

## auDA Compliance Plan 2025–26

Under auDA's Terms of Endorsement from the Australian Government, auDA must administer a licensing regime for .au domain names, based in multi-stakeholder processes, that is transparent, responsive, accountable, accessible and efficient.

One of the ways in which we meet this core function is to publish an annual Compliance Plan that sets out the compliance activities we undertake to develop, maintain and ensure compliance with the .au Domain Administration Rules: Licensing (.au Licensing Rules).

This Compliance Plan sets out the priorities that will guide our compliance activities from July 2025 to June 2026. These compliance priorities align with our strategic focus on trust, to deliver outcomes that promote and enhance the security and integrity of the .au for the benefit of all Australians.

### **Our Compliance Posture**

We take proportional, considered action, and work with auDA accredited registrars and .au domain name licence holders (registrants) to ensure compliance with the rules of the .au.

Our approach is to:

1. Communicate and educate
2. Guide and facilitate
3. Enforce where breaches are not rectified.

### **Our Compliance Priorities**

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

The external Policy Advisory Panel appointed to review of the .au Licensing Rules will undertake multi-stakeholder consultation in the second half of 2025, holding public consultation and engaging with key stakeholders.



A final report from the Policy Advisory Panel making recommendations to the auDA Board is anticipated in April 2026.

## **2. Maintain low levels of DNS abuse in .au**

We continue to prioritise and address DNS abuse to maintain the security of the .au. The level of DNS abuse in the .au is well below the global average, and we will work to maintain our position in the top 5 of global ccTLDs with the lowest rates of DNS abuse.

## **3. Targeting registration of domain names using stolen credentials**

We are building on our approach from 2024–25 to target .au domain names where the credentials for the domain name are used without the permission of the owner. We have an expedited process for cancelling domain names with stolen credentials. We have seen an uptick in complaints about this issue, and we are directing resources to undertake additional checks utilising new tools to identify affected domain names.

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

As part of the multi-stakeholder .au Licensing Rules review, the Policy Advisory Panel will review the .au Domain Administration Rules: .au Direct Priority Implementation (Priority Rules), which govern contested .au direct names. Contested .au direct name licence holders will be contacted directly to get their input into the review.

## **Reporting on outcomes**

We will report on outcomes achieved under this Compliance Plan in the auDA 2025–26 Annual Report.