

**Q2
2023**

Quarterly Report



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



Taking an active role in and advocating for multi-stakeholder internet governance is a key focus at auDA. It is a core function set out in our Terms of Endorsement from the Federal Government and a central pillar of our strategy.

That's why, in May, we were delighted to be selected as host of the 2023 Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF). The Forum brings together the Asia Pacific internet community to collaborate on ideas and discussion to advance the internet in the region. It will take place in Brisbane on 29-31 August, in-person and online. Registrations are now open. The auDA team and I look forward to contributing to important policy discussions at the APrIGF and we hope to see many of our members and stakeholders there.

Continuing with our multi-stakeholder focus, auDA played an active role in internet forums both locally and globally in Q2. auDA delegations attended the European Regional Internet Governance Forum (EuroDig), ICANN77 and the Internet and Jurisdiction Policy Network (I&J) working group meeting, which provided insight into the latest developments and threats to the internet ecosystem. Closer to home we attended the Australian Strategic Policy Institute's (ASPI)'s *Sydney Dialogue*, Centre for Economic Development of Australia's (CEDA)'s *State of the Nation*, and the Council of Small Business Organisations Australia's (COSBOA)'s *National Small Business Summit*.

Across the board there was a keen focus on cyber security and the importance of maintaining a resilient internet that enables positive economic and social outcomes – a focus auDA shares as an operator of critical Australian infrastructure.

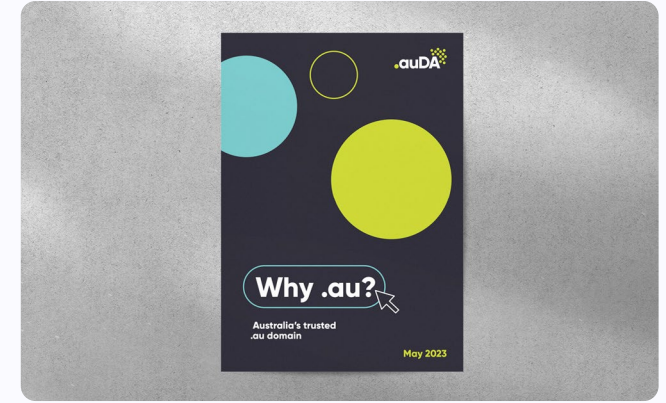
Q2 was also a busy quarter of events for our .au membership team. We held .au member networking events in Hobart and Sydney, supported small business events in Illawarra and Bendigo, hosted an online cyber security workshop and presented to the ANU Computer Science Student Association. Importantly, via a consultation process with our members, we released the **.au member Statement of Purpose** which defines the crucial role our .au members hold at auDA. I encourage you to read the Statement and, if you're not already, consider joining us as member to support our work championing .au for the benefit of all Australians.



auDA attends ICANN77 in Washington, DC



auDA sponsors the 2023 Illawarra Business Awards



auDA's inaugural *Why .au? Australia's trusted .au domain report*

Another highlight of the quarter was the launch of our inaugural [Why .au? Australia's trusted .au domain report](#). The report raises awareness of the value .au delivers to Australians.

It found Australian consumers turn to .au as they know it is Australian, recognisable and trustworthy and more than half will only purchase from a business online if they have a website ending in .au. We are delighted so many Australians recognise this value, reflected by .au's position as the **10th most popular Top Level Domain (TLD)** in the world.

Our work maintaining a trusted and secure .au is in part achieved through our robust .au Licensing Rules and compliance activity. During the quarter, we continued our audit program to correct inaccurate registration details and remove ineligible registrations, helping to drive up the integrity of the .au domain and reduce the potential for DNS abuse. A reliable, secure .au is also supported by the .au registry operator. In May, auDA released a request for tender for a .au registry operator to commence on 1 July 2024, when the current registry operator's term is scheduled to expire. We expect to announce the outcome of the tender process in the second half of 2023.

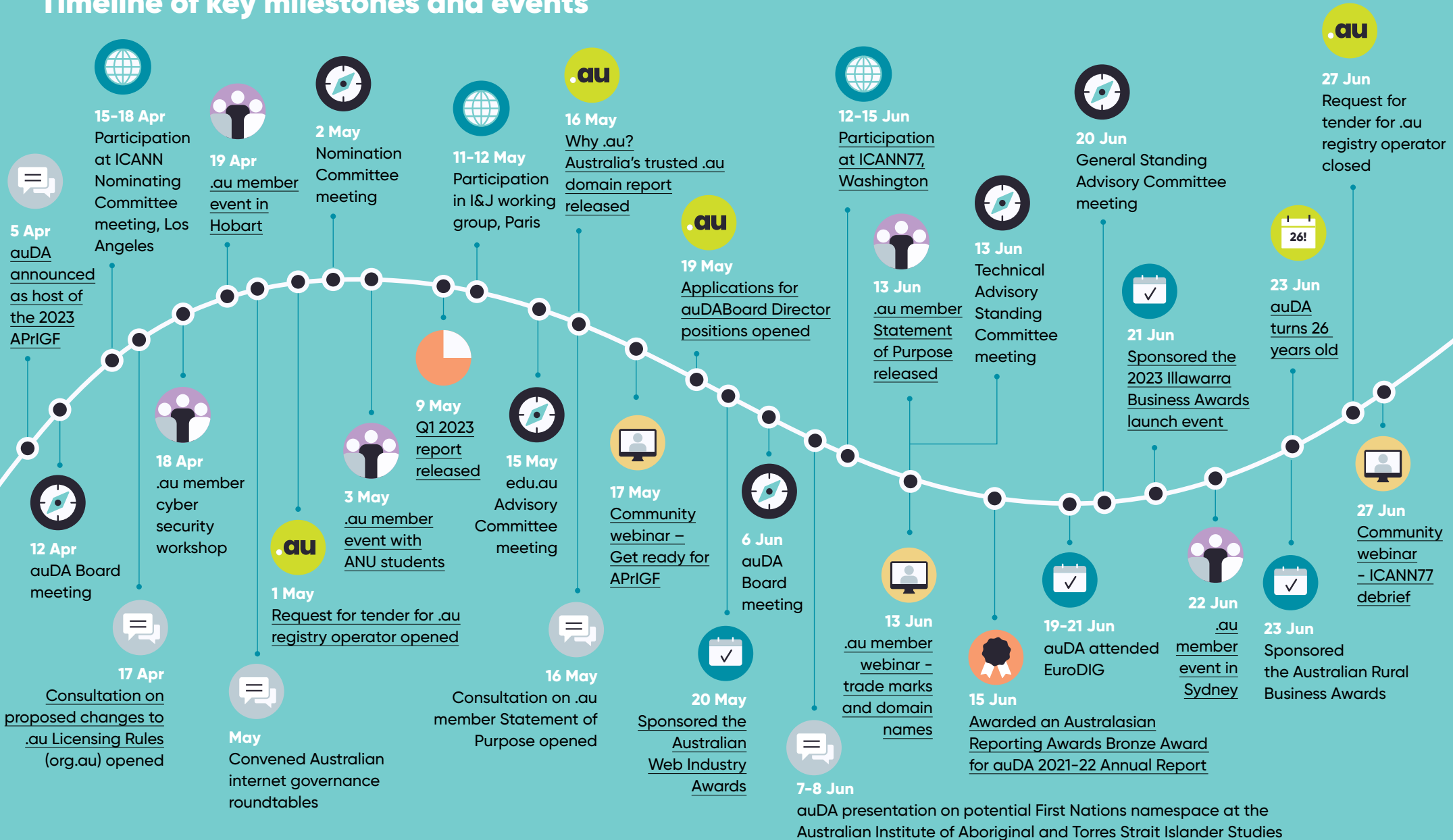
We achieve a trusted .au by enacting the highest standards of corporate governance, including corporate reporting. We were thrilled to have our work recognised by the Australasian Reporting Awards in June, receiving a Bronze Award for our 2021-22 Annual Report. Our governance activity is overseen by the auDA Board.

In May, we opened applications for three auDA Board Director positions. The three Director positions, which include two Appointed Director and one Elected Director positions, will take effect after auDA's 2023 Annual General Meeting. We will share more information about participating in the election process with our .au members in coming months.

I'd like to extend a big thank you to all those that have supported our work across the quarter. I look forward to our continued success in driving an open, free secure and global internet, together in Q3 and beyond.

Quarter at-a-glance

Timeline of key milestones and events



.au by numbers

Overview of key Q2 operational metrics

Variations are year-on-year

REGISTRATIONS

Domains under management, June 2023

4,236,447 +18%

New domain names created in Q2

157,759* -28%

MEMBERS

.au members, June 2023

4,312* -11%

New members in Q2

249

SECURITY



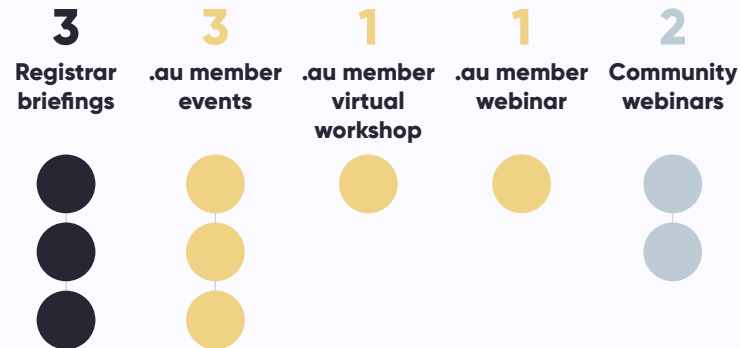
Registrars with ISO 27001 certification or equivalent

Registrars with ISO 27001 progress plan in place

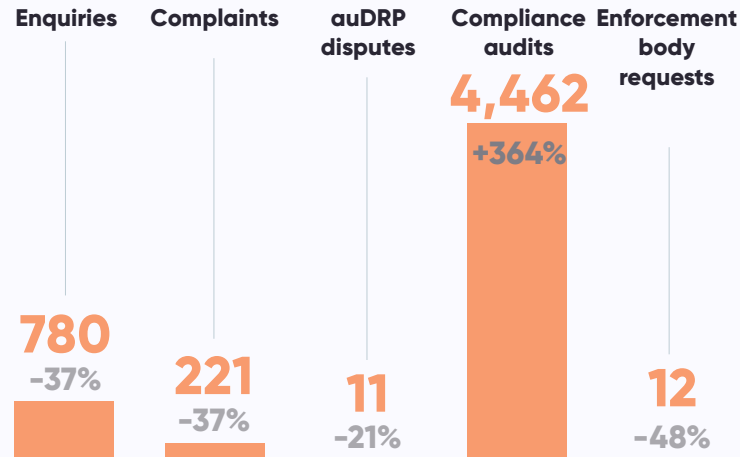
Registrars with transitional arrangements*

All registrars have completed an annual baseline security audit

ENGAGEMENTS



COMPLIANCE



DNS AND REGISTRY SERVICES

.au DNS queries per second in Q2

81,700* +151%

DNS availability

100%

WHOIS availability

100%

Registry database availability

99.99%

* The launch of .au direct on 24 March 2022 drove a spike in new .au domain names created in April 2022. * Increase in DNS queries traffic is due to logging improvements at some DNS nameservers. * Registrars transitioning away from offering registrar services. * .au membership transitioned to a new model on 27 September 2022, as set out in auDA's Constitution. 3,170 Associate Members opted-in to the terms and conditions of the new model and became auDA Members under the Constitution.




.au scorecard

Overview of strategic objectives and key results

Objective	Key Result	Status
Trust		
Drive down DNS abuse	.au domain names affected by DNS abuse down to 0.025 per cent	G
Drive up the integrity of the .au domain	90 per cent of .au domain names have a validated Australian presence (new registrations and renewals)	G
Lead world's best practice ccTLD security	ISO 27001 adopted by registrars managing 90 per cent of .au domain names*	G
Innovation		
Improve the utility of the .au by providing greater choice of .au domain names	.au direct reaches five per cent of total .au domain names*	G
Produce leading insights from our data and community research	\$1,300,000 funding for registrar impact projects	G
Invest to enable innovation and research by others	\$600,000 funding for community impact projects	G
Multi-stakeholder engagement		
Grow and diversify auDA's membership	Grow auDA membership 20 per cent from the number of members at transition (3,170)	G
Increase auDA's influence in multi-stakeholder internet governance	Actively engage in ICANN work streams	G

Objective	Key Result	Status
People		
Build an organisation regarded as an Employer of Choice	Improve culture survey result by 10 points	G
Governance		
Strive for excellence in our reporting	Fully adopt two of the eight content elements of the Integrated Report Framework for the 2022-23 Annual Report	G

*.au direct accounted for 18 per cent of total .au domain names at 30 June 2023

On track 
 Being managed within tolerance 
 Outside tolerance 

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