

# Quarterly Report

Q3 2023-24

January  
February  
March



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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

Rosemary Sinclair AM  
auDA Chief Executive Officer



auDA's A secure .au report

**Administering a stable, secure and reliable .au is an essential pillar of auDA's work and Q3 was yet another productive quarter for auDA security initiatives.**

Our work keeping the .au secure and trusted is extensive, achieved by investing in strong cyber defences and effective compliance activity. This activity is set out in our inaugural **A Secure .au** report, published in January. The report highlights the .au's role as Australian critical infrastructure and auDA's compliance and domain name system (DNS) abuse programs that help ensure valid .au registrations.

Supporting our role as a critical infrastructure provider, auDA's security practice is also accredited to **international best practice standards**. This includes ISO 27001, which sets out best practice information security. During the quarter we passed the ISO 27001 surveillance audit, affirming our commitment to maintaining the highest level of security for .au. Of equal importance are the security standards of auDA's partners. This quarter,



auDA's Chief Communications Officer, Sophie Mitchell, (second from left) with fellow panellists at the Clyde & Co Cyber Summit 2024

.au accredited registrars each completed an annual Baseline Security Audit, conducted by an external security specialist and affirming key security controls.

We also contribute to **broader local and global policy discussions**. In Q3, there was much discussion on cyber security. auDA's Chief Communications Officer, Sophie Mitchell, spoke at the Clyde & Co Cyber Summit 2024 on safeguarding critical infrastructure in the digital age and implications of the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* (Cth) for critical infrastructure providers, while I had the pleasure of hosting a panel of cyber security experts to discuss the 2023-2030 Australian Cyber Security Strategy. It generated a rich dialogue on the strategy and what it means for Australia's digital future.

Internationally over the quarter, I was pleased to join auDA representatives at the 79th meeting of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (**ICANN79**). We participated in a number of sessions and committee meetings, including a workshop on ESG frameworks for country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) managers and panel discussion on combatting online abuse. We were also pleased to attend the 85th Asia Pacific Top Level Domain meeting (**APTLD85**) in the lead up to ICANN, participating in a range of bilateral meetings and discussions on DNS abuse and positioning ccTLDs within the region.

Our .au member team had a strong event schedule in Q3, including conducting a **roadshow of events** in regional New South Wales and Sydney. We conducted the 2024 .au member survey to hear from and help us continue to deliver value to our members. The team was also pleased to support the Women in Tech Fest held in Melbourne, engaging with women from Australia's tech sector and learning about their digital business needs.

During the quarter, we were pleased to announce the 15 successful recipients of the **2023 auDA Foundation community grant round**. I extend my congratulations to each of the recipients, whose projects will make a lasting impact on digital inclusion and innovation for Australian internet users. The auDA Foundation forms an important part of our public impact work, supporting innovation for Australians through the internet and we look forward to seeing the outcomes of these important projects as they progress.

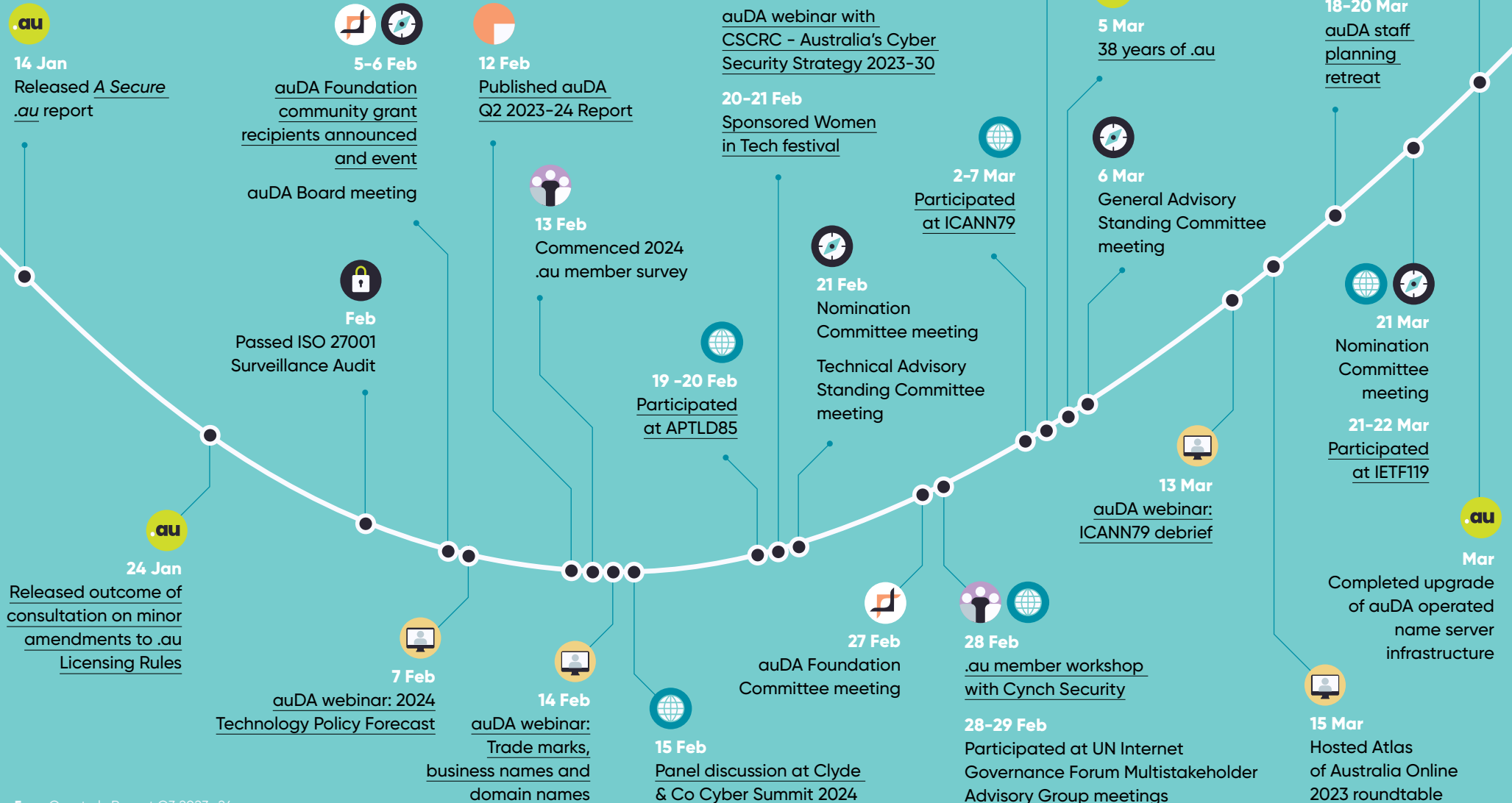
Although slightly outside Q3, it is worth noting here that in April I announced I will step down from my role as CEO of auDA at year's end. I would like to express my gratitude to auDA's wonderful multi-stakeholder community, staff and Board for their invaluable contributions and our shared work together. I look forward to continuing to serve auDA and the auDA community for the remainder of 2024. The auDA Board will conduct an open search for a new CEO and I look forward to welcoming the new appointee in due course and helping them transition into the role.



Recipients of the 2023 auDA Foundation community grant round with auDA CEO Rosemary Sinclair AM

# Quarter at-a-glance

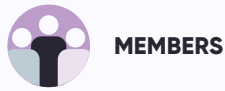
## Timeline of key milestones and events



# .au by numbers

Overview of key Q3 operational metrics

Variations are year-on-year



## MEMBERS

**4,931** +21%

.au members, Mar 2024

**195**

New members in Q3



## REGISTRATIONS

**4,249,940** +1%

Domains under management, Mar 2024

**144,204** -6%

New domain names created in Q3



## SECURITY

All registrars have completed an annual baseline security audit

**27**

Registrars with ISO 27001 certification or equivalent

Registrars with ISO 27001 progress plan in place

**4**



## DNS AND REGISTRY SERVICES

**100%**

DNS availability

**100%**

WHOIS availability

**100%**

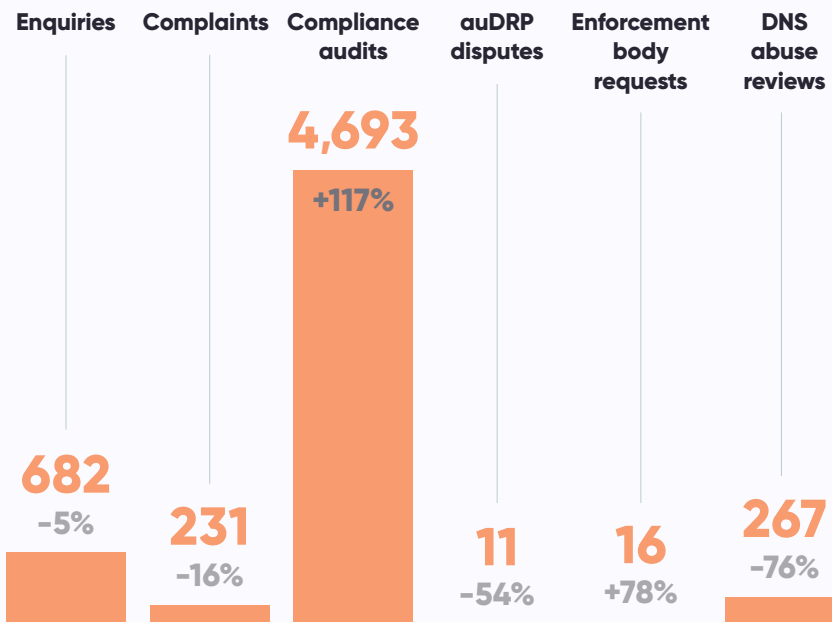
Registry database availability

**85,000** +53%

Average .au DNS queries per second in Q3



## COMPLIANCE



## ENGAGEMENTS



# .au scorecard

## Overview of strategic objectives and key results

Objective	Key Result by 30 June 2024	Status
<b>Trust</b>		
Drive down DNS abuse	.au domain names with an instance of DNS abuse down to 0.02 per cent	<b>G</b>
Drive up the integrity of the .au domain	98 per cent of new .au registrations and 92 per cent of .au renewals have a validated Australian presence	<b>G</b>
Lead world's best practice ccTLD security	80 per cent of registrars have ISO 27001 certification or equivalent	<b>G</b>
<b>Innovation</b>		
Improve the utility of the .au by providing greater choice of .au domain names	.au direct names account for 18 per cent of total .au domain names	<b>G</b>
Invest to enable innovation and research by others	\$1.3m invested in innovation initiatives	<b>A</b>
<b>Multi-stakeholder engagement</b>		
Grow auDA's membership	5,000 .au members	<b>G</b>
Increase auDA's influence in multi-stakeholder internet governance	40 key international and domestic internet governance and policy forums attended	<b>G</b>

Objective	Key Result by 30 June 2024	Status
<b>People</b>		
Build an organisation regarded as an employer of choice, a great place to work	Maintain or improve culture survey result	<b>A</b>
<b>Governance</b>		
Strive for excellence in our reporting	Assurance readiness review of 2022-23 Annual Report conducted by external body	<b>G</b>

On track	<b>G</b>
Being managed within tolerance	<b>A</b>
Outside tolerance	<b>R</b>

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