Record of Meeting

Meeting	Edu.au Advisory Committee Meeting	
Date / Time	Monday 4 March 2024 / 11.00am – 12.00pm AEST	
Location	via Microsoft Teams Meeting	
Present	Andrew J. Smith, Chair **Haydn Cockayne, Catholic Ed, WA** Troy Williams, ITECA Michael O'Leary, Qld DoE Corinna Maloney, ESA Kris Cutmore, ESA Amanda Shay, ESA	Sandra Hook, auDA Director Sonia Joksimovic, auDA Co Sec Jane Smith, auDA CPCO
Apologies	Phil Sherwin, NSW DoE Juliana Shea ISA Margot McNeill, TAFE, NSW Michelle Edwards, ACECQA	Andrew C. Smith, ESA CEO Peter Elford, auDA Director

1. Welcome, attendance, apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.04am.

The Chair noted those who were apologies for the meeting and confirmed a quorum present.

The Chair acknowledged auDA Board Representative, Sandra Hook, who has been appointed by the Board to the Committee, inviting a round table introduction.

2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair provided an Acknowledgement of Country paying respect to the traditional owners of the lands upon which the Committee was meeting, including elders past and present.

3. Declarations of Interest

The Committee noted the standing Declarations of Interests Register and confirmed there were no updated interests to declare and no conflicts of interest.

4. Record of Meeting from the Previous Meeting

The Committee noted the Record of Meeting held 7 August 2023.

The Committee **confirmed** the 7 August 2023 Record of Meeting as a true and correct record of the meeting.

5. Actions Arising

The Committee reviewed the actions arising from the previous meeting, noting those which were completed.

The Chair invited the CPCO to provide an update on Action #4 (9 March 2023) regarding auDA's internal project to launch indigenous name space, noting the Company has engaged *Terri Janke* (Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Lawyers) to assist with identifying indigenous groups for further consultation, with meetings to be progressed over the next six months.

6. ESA Quarterly Report Update for December 2023 YTD

The edu.au Domain Registrar Progress Report for the July to December 2023 reporting period was tabled.

The Committee noted the Q3 July – September 2023 Report was distributed for Committee information, in lieu of the 6 November 2023 meeting.

The Chair invited Amanda Shay from ESA to provide the Committee a summary of key activities, issues, operational outcomes and trends for the reported quarter, noting:

- As of 31 December 2023, there were 18,502 domain names registered. This includes 17,455 edu.au and 1,047 .au domain names. These registered domains represents 0.4% of all domains under management recorded by auDA.

The Committee noted eligibility category and extension for currently Registered edu.au Domains, noting:

- Quarter 4 saw 133 new domains registered, which was lower than that registered in quarter 4, 2022. The retention rate for domain renewals was 93.75%, which was also lower than 2022, with the Committee noting a comparison between 2022 and 2023.

The Committee noted the quarter 4 application categories, which had been approved or rejected, with reasons for each.

- It was noted the customer support team received 945 service requests with 100% resolved within the quarter. The requests fall into 4 main categories, 'administration', 'technical support', 'billing and invoicing' and 'general enquiries'.
- auDA issued 11 auditing and compliance requests, which were all processed in the quarter.

Sandra Hook commended the tabled report, requesting this information to be provided to the auDA Board for information.

Action: It was **agreed** confidentiality of the ESA Quarterly Report for wider distribution would be confirmed (ESA, March 2024)

ESA provided the Committee an annual overview of 2023, which was noted and discussed.

The Committee noted the percentage of applications received by month across 2023, are stable. It was further noted January is historically a slower start to the year coming off the holiday period and noting most education and training organisations don't return until the second half of the month. Across the Australian domain landscape March is generally the month where registrations begin to increase for the year. In 2023, Easter and term holidays occurred in April which would account for a drop in applications.

The Committee noted a breakdown of applications by eligibility category, with *Training Organisations* accounted for the largest portion of new domain registrations in 2023, resulting from new business registrations.

An overview of eligibility criteria was noted and discussed by the Committee.

Troy Williams (ITECA) offered his assistance to ESA with future communication and information to improve registration processes and future applications to ensure training organisations applications are meeting the correct eligibility criteria, following the report that from 1,253 applications received; 620 domain names were registered, with 633 applications rejected.

The Committee noted an update on Government School domains registered and reasons for rejection relating to schools trying to apply for a national level domain rather than the eligible state location level domain, including those related to non-government school sector.

The Committee noted lapsed domains are generally attributed to bulk renewals where school numbers have changed since the last renewal. In 2023, South Australia, Queensland and Victoria all had bulk renewals.

An overview on Early Child Education and Care and Higher Education Institutes.

The Committee noted the main rejection reason for Higher Education Institute is lack of connection to a name, where the domain name shows no relevance to the institutes legal or trading name.

ESA outlined Key Insights on Rejection Rates and Application Rates, which the Committee noted.

It was suggested increased promotion and dedicated information of these eligibilities could lead to increased applications from some of these smaller sectors.

The Chair commended ESA on the tabled report and encouraged feedback from members representing the varying Education sectors to assist with domain education/awareness.

No further comments or questions were noted.

7. What's happening across the Education Sector?

The Chair invited the Committee to provide an update on what is happening across the Education Sector.

The Chair confirmed there was no update from CAUDIT (Council of Australian University Directors of IT).

Action: The Chair suggested auDA's COO attend a future CAUDIT meeting with the Chair, which was agreed to be coordinated offline [CoSec, March2024].

Michael O'Leary provided an update on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impact on domain industry, noting there is consideration on a national tool to support teachers and students that could be federated and branded accordingly.

It was noted ESA is a part of the National Framework taskforce, with the Committee to be kept informed on any findings.

auDA's CPCO noted that auDA is undertaking its strategic planning with future scenarios being considered, which will be consulted in due course with the Committee.

Sandra Hook queried how can auDA help the Committee and education sector regarding Cyber Security responsibilities. Ms Hook noted other industry trends impacting on the education sector broadly that may slow down renewals including Federal Government immigration policies and slow down on student entry Visas.

Action: It was **agreed** to have AI and Cyber Security as standing agendas for Committee discussion (CoSec, March 2024)

No further comments were noted.

8. Review 2024 Meeting Dates and Proposed Workplan

The 2024 Meeting Dates were tabled and taken as read.

The Committee spoke to the Committee Workplan evolution, providing confirmation that the quarterly meetings are valuable.

The Chair informed the Committee of an updated process auDA has implemented for those wishing to access the Melbourne office in future.

9. Meeting Close

No Other Business was noted.

The Meeting closed at 11.51am

It was noted the next meeting is scheduled **Monday 13 May 2024 at 11.00am – 12.00pm.**

Signed as a true and correct record.

Andrew J. Smith
Committee Chair

Date: