

Quarterly Report

Q4 2023-24

April
May
June



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



.au members form a critical part of auDA's multi-stakeholder community and we are thrilled to have more than 5,000 members contributing to .au and auDA through the program.

The .au membership team continues its efforts to deliver value to members through an engaging, informative program that provides opportunities for members to support .au and an open, free, secure and global internet. Through its outreach activities, the team has also focussed on cultivating greater diversity of members, including through partnerships and events with women in technology groups, regional business chambers and start-up hubs. I welcome new members and extend my thanks to each member for your support, which is vital to understand the online needs of Australians.

During the quarter, auDA was pleased to release two research reports, each providing rich insights to support Australia's digital ecosystem. Our **Digital Lives of Australians 2024** report, the fourth in auDA's annual series, highlights the value and reliance Australians

place on the internet for daily life, yet identifies cyber security concerns as a major barrier. To launch the report, we convened a roundtable in partnership with the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) and the Council of Small Business Organisations Australia (COSBOA), with attendees from industry, government, academia and civil society. The forum fostered productive dialogue on how the findings can inform policies and initiatives to help Australians feel confident and secure online.

In the quarter, we also released our **Future Scenarios Project Report 2024**. The report was developed in collaboration with local and global experts and presents three plausible scenarios for what the world and communications sector may look like in 2044. These scenarios will serve as crucial, thought-provoking tools



Digital Lives of Australians 2024 report

for auDA as we approach the conclusion of our 2021-25 Strategy in June 2025, and embark on formulating our next strategy during this financial year.

We have shared the scenarios widely with our networks and they will be used by others in their own strategic thinking and planning. To that end, we were delighted our scenarios formed the cornerstone of the ANU Tech Policy Design Centre's Tech Futures event, held at Parliament House in Canberra in June. It was an invaluable opportunity to encourage deep consideration by attendees from government, industry, academia and civil society about the future of technology and tech policy in Australia.

Our internet governance advocacy also continued apace in Q4. auDA, alongside other country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) managers, the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (.ca), InternetNZ (.nz) and Nominet (.uk), announced the establishment of a **Technical Community Coalition for Multistakeholderism**.



auDA CEO Rosemary Sinclair AM presents auDA's Future Scenarios Project at the Tech Futures event

The Coalition aims to defend and improve the multi-stakeholder model of internet governance as a critical foundation of an open, free and interoperable internet.

At a local level, in June the **Australian Internet Governance Forum (auIGF)** (previously known as NetThing) announced its annual forum would be held in Melbourne in October 2024. The auIGF brings together diverse stakeholders to address Australian internet governance and policy matters. It promotes open, inclusive discussions that enable contributions to regional and global forums. auDA is proud to sponsor it again this year.

One of our core functions at auDA is to operate a stable, secure and reliable .au domain for the benefit of all Australians. In Q4, auDA and .au registry operator, Identity Digital Australia, **upgraded the .au registry to a new cloud-based platform**. This platform provides greater security and resilience through increased redundancy and threat-detection.



The .au member small business workshop in Port Douglas

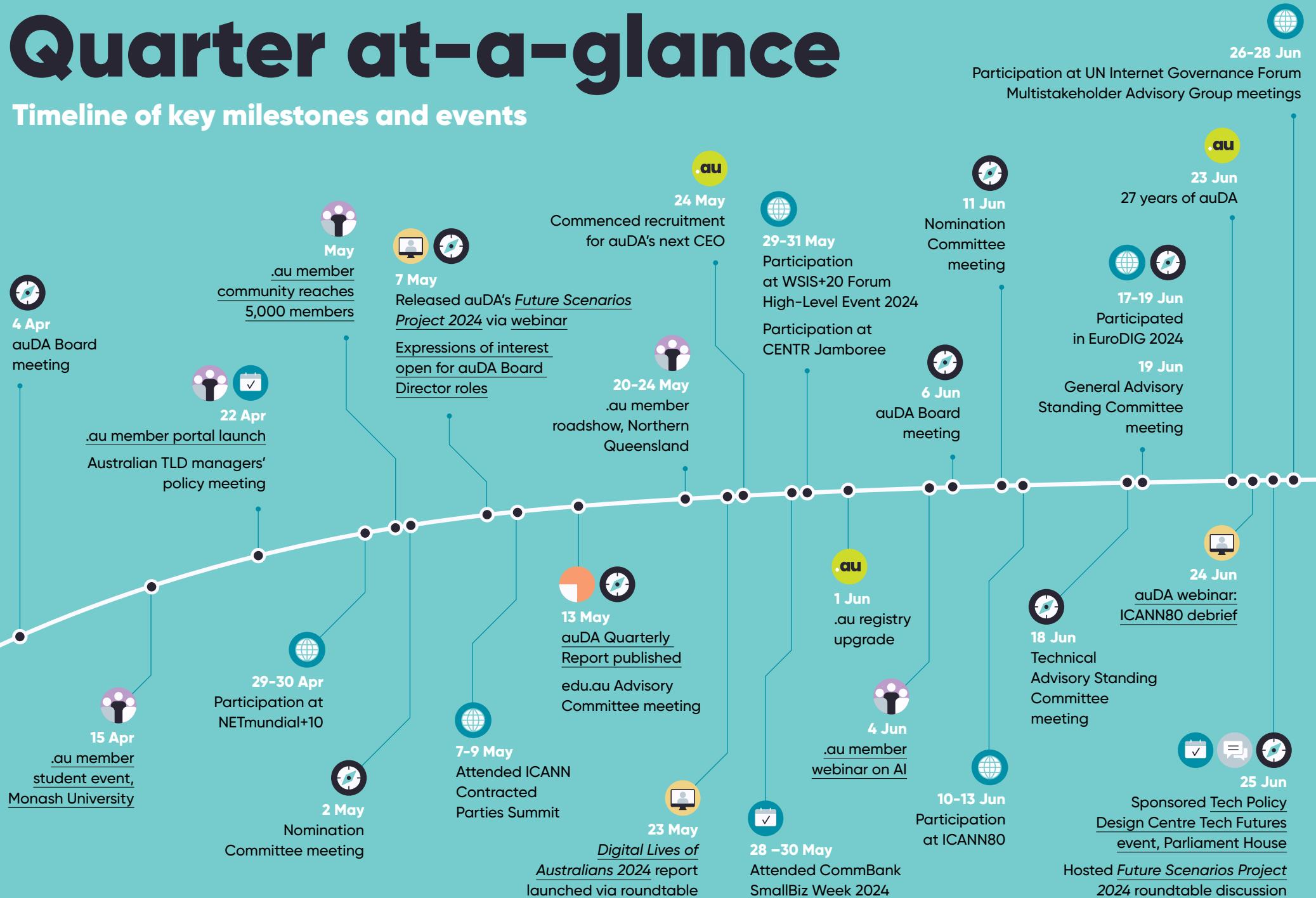
We were pleased to work with Identity Digital on the successful upgrade activity and will maintain a continuous improvement approach to .au operations.

In April, I announced I will step down from my role as auDA CEO at the end of 2024. During this quarter, auDA's Board commenced recruitment for its next CEO. Over the period, auDA's Nomination Committee also called for expressions of interest for two Appointed and one Elected Directors, who will join the auDA Board following auDA's Annual General Meeting in November 2024. More information on the outcomes of these recruitment processes will be shared over coming months.

As always, my thanks to the auDA team, Board and our wonderful multi-stakeholder community for your contributions to .au during the quarter and the entire 2023-24 financial year. I look forward to the next quarter, knowing together we will continue our work supporting internet users in Australia and abroad to make the most of .au, the internet and internet-enabled technologies.

Quarter at-a-glance

Timeline of key milestones and events



.au by numbers

Overview of key Q4 operational metrics

Variations are year-on-year



MEMBERS

5,057 +17%

.au members, Jun 2024

136

New members in Q4



REGISTRATIONS

4,249,923 +0.3%

Domains under management, Jun 2024

145,460 -8%

New domain names created in Q4



SECURITY

All registrars have completed an annual baseline security audit

29

Registrars with ISO 27001 certification or equivalent

2

Registrars with ISO 27001 progress plan in place



DNS AND REGISTRY SERVICES

100%

DNS availability

100%

WHOIS availability

100%

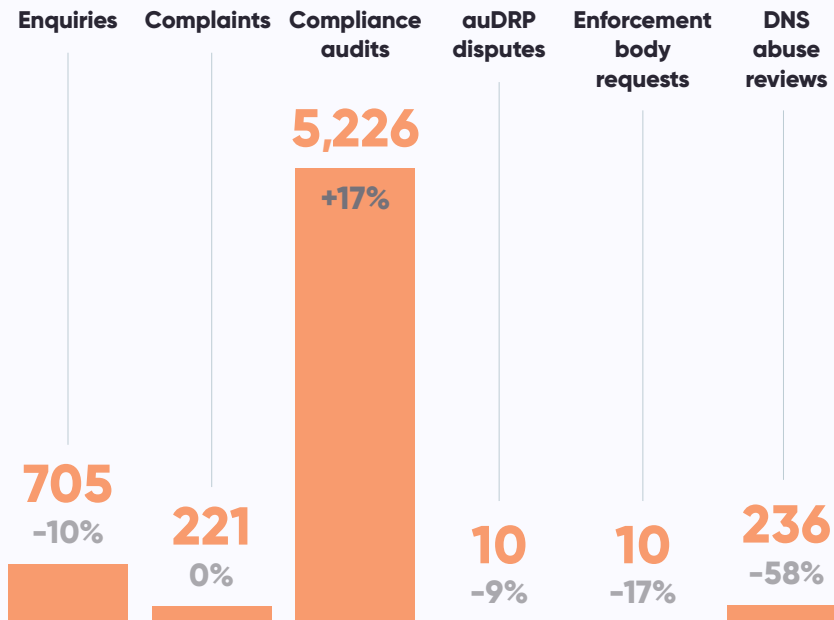
Registry database availability

73,300 -10%

Average .au DNS queries per second in Q4



COMPLIANCE



ENGAGEMENTS



.au scorecard

Overview of strategic objectives and key results

Objective	Key Result by 30 June 2024	Status
Trust		
Drive down DNS abuse	.au domain names with an instance of DNS abuse down to 0.02 per cent	G
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	G
Lead world's best practice ccTLD security	80 per cent of registrars have ISO 27001 certification or equivalent	G
Innovation		
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	G
Invest to enable innovation and research by others	\$1.3m invested in innovation initiatives	A*
Multi-stakeholder engagement		
Grow auDA's membership	5,000 .au members	G
Increase auDA's influence in multi-stakeholder internet governance	40 key international and domestic internet governance and policy forums attended	G

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

* Full allocation not distributed within the financial year with funding to continue in 2024-25

** Staff engagement decreased from the prior financial year as the organisation has grown. auDA has invested in uplifting engagement.

On track	G
Being managed within tolerance	A
Outside tolerance	R

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