

**Q1**

**Report**

**2025-26**



We acknowledge 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 today.

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# From the CEO

Dr Bruce Tonkin

auDA Chief Executive Officer



**Q1 2025–26 marked the first quarter of our new 2026–30 Strategy, which will guide our work to support Australians online over the next five years.**

The Strategy sets out our vision for .au to be the primary online identity for Australian individuals and organisations, supported by a nimble and resilient auDA. It also outlines our objectives across four strategic pillars; Trust, Innovation, Impact and Capability. You can find an overview of our Strategy on page 7.

## Delivering our strategy

In the quarter, we made a meaningful start on initiatives across the new areas of strategic focus, while continuing to deliver our core functions.

### Core functions in auDA's Terms of Endorsement from the Australian Government:

Ensure stable, secure and reliable operation of the .au domain

Administer a licensing regime for .au domain names based in multi-stakeholder processes

Actively advocate for, participate in, and support multi-stakeholder internet governance processes domestically, regionally and internationally.

In July, contributing to our Impact objective, we announced the inaugural projects from auDA's Research and Development (R&D) Grant Program. Over three years, we will fund two projects that will help vulnerable Australians recover from scams and increase domain name system (DNS) security, aligned to our goals to support innovative research and communities challenged by digital inclusion.

Building on these goals, we announced the first recipients of the auDA Churchill Fellowships. The 2025 fellows, Jordan O'Reilly and Cara Penton, will meet with experts overseas to bring knowledge back to Australia about how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can improve disability support services, and enhance biodiversity and Indigenous land management. Congratulations Jordan and Cara.

Under our Strategy, we also aim to drive a growing cohort of Australians participating in internet governance and the DNS. To support this, in September, we opened applications for the second [Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy \(APIGA\) Australia](#) program, to be held in February 2026. Thanks to everyone who applied, it promises to be a fantastic program.



Participants at APIGA Australia 2024

Work is also underway on our Trust, Innovation and Capability pillars. The auDA team has begun exploring automation to improve the integrity of .au registrations, looking into use of emerging technologies, such as AI, to improve ways of working, and have begun a leadership training program. I look forward to continuing to bring you updates on our progress over coming quarters.

## Community engagement

auDA is currently undertaking a periodic [review of the .au Licensing Rules](#) to ensure they continue to align with community expectations. In September, we announced the members of the external Policy Advisory Panel tasked with carrying out multi-stakeholder consultation and making recommendations about proposed changes to the auDA Board. The Panel began consultation in September and will continue them throughout Q2. We will share opportunities for the community to have their say as the review continues.

auDA was proud to sponsor and participate in the 2025 Australian Internet Governance Forum (auIGF) held in Adelaide, which brought Australia's internet governance community together. Our support for the auIGF is part of our local advocacy and participation in multi-stakeholder internet governance processes.

At the auIGF, I was pleased to participate in a session on trust in the communications sector. It was a robust discussion on balancing consumer needs and competition in telecommunications markets. Another great session focused on auDA's recently launched [Digital Lives of Australians 2025 report](#), discussing opportunities to help Australians participate more confidently online. Thank you to Chair, Donna Austin, the Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee and the many .au members and stakeholders who participated in the forum and made the 2025 auIGF the best one yet.

.au members continue to play an essential role at auDA and the active involvement of members helps shape .au. In September, we opened the .au membership survey. Thanks to all those who responded to the survey. Your feedback will help us review our member program for 2026 and ensure we continue to deliver value and work to grow engagement among the .au membership community.

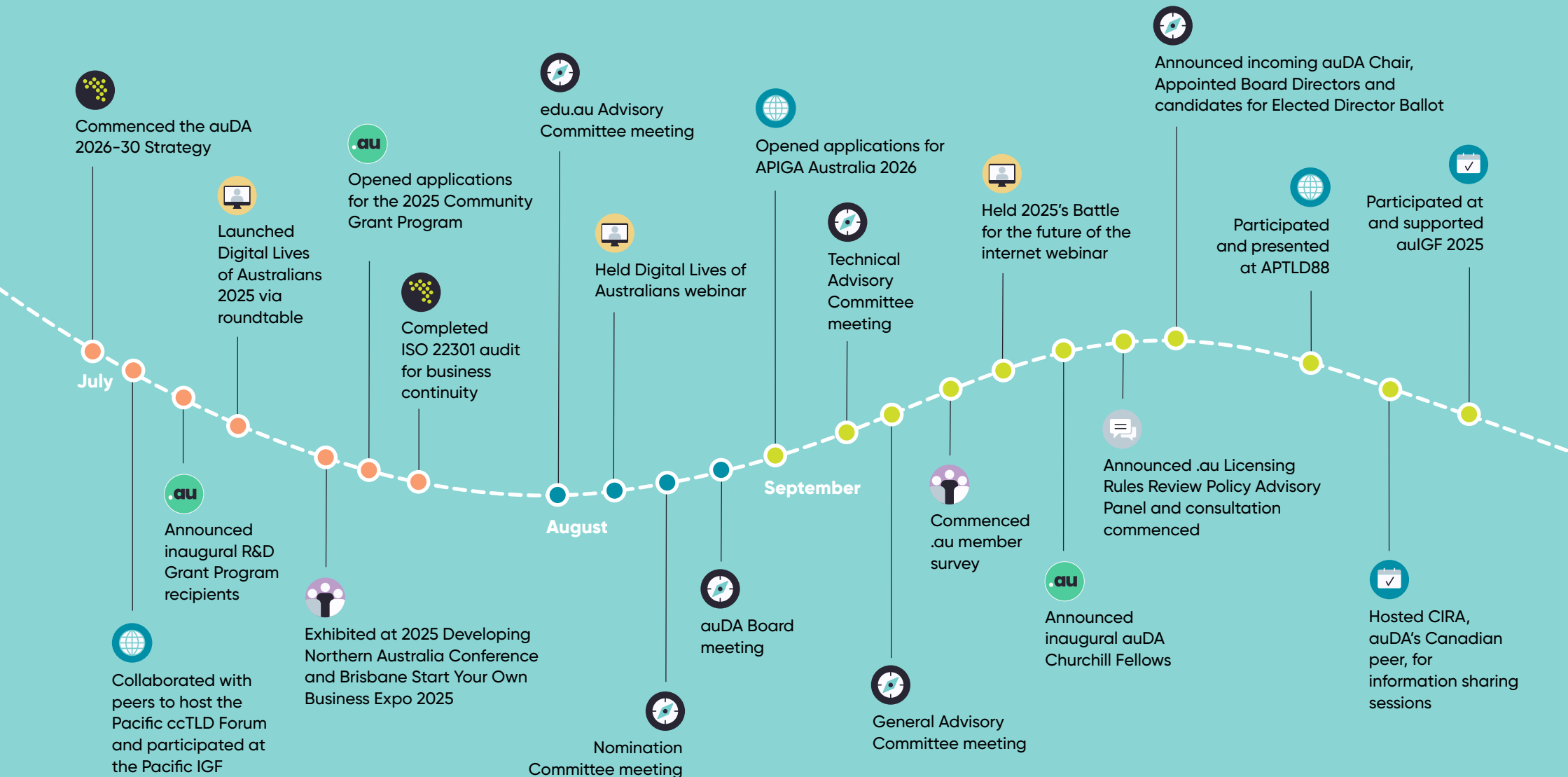
## Corporate governance

In September, we [announced new appointments to the auDA Board](#), including Marina Go as auDA's incoming Chair and Dr Sarv Girm. Marina and Sarv bring significant experience and step into their roles at the close of the 2025 Annual General Meeting in November. With Marina's arrival, we will say farewell to Alan Cameron AO, who has served as auDA Chair for six years and contributed significantly to its transformation over this period. We thank Alan for his leadership and welcome Marina and Sarv to auDA. We also say farewell to and thank Wendy Thorpe OAM for her contributions to the Board over the past three years, including as Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee.

Looking towards Q2, auDA will continue to deliver initiatives under our Strategy, engage with our multi-stakeholder community, and ensure the .au remains reliable and secure for the benefit of all Australians. There will be a range of opportunities for members to participate and engage with .au and auDA over the coming months and I encourage you all to do so.

# Quarter at-a-glance

## Timeline of key milestones and events



# .au by numbers

Overview of core  
function metrics

Variations  
are  
year-on-year

## REGISTRATIONS

**4,293,793** +0.9%

Domains under management, Sep 2025

**160,574** +3.5%

New domain names created in Q1 FY2026

## SECURITY

**31**

All registrars have ISO 27001 certification  
or equivalent at end of Q1 FY2026

## MEMBERS

**6,097** +17%

.au members, at 30 September 2025

**268**

New members in Q1

## DNS AND REGISTRY SERVICES

**100%**

DNS availability

**100%**

WHOIS availability

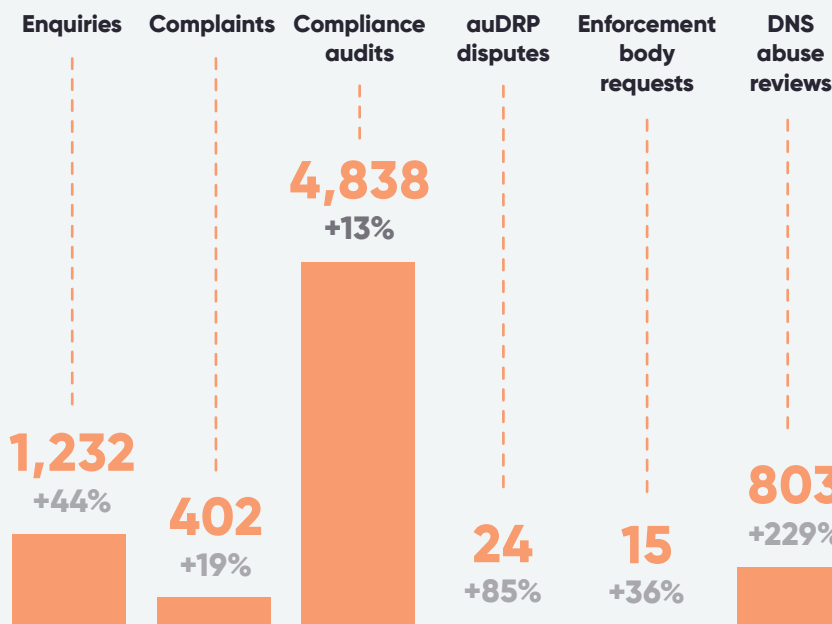
**100%**

Registry database  
availability

**84,727** +14.4%

Average .au DNS queries per  
second in Q1

## COMPLIANCE



## ENGAGEMENTS

**3**

Registrar briefings

**7**

.au member events,  
workshops and  
sponsorships

**3**

auDA webinars

# auDA's 2026–30 Strategy on a page

auDA's 2026–30 Strategy outlines sets out auDA's vision, purpose, values and strategic pillars, which will guide us to deliver value for all Australians. [Read the full Strategy on the auDA website.](#)

## Purpose

To ensure the secure and reliable operation of .au and the internet's naming system, and champion an open, free, secure and interoperable internet, for the benefit of all Australians.

## Vision

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

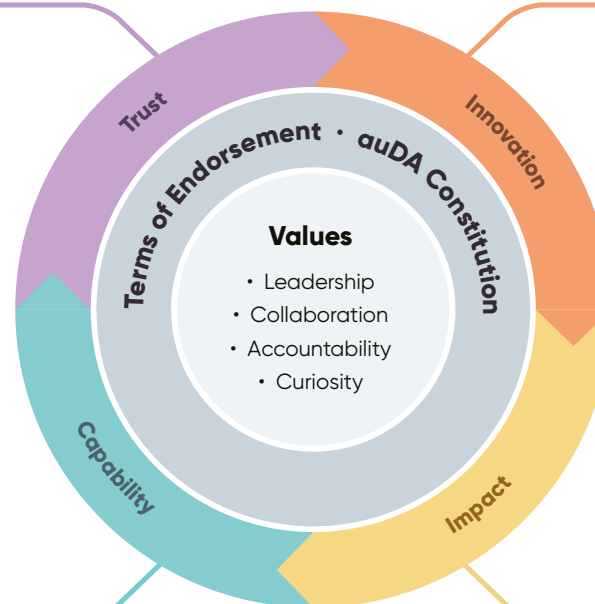
## Strategic Pillars

### 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.



### Innovation

Utilise new technologies and new approaches to ensure the financial sustainability of auDA as a self-funded, not-for-profit organisation, and improve the utility of .au.

### Impact

Strengthen multi-stakeholder internet governance, develop new DNS and internet governance experts, support R&D and increase digital inclusion.

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