

Q3

Report

2025-26



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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

Dr Bruce Tonkin
auDA Chief Executive Officer



This year auDA is celebrating 40 years of .au, Australia's trusted online address. Launched on 5 March 1986, the .au has grown to 4.3 million .au domain names today. It underpins Australia's digital economy and society and is a signal of trust online for Australian and global internet users.

To acknowledge this milestone we created a webpage showcasing the history of .au and early use cases of .au websites. You can view the [40 years of .au webpage](#) on the auDA website. We look forward to continuing to mark this milestone and discussing the benefits of .au throughout the year.

Looking at .au registrations, this quarter has been one of growth. Total .au domain names are up 1.8% year-on-year and new .au domain names created are up 10% year-on-year. This indicates the ongoing

importance of .au domain names to Australia's digital economy, supporting Australian individuals and businesses as they engage online.

Operations

During the quarter, we introduced a new Registrar Security Assurance process. This new process builds on our existing approach to uphold high standards of security across the .au ecosystem, contributing to a trusted, reliable .au.

The .au Licensing Rules Review continued in Q3. The external Policy Advisory Panel held two virtual town halls and in-person workshops in Canberra, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne. The Panel also continued to receive written submissions from the community. The first phase of consultation for the Review concluded at the end of March. The Panel will now prepare draft recommendations ahead of a further round of consultation in the coming months. We thank all those who have contributed so far and welcome your continued input to this process. You can read more about the Review on the .au blog.

Engagement

In Q3, auDA invited .au members and key stakeholders to participate in the latest auDA materiality process. The materiality process provides an opportunity for members and stakeholders to have their say on what they see as the most important areas for auDA. Thank you to all those who participated. Your views form a valuable part of auDA's work program. We will share more about the process in our 2025-26 Annual Report.

We continued to engage in key multi-stakeholder internet governance forums regionally and globally in Q3. We participated at the 89th meeting of the Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association (APTLD),

presenting on business continuity planning and strategic communications to build trust. We also participated at the 85th meeting of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN85). You can read about [our contributions at ICANN85](#) on the .au blog.

In the quarter, we also had the opportunity to meet with our Indian counterpart National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), our Canadian counterpart CIRA, and APNIC, which administers IP addresses for the Asia Pacific.

These conferences and meetings provide valuable opportunities to discuss developments and key matters for internet infrastructure operators and stakeholders.



auDA's 2025 Community Grant celebration with recipients

Public Benefit

In February, auDA was proud to announce the projects supported by our 2025 Community Grant Program. For the 2025 grant round, we increased total funding to \$750,000, with each of 15 projects receiving \$50,000 for their work to advance digital inclusion for Australians. The 2025 projects include using AI to help communities in need of clothing support, providing technical training to local champions to support their communities, developing digital capability for First Nations women running op shops in remote communities, and creating a digital platform to support local charities to demonstrate impact using data. Congratulations to all the successful projects, we look forward to seeing the positive impact your work makes for Australians.

During February, auDA also hosted the second Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy (APIGA) Australia program. APIGA Australia is designed to build internet governance capability among students and



Participants at APIGA Australia

early career professionals. This year we welcomed 39 participants, including five from the Pacific. Following the conclusion of APIGA Australia, we announced two participants who we will sponsor to attend the regional APIGA program in South Korea later this year, and announced a new [auDA Internet Governance Fellowship](#).

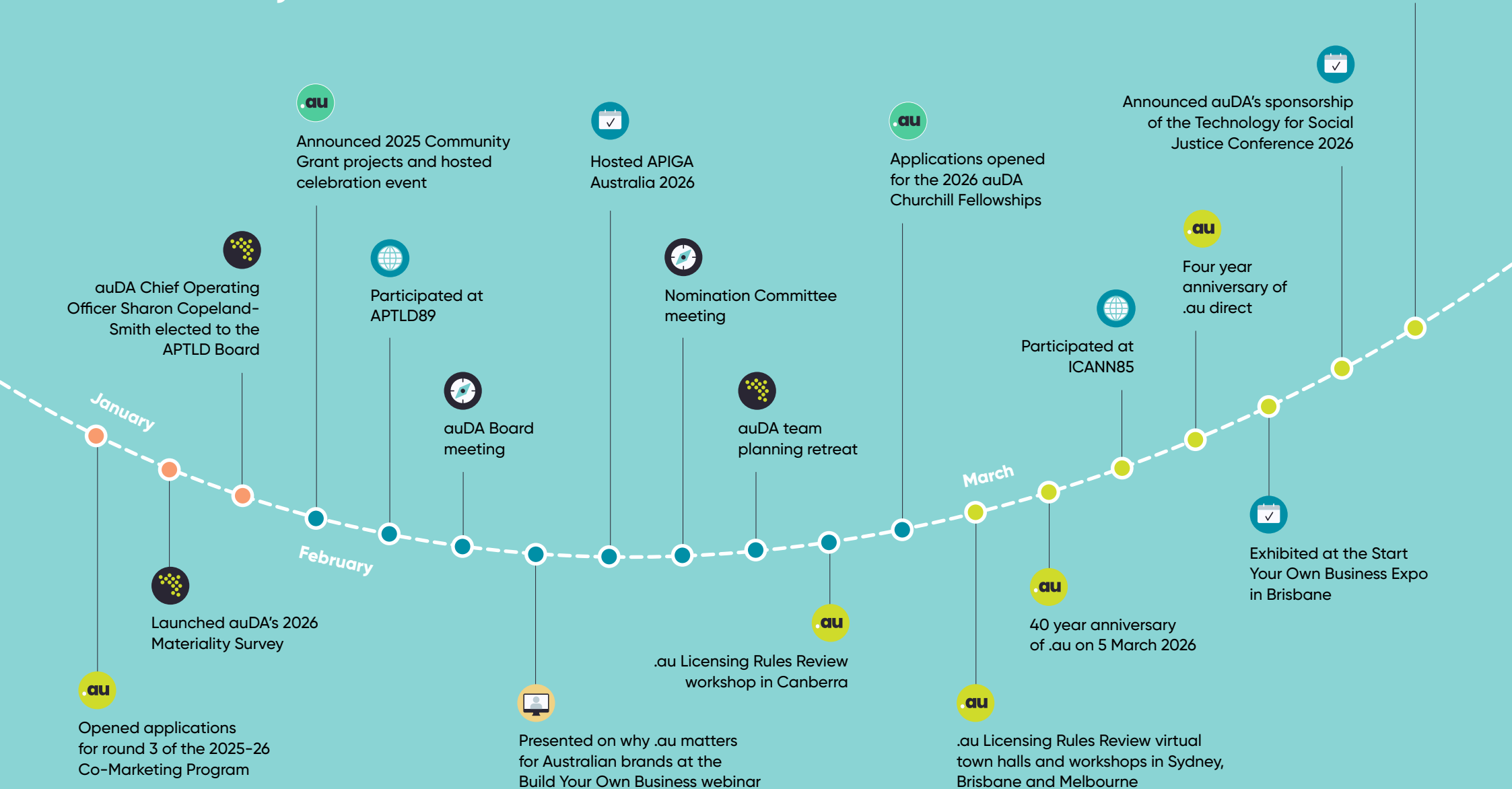
The six-month program will support fellows who are APIGA Australia alumni to continue contributing to internet governance. We look forward to sharing more about the inaugural fellowship program later this year.

Quarter at-a-glance

Timeline of key milestones and events

.au

Submissions closed for phase 1 of the .au Licensing Rules Review consultation



.au by numbers

Variations are year-on-year

REGISTRATIONS

4,336,499 +1.8%

Domains under management, at Mar 2026

169,372 +10%

New domain names created in Q3 FY2026

DNS AND REGISTRY SERVICES

100%

DNS availability

100%

WHOIS availability

100%

Registry database availability

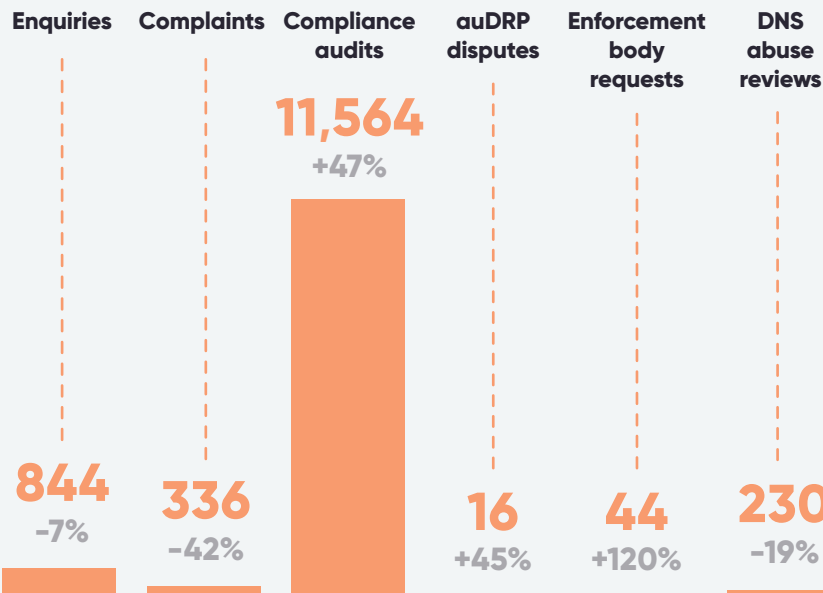
99,700 +32%

Average .au DNS queries per second in Q2

SECURITY

32 All registrars maintained ISO 27001 certification or equivalent

COMPLIANCE



ENGAGEMENTS

3

Registrar briefings

6

.au member events, workshops and sponsorships

2

auDA webinars

MEMBERS

6,432 +15%

.au members, at 31 Mar 2026

174

New members in Q3

.au scorecard

Overview of strategic objectives and key results

Strategic Pillar	Objective	Key Results	Measure	Target by 30 June 2026	Status
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 95% renewals	On track
		Diversify membership and grow member engagement	Gender diversity	26% women	On track
Innovation	Use new technologies and approaches to ensure the financial sustainability of auDA and improve the utility of .au	Improve organisational productivity	Number of compliance audits managed per person per month	200 audits	On track
Impact	Strengthen multi-stakeholder internet governance, develop new DNS and internet governance experts, support R&D and digital inclusion.	Drive a growing cohort of Australians skilled & participating in internet governance and DNS	Number of graduates from APIGA Australia and auDA Fellowships	85 (cumulative)	On track
		Achieve net zero carbon emissions in the operation of .au	Net carbon emissions trend toward zero*	Reductions and offsets equal a 5% reduction	On track
Capability	Grow leadership and technical skills to confidently meet the dynamic 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	On track
		AI is integrated into the business, enabling greater productivity	Percentage of employees using AI tools to support productivity.	100%	Managed within tolerance



Read [auDA's 2026-30 Strategy](#).

* GreenHouse Gases (GHGs) are measured in Carbon Dioxide Equivalents (CO₂e)

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