICANN sponsorship agreement under which the Group operates do not impose sustainability or environmental obligations.

11. Indemnification and insurance of officers and auditors

Indemnification

The Company has entered a Deed of Access, Indemnity and Insurance with each Director of the Company which provides indemnity against a liability arising out of or in any way directly or indirectly connected with the Officer's role as Director of the Company and reasonable defence costs. There are no known claims or legal actions against any Director or Officer or Executive in respect of the operations of the Group.

Insurance premiums

The Directors have not included details of the nature of the liabilities covered or the amount of the premium paid in respect of the Directors' and Officers' liability and Legal Expenses' insurance contracts, as such disclosure is prohibited under the terms of these contracts. The Company has not paid any premiums to indemnify or insure auditors.

12. Proceedings on behalf of the Company

There have been no proceedings on behalf of the Company identified for the year ended 30 June 2026.

13. Lead auditor's independence declaration

The lead auditor's independence declaration is set out on page 124 and forms part of the Directors' Report for the year ended 30 June 2026.

This report is made with a resolution of the Directors:



Marina Go AM
Independent Chairperson

Dated at Melbourne this 13th day of October 2026

Consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 \$	2025 \$
REVENUE			
Revenue	4	36,506,819	34,336,373
Other income		10,763	4,200
EXPENSES			
Registry operator fees		(9,579,530)	(9,418,965)
Employee related expenses	5	(12,578,864)	(11,519,219)
Staff development and related expenses		(763,385)	(467,046)
Compliance services expense		(407,032)	(338,825)
Consultancy expense		(1,591,085)	(1,847,226)
Domain Name System infrastructure expense		(2,318,837)	(2,043,982)
Grant expense	6	(735,000)	(600,000)
Engagement expense		(207,373)	(251,639)
Marketing and communication expense		(2,183,283)	(1,698,383)
Insurance expense		(324,076)	(358,026)
Travel expense		(833,046)	(1,046,949)
Directors' remuneration expense		(657,128)	(617,441)
Subscriptions expense		(454,441)	(511,137)
Research and development grants		(1,059,698)	(1,314,021)
Depreciation of plant and equipment	11	(424,596)	(396,679)
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	12	(276,735)	(275,369)
Other expenses		(383,980)	(413,639)
Total expenses		(34,778,089)	(33,118,546)
Profit from operations		1,739,493	1,222,027
Change in fair value of financial assets classified at FVTPL *		8,504,243	3,407,603
Net finance income	7	184,371	294,808
Profit before income tax		10,428,107	4,924,438
Income tax expense		—	—
Profit for the year		10,428,107	4,924,438
Other comprehensive income		—	—
Total comprehensive income		10,428,107	4,924,438

*Fair value through profit or loss

The notes on pages 99 to 121 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Consolidated statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 \$	2025 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	8	18,399,630	19,603,918
Trade and other receivables	9	3,696,942	3,533,529
Prepayments		860,957	470,628
Total current assets		22,957,529	23,608,075
Non-current assets			
Other financial assets		491,560	475,328
Investments	10	66,069,830	53,611,872
Plant and equipment	11	549,389	760,268
Right-of-use assets	12	1,138,998	436,001
Total non-current assets		68,249,777	55,283,469
Total assets		91,207,306	78,891,544
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	13	2,827,768	3,385,848
Employee benefits	14	1,057,119	916,032
Deferred income	15	22,979,804	21,532,182
Lease liabilities	12	403,419	455,509
Total current liabilities		27,268,110	26,289,571
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred income	15	11,325,377	11,041,303
Employee benefits	14	204,356	169,529
Provision for make good		128,675	128,675
Lease liabilities	12	870,150	279,935
Total non-current liabilities		12,528,558	11,619,442
Total liabilities		39,796,668	37,909,013
Net assets		51,410,638	40,982,531
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		51,410,638	40,982,531
Total equity		51,410,638	40,982,531

The notes on pages 99 to 121 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Consolidated statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Retained earnings \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2024	36,058,093	36,058,093
Comprehensive income		
Profit for the year	4,924,438	4,924,438
Total comprehensive income	4,924,438	4,924,438
Balance at 30 June 2025	40,982,531	40,982,531
Comprehensive income		
Profit for the year	10,428,107	10,428,107
Total comprehensive income	10,428,107	10,428,107
Balance at 30 June 2026	51,410,638	51,410,638

The notes on pages 99 to 121 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements

Consolidated statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 \$	2025 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash received from customers		38,085,865	35,073,750
Cash paid to suppliers and employees		(35,262,592)	(31,099,388)
Finance income received	7	702,734	647,195
Interest paid for lease liabilities	7	(34,891)	(37,162)
Net cash from operating activities		3,491,116	4,584,395
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds maturing from term deposits		16,232	30,840
Payment for investments and term deposits		(20,578,184)	(37,941,044)
Proceeds from sale of investments		16,525,036	32,654,489
Acquisition of plant and equipment	11	(216,881)	(160,007)
Net cash used in investing activities		(4,253,797)	(5,415,722)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Principle payment of lease liability	12	(441,607)	(420,628)
Net cash used in financing activities		(441,607)	(420,628)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(1,204,288)	(1,251,955)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 July		19,603,918	20,855,873
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	8	18,399,630	19,603,918

The notes on pages 99 to 121 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 1 – Reporting entity

.au Domain Administration Limited is a public company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The Group's registered office is Level 19, 8 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. These consolidated financial statements comprise the Company and its subsidiaries (together referred to as the 'Group').

The Group is a not-for-profit entity and is primarily involved in the management of the .au domain.

Note 2 – Basis of preparation

a) Statement of compliance

The consolidated financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (AASBs) adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Compliance with the Australian Accounting Standards may not result in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as the AASBs include requirements and options available to not-for-profit organisations that are inconsistent with IFRS.

These consolidated financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board of Directors as at the date of the Directors' Declaration. Details of the Group's material accounting policies are included in Note 3.

b) Basis of measurement

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis except for the following assets which are stated at their fair value: investments in managed funds, investments in equity securities.

c) Functional and presentation currency

These consolidated financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Group's functional currency.

d) Use of judgements and estimates

In preparing these consolidated financial statements, management has made judgements and estimates about the future, including climate-related risks and opportunities, that affect the application of the Group's accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis and are consistent with the Group's risk management and climate-related commitments where appropriate. Revisions to estimates are recognised prospectively.

i. Judgements

Information about judgements made in applying accounting policies that have the most significant effects on the amounts recognised in the financial statements is included in the following notes:

- revenue recognition: whether revenue received is recognised over time or at a point in time;
- consolidation: whether the Group has de facto control over an investee; and
- lease term: whether the Group is reasonably certain to exercise extension options.

ii. Assumptions and estimation uncertainties

Information about assumptions and estimation uncertainties at the reporting date that have a significant risk of resulting in a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year is included in the following notes:

- recognition and measurement of provisions and contingencies: key assumptions about the likelihood and magnitude of an outflow of resources;
- measurement of ECL allowance for trade receivables: key assumptions in determining the weighted-average loss rate; and
- revenue recognition: estimate of expected returns

e) Going concern

The financial report has been prepared on the going concern basis which assumes continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and the settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business.

Note 3 – Material accounting policies

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these consolidated financial statements, except if mentioned otherwise.

a) Basis of consolidation

i. Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are entities controlled by the Group. The Group 'controls' an entity when it is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. The financial statements of subsidiaries are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date on which control commences until the date on which control ceases.

ii. Transactions eliminated on consolidation

Intra-group balances and transactions, and any unrealised income and expenses (except for foreign currency transaction gains or losses) arising from intra-group transactions, are eliminated. Unrealised gains arising from transactions with equity accounted investees are eliminated against the investment to the extent of the Group's interest in the investee. Unrealised losses are eliminated in the same way as unrealised gains, but only to the extent that there is no evidence of impairment.

b) Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to the functional currency of the Group at exchange rates at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are retranslated to the functional currency at the exchange rate at that date. The foreign currency gain or loss on monetary items is the difference between amortised cost in the functional currency at the beginning of the period, adjusted for effective interest and payments during the period, and the amortised cost in foreign currency translated at the exchange rate at the end of the year.

Non-monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies that are measured at fair value are retranslated to the functional currency at the exchange rate at the date that the fair value was determined. Non-monetary items in a foreign currency that are measured in terms of historical cost are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Foreign currency differences arising on retranslation are recognised in profit or loss.

c) Financial instruments

i. Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of presentation in the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, and bank overdrafts.

ii. Recognition and initial measurement

Trade receivables and debt securities issued are initially recognised when they are originated. All other financial assets and financial liabilities are initially recognised when the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

A financial asset (unless it is a trade receivable without a significant financing component) or financial liability is initially measured at fair value plus, for an item not at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL), transaction costs that are directly attributable to its acquisition or issue. A trade receivable without a significant financing component is initially measured at the transaction price.

iii. Classification and subsequent measurement

Financial assets

On initial recognition, a financial asset is classified as measured at: amortised cost; fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) – debt investment; FVOCI – equity investment; or fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL).

Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition unless the Group changes its business model for managing financial assets, in which case all affected financial assets are reclassified on the first day of the first reporting period following the change in the business model.

A financial asset is measured at amortised cost if it meets both of the following conditions and is not designated as at FVTPL:

- it is held within a business model whose objective is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows; and
- its contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

All financial assets not classified as measured at amortised cost or FVOCI as described above are measured at FVTPL. This includes all derivative financial assets. On initial recognition, the Group may irrevocably designate a financial asset that otherwise meets the requirements to be measured at amortised cost or at FVOCI as at FVTPL if doing so eliminates or significantly reduces an accounting mismatch that would otherwise arise.

Financial assets – subsequent measurement and gains and losses

Financial assets at amortised cost

The Group recognises the following financial assets in this category: Trade and other receivables, cash and cash equivalents, term deposits.

These assets are initially recognised when they are originated and are measured at the transaction price. These assets are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The amortised cost is reduced by impairment losses. Interest income, foreign exchange gains and losses and impairment are recognised in profit or loss. Any gain or loss on derecognition is recognised in profit or loss.

Financial assets at FVTPL

The Group recognises the following financial assets in this category: managed funds, equity securities, alternatives and other investments.

These assets are initially recognised when the Group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument and are measured at fair value. These assets are subsequently measured at fair value. Net gains and losses, including any interest or dividend income are recognised in profit or loss.

Financial liabilities – classification, subsequent measurement and gains and losses

Financial liabilities are classified as measured at amortised cost or FVTPL. A financial liability is classified as at FVTPL if it is classified as held-for-trading. Financial liabilities at FVTPL are measured at fair value and net gains and losses, including any interest expense, are recognised in profit or loss. Other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Interest expense and foreign exchange gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss. Any gain or loss on derecognition is also recognised in profit or loss.

iv. Derecognition

Financial assets

The Company derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or it transfers the rights to receive the contractual cash flows in a transaction in which substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred or in which the Company neither transfers nor retains substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership and it does not retain control of the financial asset.

The Company enters into transactions whereby it transfers assets recognised in its statement of financial position, but retains either all or substantially all of the risks and rewards of the transferred assets. In these cases, the transferred assets are not derecognised.

Financial liabilities

The Company derecognises a financial liability when its contractual obligations are discharged, cancelled, or expire. The Company also derecognises a financial liability when its terms are modified and the cash flows of the modified liability are substantially different, in which case a new financial liability based on the modified terms is recognised at fair value.

On derecognition of a financial liability, the difference between the carrying amount extinguished and the consideration paid (including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed) is recognised in profit or loss.

v. Offsetting

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount presented in the statement of financial position when, and only when, the Company currently has a legally enforceable right to set off the amounts and it intends either to settle them on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

d) Plant and equipment

i. Recognition and measurement

Items of plant and equipment are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. When parts of an item of plant and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items of plant and equipment. Any gain or loss on disposal of an item of plant and equipment is determined by comparing the proceeds from disposal with the carrying amount of plant and equipment and is recognised net within other income/other expenses in profit or loss.

ii. Subsequent expenditure

Subsequent expenditure is capitalised only when it is probable that the future economic benefits associated with the expenditure will flow to the Group.

iii. Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of plant and equipment less their estimated residual values using the straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives, and is recognised in profit or loss. Leased assets are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives unless it is reasonably certain that the Group will obtain ownership by the end of the lease term. The estimated useful lives in the current and comparative periods are as follows:

	2026	2025
Office equipment	4 – 6 years	4 – 6 years
Leasehold improvements	4 – 6 years	4 – 6 years
Computer equipment	4 – 6 years	4 – 6 years

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each financial year-end and adjusted if appropriate.

iv. Leasehold improvements

The cost of improvements to or on leasehold properties is amortised over the unexpired period of the lease, or the estimated useful life of the improvement to the Group, whichever is shorter.

e) Impairment

i. Non-derivative financial assets

The Group applies the simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses which assumes a lifetime expected loss allowance for trade and other receivables based on all possible default events over the expected life of the receivable. The amount of the impairment loss is recognised as an expense in profit or loss. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against expenses in the income statement.

ii. Non-financial assets

The carrying amounts of the Group's non-financial assets are reviewed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists then the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

An impairment loss is recognised if the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss.

An impairment loss in respect of goodwill is not reversed. For other assets, an impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised.

f) Employee benefits

i. Short term benefits

Short-term employee benefit obligations are expensed as the related service is provided. A liability is recognised for the amount expected to be paid under short-term cash bonus or profit-sharing plans if the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation to pay this amount as a result of past service provided by the employee and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

ii. Defined contribution superannuation funds

Obligations for contributions to defined contribution superannuation funds are recognised as an expense in profit or loss in the periods during which services are rendered by employees. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or reduction in future payment is available.

iii. Other long-term employee benefits

The Group's net obligation in respect of long-term employee benefits is the amount of future benefit that employees have earned in return for their service in the current and prior periods plus related on-costs. That benefit is discounted to determine its present value, and the fair value of any related assets is deducted. The discount rate is the yield at the reporting date on corporate bonds that have maturity dates approximating the terms of the Group's obligations. Remeasurements are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they arise.

g) Provisions

A provision is recognised if, as a result of a past event, the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation that can be estimated reliably, and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. Provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost.

The provision for make good includes the Group's best estimate of the amount required to return the Group's leased premises to its original condition, taking into account due consideration of the Group's past history of vacating office premises.

h) Revenue

i. Domain name licence fees

Domain name licence fees are measured based on the consideration specified in contracts with registrants. The Group recognises revenue over the period for which a registrant is registered to use their domain name licence. Domain name registration periods can vary between one and five years in length.

Registrants pay for their domain name licence in advance and the prepayments are included in deferred income on the balance sheet until recognised.

ii. Registrar fees

Registrar fees are a fixed fee charged to each registrar for accreditation registration. Fees are paid in advance for a 12-month period. The amounts billed are recognised as revenue over the duration of the registration period.

i) Leases

At inception of a contract, the Group assesses whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. To assess whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, the Group uses the definition of a lease in AASB 16.

i. As a lessee

At commencement or on modification of a contract that contains a lease component, the Group allocates the consideration in the contract to each lease component on the basis of its relative stand-alone prices.

The Group recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, plus any initial direct costs incurred and an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located, less any lease incentives received.

The right-of-use asset is subsequently depreciated using the straight-line method from the commencement date to the end of the lease term, unless the lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset to the Group by the end of the lease term or the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the Group will exercise a purchase option. In that case the right-of-use asset will be depreciated over the useful life of the underlying asset, which is determined on the same basis as those of property and equipment. In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any, and adjusted for certain remeasurements of the lease liability.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, the Group's incremental borrowing rate. Generally, the Group uses its incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate.

The Group determines its incremental borrowing rate by obtaining interest rates from various external financing sources and makes certain adjustments to reflect the terms of the lease and type of the asset leased. The right-of-use asset is subsequently assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of assets accounting policy and adjustment for certain remeasurements of lease liability. The right-of-use asset is assessed for impairment indicators at each reporting date.

Note 3 – Material accounting policies (continued)

i) Leases (continued)

i. As a lessee (continued)

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

- fixed payments, including in-substance fixed payments;
- variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date;
- amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and
- the exercise price under a purchase option that the Group is reasonably certain to exercise, lease payments in an optional renewal period if the Group is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, and penalties for early termination of a lease unless the Group is reasonably certain not to terminate early.

The lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. It is remeasured when there is a change in future lease payments arising from a change in an index or rate, if there is a change in the Group's estimate of the amount expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee, if the Group changes its assessment of whether it will exercise a purchase, extension or termination option or if there is a revised in-substance fixed lease payment.

When the lease liability is remeasured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

The Group presents right-of-use assets and lease liabilities separately in the consolidated statement of financial position.

ii. Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Group has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for leases of low-value assets and short-term leases. The Group recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

j) Finance income and finance costs

Finance income comprises interest income on funds invested and the net gain on investments at FVTPL. Interest income is recognised as it accrues, using the effective interest method.

Finance costs comprise interest expense on finance leases, the financial effect of unwinding the make good provision, and the net loss on investments at FVTPL. Borrowing costs that are not directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset are recognised in profit or loss using the effective interest method.

k) Income tax

No income tax expense is charged and no income tax is payable by the Group per Section 50-40 Item 8.3 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* where the parent is income tax exempt. The auDA Foundation is also income tax exempt per Section 50-5 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

I) Accounting standards issued but not yet effective

A number of new accounting standards and amendments have been issued but are not yet effective for the year ended 30 June 2026 and have not been early adopted by the Group.

i. AASB 18 Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements

AASB 18 Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements will replace AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements. AASB 18 applies to not-for-profit entities for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2028, with earlier application permitted.

AASB 18 introduces the following key presentation and disclosure requirements:

- Entities are required to classify all income and expenses into five categories in the statement of profit or loss, namely the operating, investing, financing, discontinued operations and income tax categories. Entities are also required to present a newly-defined operating profit subtotal. Entities' net profit will not change.
- Management-defined performance measures (MPMs) are disclosed in a single note in the financial statements.
- Enhanced guidance is provided on how to group information in the financial statements.

In addition, all entities are required to use the operating profit subtotal as the starting point for the statement of cash flows when presenting operating cash flows under the indirect method.

The Group is assessing the impact of AASB 18 on its consolidated financial statements, particularly the structure and presentation of the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of cash flows, the identification and disclosure of any management-defined performance measures, and the aggregation and disaggregation of information in the financial statements.

Other new and amended Australian Accounting Standards issued but not yet effective are not expected to have a material impact on the Group's consolidated financial statements.

Note 4 – Revenue

The Group generates revenue from the sale of .au domain name licence contracts.

In the following table, revenue recognition from contracts with customers is disaggregated by major service line, primary geographical markets and timing of revenue recognition.

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Major service line		
Domain name licence	36,416,934	34,246,378
Registrar fees	89,885	89,995
		34,336,373
Primary geographical markets		
Australia	36,506,819	34,336,373
	36,506,819	34,336,373
Timing of revenue recognition		
Products and services transferred over time	36,506,819	34,336,373
Revenue from contracts with customers	36,506,819	34,336,373

Note 5 – Employee related expenses

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Wages and salaries	11,410,405	10,535,548
Contributions to defined contribution plans	1,168,459	983,671
Total employee related expenses	12,578,864	11,519,219

Note 6 – Grant expense

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Grant expense	735,000	600,000
Total grant expense	735,000	600,000

During the year, the Group was able to continue its philanthropic activities which were funded by auDA Foundation. The grant round received 139 funding applications. Following the assessment process, the Foundation awarded 15 grants totalling \$775,000, comprising five grants of \$55,000 and ten grants of \$50,000. During the year, the Foundation received a refund of \$40,000 from a 2024 grant recipient that was unable to deliver its project. Accordingly, net grant expense for the year totalled \$735,000 (2025: \$600,000).

Note 7 – Net finance income

	Note	2026 \$	2025 \$
Finance income			
Interest income		177,499	297,575
Dividend income		525,235	349,619
Net foreign exchange gain		–	51,372
Total finance income		702,734	698,566
Finance cost			
Interest on lease liability	12	(34,891)	(37,162)
Investment management fees		(416,503)	(366,596)
Net foreign exchange loss		(66,969)	–
Total finance cost		(518,363)	(403,758)
Net finance income		184,371	294,808

Note 8 – Cash and cash equivalents

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Cash at bank	18,399,630	19,603,918
Total cash and cash equivalents	18,399,630	19,603,918

Reconciliation of profit after tax to cash flows from operating activities

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Profit for the year	10,428,107	4,924,438
Adjusted for non-cash items in net profit:		
• Depreciation plant and amortisation	424,596	396,679
• Depreciation right-of-use asset	276,735	275,369
• Net FX (loss)/gain	66,969	(51,372)
• Change in fair value of financial assets at FVTPL*	(8,504,243)	(3,407,603)
Net loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	3,164	
Increase in trade and other receivables	(163,413)	(427,898)
(Increase)/Decrease in prepayments	(390,329)	89,654
(Decrease)/Increase in trade and other payables	(558,080)	1,167,939
Increase in employee benefits	175,914	176,695
Increase in deferred income	1,731,696	1,440,494
Net cash from operating activities	3,491,116	4,584,395

* Fair value through profit or loss

Note 9 – Trade and other receivables

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Trade receivables	3,689,886	3,497,114
Other receivables	7,056	36,415
Total trade and other receivables	3,696,942	3,533,529

Note 10 – Investments

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Equity securities	41,913,508	36,385,244
Managed funds	24,156,322	17,226,628
Total investments	66,069,830	53,611,872

The market value of investments increased during the financial year by \$8.50 million (2025: \$3.41 million). Subsequent to year end, there have been no indicators which will significantly impact the market valuation of investments

Note 11 – Property, plant and equipment

	Office equipment \$	Leasehold improvement \$	Computer equipment \$	Total \$
Cost				
Balance at 1 July 2024	169,747	1,111,518	961,559	2,242,824
Additions	15,702	–	144,305	160,007
Disposals	–	–	(47,983)	(47,983)
Balance at 30 June 2025	185,449	1,111,518	1,057,881	2,354,848
Balance at 1 July 2025	185,449	1,111,518	1,057,881	2,354,848
Acquisitions	62,168	–	154,713	216,881
Disposals	(6,627)	–	(264,591)	(271,218)
Balance at 30 June 2026	240,990	1,111,518	948,003	2,300,511
Accumulated depreciation				
Balance at 1 July 2024	78,813	507,886	659,185	1,245,884
Depreciation	39,198	241,720	115,761	396,679
Disposals	–	–	(47,983)	(47,983)
Balance at 30 June 2025	118,011	749,606	726,963	1,594,580
Balance at 1 July 2025	118,011	749,606	726,963	1,594,580
Depreciation	49,492	241,720	133,384	424,596
Disposals	(6,008)	–	(262,046)	(268,054)
Balance at 30 June 2026	161,495	991,326	598,301	1,751,122
Carrying amounts				
At 30 June 2025	67,438	361,912	330,918	760,268
At 30 June 2026	79,495	120,192	349,702	549,389

Note 12 – Leases

a) Right-of-use-assets

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Balance at 1 July	436,001	711,370
Depreciation	(276,735)	(275,369)
Lease modification / remeasurement arising from lease extension	979,732	–
Balance at 30 June	1,138,998	436,001

b) Amounts recognised in profit or loss

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Interest on lease liabilities	34,891	37,162
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	276,735	275,369
	311,626	312,531

c) Lease liabilities

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Current	403,419	455,509
Non-current	870,150	279,935
Total lease liabilities	1,273,569	735,444

The lease liability was remeasured during the year following the exercise of the contractual extension option. The revised liability reflects lease payments over the extended lease term discounted using the applicable incremental borrowing rate at the date of reassessment.

d) Amounts recognised in statement of cash flows

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Interest paid for lease liabilities	34,891	37,162
Principle payment of lease liability	441,607	420,628
	476,498	457,790

e) Extension options

During the year ended 30 June 2026, the Group exercised the extension option relating to its Exhibition Street, Melbourne office lease. The lease was extended for an additional three-year period. As the Group exercised the extension option, the lease liability and right-of-use asset were remeasured to reflect the revised lease term.

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Balance at 1 July	735,444	1,156,072
Lease modification and remeasurement arising from lease extension	979,732	–
Lease payments	(476,498)	(457,790)
Interest expense on lease liabilities	34,891	37,162
Balance at 30 June	1,273,569	735,444

f) Future lease payments

The future lease payments (including those lease payments that are not included in the measurement of the lease liability, e.g. for short term leases and leases of low value items) are disclosed for each of the following periods:

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Less than one year	431,473	475,132
One to five years	979,610	282,738
	1,411,083	757,870

Note 13 – Trade and other payables

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Trade payables	1,547,858	2,411,253
Other payables and accrued expenses	1,279,910	974,595
Total trade and other payables	2,827,768	3,385,848

Note 14 – Employee benefits

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Current		
Liability for annual leave	794,919	723,871
Liability for long-service leave	262,200	192,161
Total current	1,057,119	916,032
Non-current		
Liability for long service leave	204,356	169,529
Total non-current	204,356	169,529

Contributions to defined contribution plans recognised as an expense in profit or loss in 2026 were \$1,168,459 (2025: \$983,671).

Note 15 – Deferred income

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Current		
Domain name licence fees	22,979,804	21,532,182
Total current	22,979,804	21,532,182
Non-current		
Domain name licence fees	11,325,377	11,041,303
Total non-current	11,325,377	11,041,303

Note 16 – Financial instruments

The following table shows the carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities. Their levels in the fair value hierarchy are summarised at Note 16 (a). It does not include fair value information for financial assets and financial liabilities not measured at fair value if the carrying amount is a reasonable approximation of fair value:

	Note	Amortised cost \$	FVTPL \$	Other liabilities \$	Total \$	Fair value \$
30 JUNE 2026						
Financial assets measured at fair value						
Equity securities	10	–	41,913,508	–	41,913,508	41,913,508
Managed funds	10	–	24,156,322	–	24,156,322	24,156,322
Total		–	66,069,830	–	66,069,830	66,069,830
Financial assets measured at amortised cost						
Cash and cash equivalents	8	18,399,630	–	–	18,399,630	18,399,630
Trade and other receivables	9	3,696,942	–	–	3,696,942	3,696,942
Total		22,096,572	–	–	22,096,572	22,096,572
Financial liabilities						
Trade and other payables	13	–	–	2,827,768	2,827,768	2,827,768
Domain name license fees deferred income	15	–	–	34,305,181	34,305,181	34,305,181
Lease liabilities	12	–	–	1,273,569	1,273,569	1,273,569
Total		–	–	38,406,518	38,406,518	38,406,518
30 JUNE 2025						
Financial assets measured at fair value						
Equity securities	10	–	36,385,244	–	36,385,244	36,385,244
Managed funds	10	–	17,226,628	–	17,226,628	17,226,628
Total		–	53,611,872	–	53,611,872	53,611,872
Financial assets measured at amortised cost						
Cash and cash equivalents	8	19,603,918	–	–	19,603,918	19,603,918
Trade and other receivables	9	3,533,529	–	–	3,533,529	3,533,529
Total		23,137,447	–	–	23,137,447	23,137,447
Financial liabilities						
Trade and other payables	13	–	–	3,385,848	3,385,848	3,385,848
Domain name license fees deferred income	15	–	–	32,573,485	32,573,485	32,573,485
Lease liabilities	12	–	–	735,444	735,444	735,444
Total		–	–	36,694,777	36,694,777	36,694,777

a) Measurement of fair values

The accounting standards set out the following hierarchy for fair value measurement:

- Level 1: quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2: inputs other than quoted prices, which can be observed either directly (as prices) or indirectly (derived from prices).
- Level 3: inputs for the asset or liabilities that are not based on observable market data.

Financial instruments measured at fair value are classified within the fair value hierarchy based on the lowest-level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. Listed equity securities, CHESS Depositary Interests and exchange-traded funds are classified as Level 1 where fair value is determined using unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical instruments at the reporting date. Managed fund investments are classified as Level 2 where fair value is determined using unit prices or net asset values provided by the relevant investment manager or fund administrator and those values are based on observable market inputs. Investments are classified as Level 3 where one or more significant inputs used in determining fair value are not based on observable market data.

Financial risk management

The Group's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks:

- credit risk
- liquidity risk
- market risk.

i. Risk management framework

The Company's Board of Directors has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Group's risk management framework.

The Group's risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Group, to set appropriate risk limits and controls and to monitor risks and adherence to limits. Risk management policies and systems are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in market conditions and the Group's activities. The Group, through its training and management standards and procedures, aims to maintain a disciplined and constructive control environment in which all employees understand their roles and obligations.

During FY26, the Board and management undertook an extensive review of the Group's risk appetite approach. As part of the revised governance arrangements, the Security and Risk Committee became the Security and Technology Committee, and the Finance and Audit Committee assumed oversight responsibility for risk management. The Security and Technology Committee and Governance and Culture Committee retain responsibility for monitoring risks within their respective risk domains through a key risk indicator framework.

ii. Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Group if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations, and arises principally from the Group's receivables from customers and investments in debt securities. The carrying amounts of financial assets and contract assets represent the maximum credit exposure.

Trade receivables and contract assets

The Group's exposure to credit risk is influenced mainly by the individual characteristics of each customer. However, management also considers the factors that may influence the credit risk of its customer base, including the default risk associated with the industry in which customers operate.

The Group limits its exposure to credit risk from trade receivables by establishing a maximum payment period of one and three months for individual and corporate customers respectively.

Note 16 – Financial instruments (continued)

a) Measurement of fair values (continued)

ii. Credit risk (continued)

The maximum exposure to credit risk for trade and other receivables by type of counterparty was as follows:

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Trade and other receivables	3,696,942	3,533,529
Total	3,696,942	3,533,529

iii. Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Group will encounter difficulty in meeting the obligations associated with its financial liabilities that are settled by delivering cash or another financial asset. The Group's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure, as far as possible, that it will have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they are due, under both normal and stressed conditions.

The following are the remaining contractual maturities of financial liabilities at the reporting date. The trade and other payables and deferred income are gross and undiscounted and lease liabilities are discounted.

	Contractual cash flows			
	Carrying amount \$	Total \$	Less than 12 months \$	More than 12 months \$
30 JUNE 2026				
Non-derivative financial liabilities				
Trade and other payables	2,827,768	2,827,768	2,827,768	–
Domain name licence fees deferred income	1,108,701	1,108,701	689,756	418,945
Lease liabilities	1,273,569	1,411,083	431,473	979,610
Total	5,210,038	5,347,552	3,948,997	1,398,555
30 JUNE 2025				
Non-derivative financial liabilities				
Trade and other payables	3,385,848	3,385,848	3,385,848	–
Domain name licence fees deferred income	2,963,139	2,963,139	1,854,438	1,108,701
Lease liabilities	735,444	757,870	475,132	282,738
Total	7,084,431	7,106,857	5,715,418	1,391,439

iv. Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices – such as foreign exchange rates, interest rates and equity prices – will affect the Group's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. Market risk is managed and monitored using sensitivity analysis, and minimised through ensuring that all investment activities are undertaken in accordance with established mandate limits and investment strategies.

Interest rate risk

The table below shows assets and liabilities impacted by market interest rates.

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Floating rate instruments		
Cash and cash equivalents	18,399,630	19,603,918
Total	18,399,630	19,603,918

Cashflow sensitivity analysis for variable-rate instruments

A reasonably possible change of 200 basis points in interest rates at the reporting date would have increased/(decreased) net assets and profit and loss by the amounts shown below. This analysis assumes that all other variables remain constant.

<i>Effects in dollars</i>	Profit or Loss		Equity, net of tax	
	200bp increase	200bp decrease	200bp increase	200bp decrease
30 JUNE 2026				
Variable rate instrument	367,993	(367,993)	–	–
Cash flow sensitivity (net)	367,993	(367,993)	–	–
30 JUNE 2025				
Variable rate instrument	392,078	(392,078)	–	–
Cash flow sensitivity (net)	392,078	(392,078)	–	–

Other market price risk

The Group is exposed to equity price risk, which arises from investments in equity securities and managed funds. The management of the Group monitors and reports the performance of its investment portfolio on a regular basis against benchmark portfolios established by the Group's investment advisor.

Note 17 – Commitments

There are no significant capital commitments as at 30 June 2026 (2025: nil).

Note 18 – List of subsidiaries

Set out below is a list of subsidiaries of the Group. The consolidated financial report incorporates the assets, liabilities and results of the following subsidiaries in accordance with the accounting policies described in Notes 1 to 3:

Name of entity	Principal place of business	2026	2025
		Ownership interest	
auDA Foundation Pty Ltd	Australia	100%	100%
auDA Foundation (a public charitable trust)	Australia	100%	100%

Note 19 – Related parties

a) Transactions with key management personnel

Key management personnel of the Group comprise the Directors and members of executive management who had authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Group during the year. The composition of executive management changed during the year. The Chief People and Culture Officer retired from full-time employment with auDA in December 2025 at which time the responsibilities of the role were transferred to other executives and leaders in the organisation. A Chief Innovation Officer was appointed during the year and commenced in their role on 1 June 2026.

Key management personnel compensation for the periods during which individuals held key management personnel responsibilities is outlined below.

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Short-term employee benefits	2,388,347	2,414,598
Post-employment benefits*	200,788	179,354
Other long-term benefits	(21,470)	(67,742)
Termination	229,398	–
Key management personnel compensation	2,797,063	2,526,210

* Superannuation benefits

b) Other related party transactions

The Nomination Committee's role is to identify, scrutinise and approve candidates for appointment or election as a Director of auDA's Board. The Independent Chair of the auDA Board is also the Chair of auDA's Nomination Committee. The Independent Chair of the auDA Board did not receive any additional remuneration for performing this role.

During 2025–26, the two former Directors who had served on the Nomination Committee during 2024–25 stepped down from the Committee. One Director joined the Nomination Committee during 2025–26 prior to retiring from the Board. The Director received Nomination Committee fees of \$16,800 inclusive of statutory superannuation for services performed while serving as a Director. These amounts were included within the annual cap on Directors' remuneration.

The government representative on the Nomination Committee did not receive any remuneration.

The Nomination Committee's other members, who are not Directors of auDA, were remunerated in accordance with Clause 10 of the Nomination Committee Charter, totalling \$100,800 (2025: \$50,175).

Note 20 – Contingencies

There are no significant contingencies as at 30 June 2026 (2025: nil).

Note 21 – Auditor's remuneration

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Auditor of the Group – KPMG		
Audit of financial statements – Group	80,650	84,660
Audit of financial statements – Subsidiary	10,000	10,000
	90,650	94,660
Other services – KPMG		
Financial statement compilation services	12,260	14,660
	12,260	14,660

Note 22 – Parent entity disclosures

As at and throughout the financial year ended 30 June 2026 the parent entity of the Group was .au Domain Administration Limited.

a) Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

	2026 \$	2025 \$
REVENUE		
Revenue	36,506,819	34,336,373
Other income	10,763	4,200
EXPENSES		
Registry operator fees	(9,579,530)	(9,418,964)
Employee related expenses expense	(12,578,864)	(11,519,219)
Staff development and related expenses	(763,385)	(467,046)
Compliance services expense	(407,032)	(338,825)
Consultancy expense	(1,591,085)	(1,847,226)
Domain Name System infrastructure expense	(2,318,837)	(2,043,982)
Engagement expense	(207,373)	(251,639)
Marketing and communication expense	(2,183,283)	(1,698,383)
Insurance expense	(324,076)	(358,026)
Travel expense	(833,046)	(1,046,949)
Directors' remuneration expense	(657,128)	(617,441)
Subscription expense	(454,441)	(511,137)
Research and development grants	(1,059,698)	(1,314,021)
Depreciation of plant and equipment	(424,596)	(396,679)
Depreciation of right-of-use asset	(276,735)	(275,369)
Other expenses	(383,859)	(413,522)
Total expenses	(34,042,968)	(32,518,428)
Profit from operations	2,474,614	1,822,145
Change in fair value of financial assets classified at FVTPL*	8,214,598	3,225,545
Net finance income	178,937	290,507
Profit before income tax	10,868,149	5,338,197
Income tax expense	–	–
Profit for the year	10,868,149	5,338,197
Other comprehensive income	–	–
Total comprehensive income	10,868,149	5,338,197

* Fair value through profit or loss

b) Statement of financial position

	2026 \$	2025 \$
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	18,309,695	19,536,292
Trade and other receivables	3,696,942	3,533,530
Prepayments	860,957	470,629
Total current assets	22,867,594	23,540,451
Non-current assets		
Other financial assets	491,560	475,328
Investments	64,347,146	51,426,836
Plant and equipment	549,389	760,268
Right-of-use assets	1,138,998	436,001
Total non-current assets	66,527,093	53,098,433
Total assets	89,394,687	76,638,884
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	2,827,768	3,385,848
Employee benefits	1,057,119	916,032
Deferred income	22,979,804	21,532,182
Lease liabilities	403,419	455,509
Total current liabilities	27,268,110	26,289,571
Non-current liabilities		
Deferred income	11,325,377	11,041,304
Employee benefits	204,356	169,529
Provision for make good	128,675	128,675
Lease liabilities	870,150	279,935
Total non-current liabilities	12,528,558	11,619,443
Total liabilities	39,796,668	37,909,014
Net assets	49,598,019	38,729,870
EQUITY		
Retained earnings	49,598,019	38,729,870
Total equity	49,598,019	38,729,870

c) Contingent liabilities of the parent entity

The parent entity did not have any contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2026 (2025: nil).

d) Contractual capital commitments of the parent entity

The parent entity did not have any contractual capital commitments as at 30 June 2026 (2025: nil).

Note 23 – Subsequent events

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the directors of the Group, to affect significantly the operations, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Group, in future financial years.

Consolidated Entity Disclosure Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Entity name	Body corporate, partnership or trust	Place incorporated/formed	% of shares held directly or indirectly by the Company	Australian or foreign tax resident	Jurisdiction for foreign tax resident
.au Domain Administration Limited (Parent entity) (A)	Body corporate	Australia	–	No*	N/A
auDA Foundation Pty Ltd (B)	Body corporate	Australia	100%	No*	N/A
auDA Foundation (a public charitable trust)	Trust	Australia	100%	No*	N/A

* These entities are exempt from income tax as they are not-for-profit (NFP) organisations

(A) .au Domain Administration Limited is a not-for-profit public company limited by guarantee and self assesses as income tax exempt. The Company is not registered to pay tax and is not considered a tax resident.

(B) auDA Foundation Pty Ltd is a not-for-profit entity, established under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). As a registered charity with the ACNC, auDA Foundation Pty Ltd has been endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) as eligible for an income tax exemption. auDA Foundation Pty Ltd is not registered to pay tax and is not considered a tax resident. auDA Foundation Pty Ltd also acts as trustee for auDA Foundation, a public charitable trust.

auDA Foundation Pty Ltd is required to, and meets, all governance standards set out by the ACNC to maintain its charitable status. These standards ensure that the charity is working towards its charitable purpose, using its profits and assets solely for its charitable purpose, meeting its reporting obligations, keeping records, and adhering to the ACNC Governance Standards.

Directors' Declaration

In the opinion of the Directors of .au Domain Administration Limited ("the Group"):

- a) the financial statements and notes, set out on pages 95 to 121, are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
 - i. giving a true and fair view of the Group's financial position as at 30 June 2026 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
- b) the Consolidated entity disclosure statement as at 30 June 2026 set out on page 37 is true and correct; and
- c) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

The Directors have been given the declarations required by Section 295A of the *Corporations Act 2001* from the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial, Risk and Investment Officer for the financial year ended 30 June 2026;

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors:



Marina Go AM
Independent Chairperson

Dated at Melbourne this 13th day of October 2026



Lead Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001

To the Directors of .au Domain Administration Limited and controlled entities

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit of .au Domain Administration Limited and controlled entities for the financial year ended 30 June 2026 there have been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

KPMG

Kate Rowswell
Partner
Melbourne
13 October 2026

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of .au Domain Administration Limited

Opinion

We have audited the **Financial Report** of .au Domain Administration Limited (the Group).

In our opinion, the accompanying Financial Report of the Company gives a true and fair view, including of the **Group's** financial position as at 30 June 2026 and of its financial performance for the year then ended, in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, in compliance with *Australian Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001*.

The **Financial Report** comprises:

- Consolidated statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026;
- Consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, Consolidated statement of changes in equity, and Consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended;
- Consolidated entity disclosure statement and accompanying basis of preparation as at 30 June 2026;
- Notes, including material accounting policies; and
- Directors' Declaration.

The **Group** consists of the Company and the entities it controlled at the year end or from time to time during the financial year.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standards*. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We are independent of the Group in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* issued by the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board Limited (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the Financial Report in Australia. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, which has been given to the Directors of .au Domain Administration Limited, would be in the same terms if given to the Directors as at the time of this Auditor's Report.

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Other Information

Other Information is financial and non-financial information in .au Domain Administration Limited's annual report which is provided in addition to the Financial Report and the Auditor's Report. The Directors are responsible for the Other Information.

The Other Information we obtained prior to the date of this Auditor's Report was the Directors' report.

Our opinion on the Financial Report does not cover the Other Information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the Financial Report, our responsibility is to read the Other Information. In doing so, we consider whether the Other Information is materially inconsistent with the Financial Report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

We are required to report if we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this Other Information and based on the work we have performed on the Other Information that we obtained prior to the date of this Auditor's Report we have nothing to report.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The Directors are responsible for:

- preparing the Financial Report in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Group, and in compliance with *Australian Accounting Standards* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*
- implementing necessary internal control to enable the preparation of a Financial Report in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Group, and that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- assessing the Group and Company's ability to continue as a going concern and whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate. This includes disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Group and Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.



Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report

Our objective is:

- to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. They are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the Financial Report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report is located at the *Auditing and Assurance Standards Board* website at: https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf
This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

KPMG

Kate Rowsell

Partner

Melbourne

14 October 2026

Glossary

.au member

.au members are members of auDA as set out in the auDA Constitution. They are critical stakeholders who enhance auDA's understanding of Australians' online needs and provide input to auDA policies and strategy. Members support the independent administration of the .au domain and have access to a range of benefits including events and insights.

Board Advisory Committees

Committees comprised of external experts, formed to provide advice to the auDA Board. The edu.au Advisory Committee is a standing advisory committee. Other specialist committees are established by the auDA Board to provide advice on specific topics of interest as needed.

Country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD)

A two-character Top Level Domain reserved for a specific country listed in the ISO 3166 standard (e.g. .au).

Domain name

A human-readable internet address that allows internet users to find websites and send emails without having to remember complex and long numeric Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.

Domain name licence

When you register a domain name you don't 'own' it, instead you're granted permission to use the domain name for a specific period of time via a licence. The domain name holder (registrant) can choose to renew the licence before its expiry date or let it lapse, making the domain name available to be registered by other eligible parties.

Domain name system (DNS)

A critical component of the internet that enables users to find and connect to websites and email addresses by mapping domain names to their corresponding IP addresses. The .au DNS is critical infrastructure as part of the Communications sector under Federal legislation.

DNS abuse

Malicious behaviour that uses the DNS and domain names to carry out online harm. DNS abuse is classified into five categories; malware (such as ransomware), botnets, phishing, pharming and spam (where it facilitates one of the other four categories of DNS abuse).

DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC)

Security extensions that facilitate the digital signing of DNS records, helping to ensure the integrity and authenticity of DNS information.

DNS query

A DNS query is a request for information sent from an internet connected device to a DNS server. When an internet user types a domain name into an internet search bar or sends an email, they commence a DNS query.

Integrated Reporting

The International Integrated Reporting Framework is a globally recognised framework for corporate reporting maintained by the IFRS Foundation and based on integrated thinking. It focuses on how the organisation creates value in the short, medium and long term.

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

The organisation responsible for coordinating the internet's number and naming systems to help ensure a stable, secure and unified global internet.

Internet Protocol (IP) address

A unique series of numbers identifying where a website or email address is hosted online. Every internet-connected device has an IP address that allows devices to communicate with each other. IP addresses are long and often difficult to remember. The DNS maps IP addresses to domain names, which makes it easier for internet users to find what they are looking for online.

ISO 27001

An international standard for information security management systems (ISMS).

ISO 22301

An international standard for business continuity management systems (BCMS).

ISO 3166

An international standard that defines codes to represent the names of countries and their subdivisions. ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 is the part of this standard that defines the two letter country codes used for the internet's country code Top Level Domains.

.au Licensing Framework

The rules for registrants and registrars operating in .au. It comprises the .au Licensing Rules, Registrar Rules and Registrar Agreement.

Multi-stakeholder community

auDA's multi-stakeholder community is the network of key stakeholders that auDA regularly interacts with including the .au registry operator, registrars, resellers, registrants, local, state and federal government entities, civil society, academia, industry bodies, technical community and .au members.

Multi-stakeholder internet governance

The rules, policies, standards and practices that coordinate and shape global cyberspace, which operate largely by consensus, with ideas and proposals debated on their merits. This leads to outcomes that have considered a full range of perspectives and have broad support. Representatives from governments, industry, the technical community, civil society and academia all participate on an equal footing.

Namespace

Domain name extensions (or different types of .au domain names) including .au direct, com.au, net.au, org.au, edu.au, gov.au, asn.au, id.au etc.

Open, free, secure and interoperable internet

An open, free, secure and interoperable internet is an internet that works across borders, is accessible to all without undue restrictions, and is safe, reliable and resilient.

Registrant

The individual or organisation that holds a domain name licence. Registrants do not own a domain name. They hold a licence that allows them to use the registered domain name for the duration of the licence period.

Registrar

Companies that offer domain name services to the public, including registering, maintaining and renewing domain name licences. auDA accredited .au registrars are accredited by auDA to offer .au domain name registration services. They have direct access to the .au registry database.

Registry database

A database of all licensed .au domain names and associated information, such as the name and contact details of the registrant and registrar. Selected registry data is publicly available via the WHOIS service, which allows people to find information about who is responsible for a domain name licence.

Registry operator

The .au registry operator is a third-party contracted by auDA to deliver registry services and support the reliable operation of the .au domain. Identity Digital Australia (formerly known as Afilias Australia) was appointed as the .au registry operator following a global tender process in 2017 and reappointed following a subsequent global tender process in 2023.

Resellers

Businesses that provide domain name registration services to the public but are not auDA accredited registrars. Resellers do not have direct access to the .au registry. They register domain names through an interface with a registrar.

Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018 (Cth)

The *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* (Cth), often referred to as the SOCI Act, is Federal legislation that outlines the legal obligations for operators of critical infrastructure assets. The .au DNS is Australian critical infrastructure under the Act.

Terms of Endorsement

auDA's Terms of Endorsement from the Federal Government outline the Government's formal endorsement of auDA. auDA must operate the .au for the benefit of all Australians in accordance with the Terms for ongoing endorsement.

WHOIS service

The .au WHOIS service enables people to check selected .au registry data including the registration status of .au domain names.

Acronyms

AASB	Australian Accounting Standards Board
ABN	Australian Business Number
ACCAN	Australian Communications Consumer Action Network
ACN	Australian Company Number
ACNC	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACCU	Australian Carbon Credit Unit
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AM	Member of the Order of Australia
AO	Officer of the Order of Australia
APIGA	Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy
APNIC	Asia Pacific Network Information Centre
APrIGF	Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum
APTLD	Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association
ASX	Australian Securities Exchange
ATA	Australian Telecommunications Alliance
auDA	.au Domain Administration Limited
auDRP	.au Dispute Resolution Policy
auIGF	Australian Internet Governance Forum
BCMS	Business continuity management systems
bp	basis points
ccTLD	Country code Top Level Domain
CEDA	Committee for Economic Development of Australia
CENTR	Council of European National Top-Level Domain Registries
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CIO	Chief Innovation Officer
CIRMP	Critical Infrastructure Risk Management Program
CISC	Critical Infrastructure Security Centre
CO₂e	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
DITRDCSA	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
DNS-OARC	DNS Operations, Analysis and Research Center
DNS	Domain name system
DNSSEC	DNS Security Extensions
ECL	Expected Credit Loss

ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
FVOCI	Fair value through other comprehensive income
FVTPL	Fair value through profit or loss
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GST	Goods and Services Tax
IAS	International Accounting Standards
ICANN	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
IETF	Internet Engineering Task Force
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
IGF	Internet Governance Forum
IIC	International Institute of Communications
IIF	Internet Infrastructure Forum
IJPN	Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network
IP	Internet Protocol
ISMS	Information security management systems
ISOC	Internet Society
IT	Information Technology
LACTLD	Latin American and Caribbean Association of ccTLDs
NAIDOC	National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee
NT	Northern Territory
OAM	Medal of the Order of Australia
R&D	Research and Development
RAP	Reconciliation Action Plan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOCI	<i>Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018 (Cth)</i>
TCCM	Technical Community Coalition for Multistakeholderism
TLD	Top Level Domain
TPDI	Tech Policy Design Institute
UN	United Nations
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organisation
WSIS+20	World Summit on the Information Society 20-year anniversary review

Appendix

auDA performance scorecard: basis of preparation

Measure	Definition	Methodology
Core functions		
DNS service availability	DNS service availability is the availability of the .au DNS, which enables internet users to access websites and email address ending in .au.	An external third-party tests .au DNS availability continuously throughout each month, with 21 measurement probes spread around the world. The results are collated and provided to auDA at the end of each month. The total availability for a given financial year is the average of the monthly availability results across that financial year. Where the result is less than 100 per cent, we report this measure to two decimal places.
Number of proactive audits per month	Proactive audits are reviews of .au domain name registrations commenced by auDA to verify compliance with the .au Licensing Rules. auDA initiates audits through checks against registry data and monitoring of registry reports and proactive identification of potential DNS abuse. An audit may also arise related to complaints or enquiries raised by members of the public.	Proactive audits per month is determined by dividing the total number of proactive audits for the financial year by 12, to find the average monthly number. auDA most commonly conducts proactive audits related to cancelled Australian Business Numbers (ABN) or deregistered companies with an Australian Company Number, missing trustee details, unauthorised business use (using another person's business information without permission), eligibility, or other matters.
.au domain names reported and verified for DNS abuse	DNS abuse is classified into five categories; malware (such as ransomware), botnets, phishing, pharming and spam (where it facilitates one of the other four categories of DNS abuse). We aim to maintain fewer than 100 verified instances of DNS abuse per month.	auDA receives more than 25 threat feeds from external third parties that identify suspected instances of DNS abuse in .au. auDA reviews all instances of suspected DNS abuse within one business day to assess and rectify confirmed instances of abuse. The total percentage for a given financial year is the percentage of confirmed active instances of DNS abuse on the last day of the financial year. It is a point in time figure which provides insight into the possible level of DNS abuse within .au at any one time. <i>Note: auDA updated the methodology in 2025-26 to include only DNS abuse reported through the 25 threat feeds. All other cases arising from other methods such as complaints or enquiries are managed as compliance audits.</i>

Measure	Definition	Methodology
Recommendations delivered by Policy Advisory Panel that have multi-stakeholder support	The Policy Advisory Panel conducting the 2025 .au Licensing Rules Review was appointed by the auDA Board and comprises representatives from across the Australian multi-stakeholder community. The Australian multi-stakeholder community includes the .au registry operator, registrars, resellers, registrants, local, state and federal government entities, civil society, academia, industry bodies, technical community and .au members.	Multi-stakeholder support for recommendations is based on an external Policy Advisory Panel leading the .au Licensing Rules Review. The Panel was appointed by the auDA Board and had representation from a range of key stakeholder groups. Over seven months the Panel conducted wide-ranging consultation on experiences with the .au Licensing Rules and proposals for change, including in-person events around Australia, virtual town halls, written submissions and stakeholder outreach. The Panel published a Draft Report and conducted public consultation beginning in June 2026, seeking feedback on the report and its proposed recommendations. This consultation extended beyond the Annual Report reporting period and concluded in July 2026. The Panel then presented the Final Report with recommendations to the auDA Board in August 2026.
Trust		
Monthly percentage of new registrations and renewals with validated Australian presence	.au domain name registrations are validated by the .au registrar or reseller to ensure they meet the Australian presence requirement at the time of registration and renewal. auDA performs an additional validation step for a subset of new .au domain name registrations and .au domain name renewals each month, helping support compliance with the .au Licensing Rules.	An external third-party conducts validation checks for new .au domain name registrations and renewals by validating the Australian presence requirement where the registrant meets the requirement via a valid Australian Business Number (ABN) or Australian Company Number (ACN). Where a registrant has a valid ABN or ACN, their registered or renewed .au domain name is considered "validated". Where the registrant does not hold a valid ABN or ACN, auDA takes action to support compliance, suspend or delete the .au domain name. auDA calculates the validated percentages as follows: - Validated registrations - the number of validated .au registrations as a percentage of the total number of .au registrations - Validated renewals - the number of validated .au renewals as a percentage of the total number of .au renewals.
.au membership gender diversity	auDA is a membership-based organisation and seeks to support a membership that reflects the diversity of the Australian community. We seek to increase diversity across a number of areas including industry, age, geographic and gender diversity. Increasing the representation of women members is a key focus area.	auDA records .au member registration in auDA's Customer Relationship Management tool. We report the number of new members who are women as a percentage of total new members who joined the program within a given financial year.

Measure	Definition	Methodology
Impact		
Number of people from under-served communities using the online materials funded from the Community Grant Program	Under-served communities refers to those challenged by digital inclusion and concerns about online safety. The auDA Community Grant Program aims to address this, particularly for the five key groups – rural, regional, and remote Australians, Australians living with disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, young Australians (12–24 years), and older Australians (65+). auDA tracks engagement with projects funded through the Community Grant Program to determine how many Australians have been able to access information, resources and awareness materials produced through auDA-funded projects via the internet.	Reporting on this measure includes engagement generated by Community Grant Program projects through recipients' own channels and efforts. It captures activity that provides reasonable evidence people in the target groups accessed, used or participated in funded online materials. The measure includes project-specific website visits, page views and platform activity. Analysis included engagement activity which occurred during the 2025–26 financial year. Projects from the 2022, 2023 and 2024 Community Grant rounds were asked to report engagement with their projects during 2025–26. auDA also collected relevant data from submitted final reports for projects from the 2024 Community Grant Program rounds where activity occurred during the financial year. Data from 16 of 75 projects was available for analysis. Where data from a project's final report was not available, or additional information provided was not in a format suitable for analysis, it was excluded. Data was reviewed to exclude duplication where possible. Social media activity, followers, newsletter reach, impressions and estimated audiences, or auDA-generated activity were excluded.
Number of graduates from APIGA Australia and auDA Fellowships awarded	The Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy (APIGA) Australia is an event hosted by auDA to develop the next generation of youth leaders in the internet and digital ecosystem. auDA required prospective APIGA Australia attendees to apply and be accepted to participate in the program, with a limited number of places each year. The auDA Internet Governance Fellowship is awarded to individuals who have previously graduated from APIGA Australia and wish to continue their involvement in internet governance and digital policy.	auDA tracks attendance at APIGA Australia and the number of auDA Internet Governance Fellowships awarded. This reflects the number of opportunities auDA has provided, rather than the number of unique participants. The criteria for receiving an auDA Internet Governance Fellowship includes graduation from APIGA Australia. The number of graduates from APIGA Australia and auDA Fellowships awarded is a cumulative number which includes all who have participated since the program began in 2024–25.
Net carbon emissions trend toward zero	Net carbon emissions is the sum of auDA's scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions within the financial year, subtracting any offsets. Most of auDA's emissions are Scope 3 emissions occurring within our value chain by partners and suppliers.	auDA's emissions measurement is conducted by an external specialist. A baseline measurement was established for 2024–25, against which 2025–26 results have been compared. Greenhouse Gas emissions (GHGs) are measured in Carbon Dioxide Equivalents (CO₂e) The calculation for auDA's total emissions for the financial year is the result of subtracting any offsets from the sum of: • Scope 1 – Direct emissions from sources auDA owns or controls. • Scope 2 – indirect emissions from energy bought and used by auDA. • Scope 3 – indirect emissions that occur in auDA's value chain including purchased goods and services, capital goods, fuel and energy related activities not included in Scope 1 or Scope 2, upstream transportation and distribution, waste and wastewater, business travel, employee commuting, and upstream leased assets. auDA will only procure offsets from verified, high integrity programs (e.g., ACCUs, Gold Standard).

Measure	Definition	Methodology
Capability		
Percentage of leadership team who have completed leadership training	auDA's leadership training was developed and delivered by external leadership training specialists in consultation with auDA Executives People and Culture. The program was designed to support and maintain high performing teams. All auDA staff in leadership positions were required to participate in the program, which was delivered in the 2025-26 financial year.	auDA leadership team members are considered to have completed leadership training by attending dedicated training sessions within the program. The full suite of training materials was distributed and remains accessible for ongoing reference.
Percentage of employees using AI tools to support productivity.	Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to large language models or related tools that support employees to do their jobs. auDA staff are required to complete auDA-specific training to receive access to AI software.	Employee use of AI is measured by the number of staff who access approved AI tools on a regular basis. Usage statistics are provided by measurement tools within the AI software management systems.
Favourable staff engagement survey results	auDA's people are a core capability that underpin our effectiveness. We seek to uphold a collaborative culture that supports curiosity, accountability, and delivers value to our multi-stakeholder community. Each year, we conduct an engagement survey to monitor engagement and respond to emerging opportunities to support our team.	auDA uses an external provider to deliver the staff engagement survey and pulse survey checks. auDA has identified five key statements that are included each year. Staff are asked to respond to each statement using a five-point scale from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree". auDA calculates an average engagement score to track movement over time. Specifically, auDA: • Adds the percentage of responses that "strongly agree" and "agree" with each of the five statements • Calculates an average of the combined "strongly agree" and "agree" percentages. This provides the average engagement score. In 2025-26, the engagement survey was expanded to add three additional statements to increase insight into employee engagement. Results were recorded for the original five key statements to enable comparison year-on-year in the 2025-26 Annual Report. Future reporting will measure progress against the results of the expanded eight survey questions.



Some quotes have been edited for brevity and clarity without altering their original intent.

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