



Q1 Report

2024-25



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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



This report provides a summary of activities related to auDA's core functions and strategic projects and includes dashboards on core functions and strategic metrics in our .au by numbers and .au scorecard.

Maintaining the security and reliability of the .au DNS is a continuous priority at auDA. During the quarter, auDA passed its annual external audit of our business continuity systems under ISO 22301, the international best practice standard for business continuity. As part of our continuity planning, we regularly test our ability to operate the .au domain during an emergency, working in collaboration with the .au registry operator, Identity Digital Australia. We also undertake external penetration testing where external specialists test auDA's physical and system security. The results inform improvements to auDA's systems and processes, ensuring greater security and resilience for .au.

The .au Licensing Framework is another way auDA delivers community confidence in .au. We administer the Framework through multi-stakeholder processes

and seek community input to inform updates to the rules. In the quarter, we sought feedback on proposed changes to improve the clarity of .au policies and retire three redundant policies. Following consultation, the Board reviewed and accepted the changes, which came into effect in September. During the quarter auDA also worked collaboratively with the ACCC National Anti-Scam Centre to further minimise already low levels of scams in .au and completed more than 4,000 compliance audits to identify and rectify non-compliance with the .au Licensing Rules. While .au domain name registrations slowed year-on-year, this is consistent with global trends and auDA continues to support more than 4.25 million .au domain names, which play an important part in Australia's digital economy and society.

auDA engages with stakeholders in many ways to understand the diversity of use and users of .au and to actively support the multi-stakeholder approach to internet governance. I am pleased to report on these activities below. During the first quarter of 2024-25, auDA was pleased to launch our new Research and Development (R&D) Grant Program. The Program is the most recent pillar in our Public Benefit Program. It will provide funding to Australian universities and research organisations for multi-year projects focussed on improving understanding and resilience for the DNS, increasing knowledge and advocacy for internet governance, and promoting digital inclusion for all Australians.

In the quarter, we also accepted submissions for our Community Grant Program's 2024 funding round. The Community Grant Program is a longstanding and successful part of our Public Benefit Program which funds community and education initiatives to improve the utility of the internet for Australians. We look forward to reviewing applications and announcing the successful projects for both grant programs in 2025.

As part of our Public Benefit Program, we have also supported four pilot projects to deliver impact across core focus areas. In September, one of these projects delivered The Pacific country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) Forum, and a donor forum which brought together Pacific Island internet organisations, the technical community and funding organisations to discuss priorities to support the development of the internet in the Pacific and strengthen the Pacific multi-stakeholder community.

auDA is also committed to advocating for internet policy and governance locally and globally and actively participated in a range of forums including the 86th meeting of the Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Forum (APTL86), the 2024 Asia Pacific regional Internet Governance Forum (APriGF) and the 58th meeting of the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC58).

We presented at the Australian National University (ANU) Tech Policy Design Centre's Foundations of Tech Policy course on how the internet and DNS operate and the ways the internet is governed, and published auDA's 2024-25 Public Policy Agenda which outlines the issues in focus for our domestic public policy and advocacy work.

Our Membership Team had a number of initiatives to engage with our membership base of more than 5,000 Australians. The WA member roadshow in August saw the team hold events with the Collie Business Chamber and Women in Digital, and present to government officials and Northern Australian business and community members about the benefits of .au at the Developing Northern Australia Conference in Karratha. The team also continued its active engagement with university students and small businesses on topics including .au, cyber security and internet governance.

In the quarter, the Board also announced the outcome of its recruitment process for a new CEO, following my announcement earlier this year that I will step down in December. Dr Bruce Tonkin, auDA's current Chief Operating Officer, will be auDA's next CEO, commencing in the role on 1 January 2025. As this will be the last auDA Quarterly Report published while I am in the role, I would like to extend my thanks to the auDA Executive, the auDA Board and the auDA

team for all their efforts during my time as CEO. Thank you also to our vibrant community of stakeholders for your active participation and ongoing support for a trusted, secure .au, and an open, free, secure and global internet. It has been a pleasure to lead the organisation since March 2020 and to deliver critical .au services and strong value for Australian internet users. I wish Bruce and the team every success into the future.



The Pacific Donor Forum hosted by auDA to support development of the internet in the Pacific



Women in Digital sponsored event in Western Australia

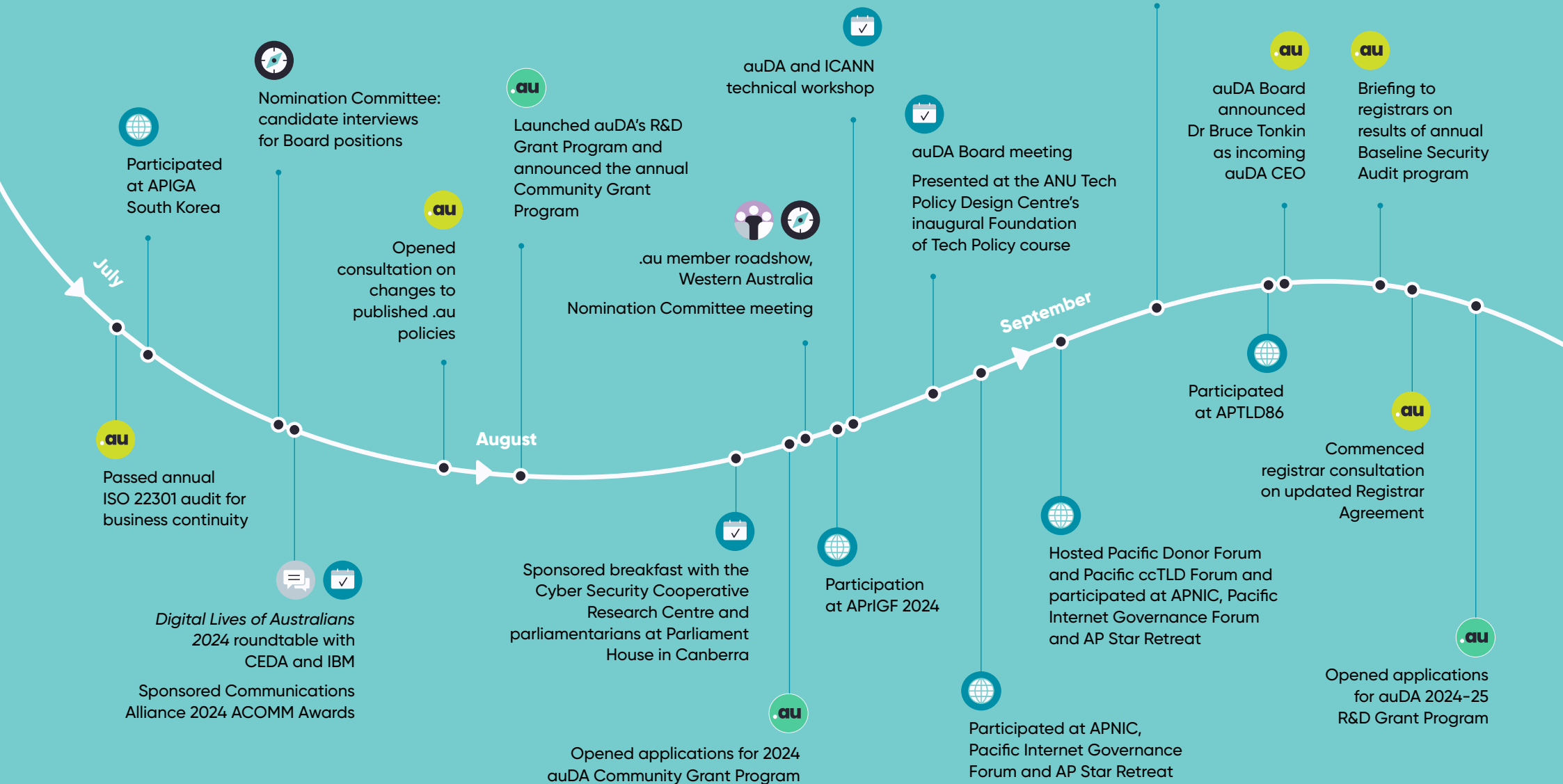
Quarter at-a-glance

Timeline of key milestones and events



Published auDA Public Policy Agenda 2024-25

General Advisory Standing Committee meeting



.au by numbers

Overview of core function metrics

Variations are year-on-year

REGISTRATIONS

4,257,357 -0.07%

Domains under management, Sep 2024

155,185 -1%

New domain names created in Q1

SECURITY

auDA completed its annual Baseline Security Audit program with registrars

29

Registrars with ISO 27001 certification or equivalent

Registrars with ISO 27001 progress plan in place

2

MEMBERS

5,232 +17%

.au members, Sep 2024

174

New members in Q1

DNS AND REGISTRY SERVICES

100%

DNS availability

100%

WHOIS availability

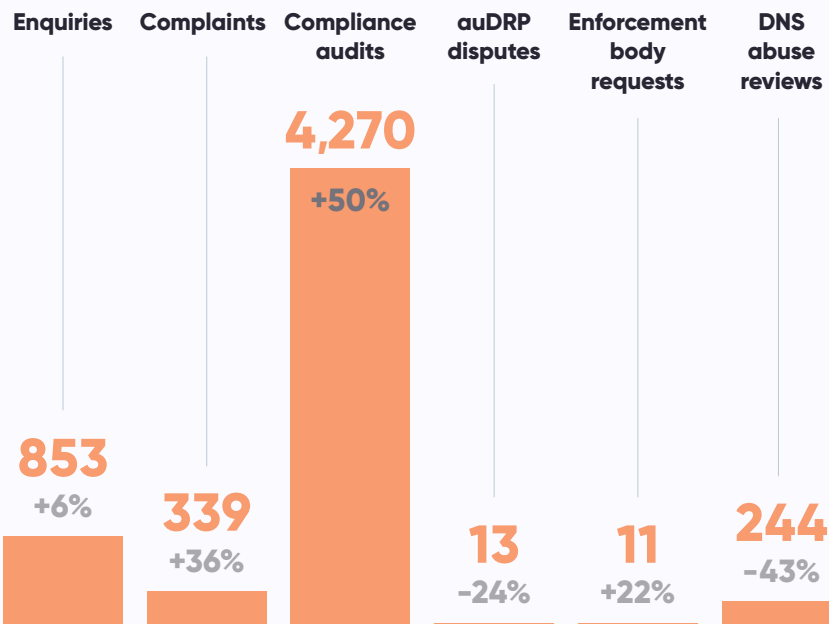
100%

Registry database availability

74,900 -4%

Average .au DNS queries per second in Q1

COMPLIANCE



ENGAGEMENTS

3

Registrar briefings

11

.au member events, workshops and sponsorships

1

auDA webinar

.au scorecard

Overview of strategic objectives and key results

Objective	Key Result by 30 June 2025	Status
Trust		
Drive down DNS abuse	.au domain names with an instance of DNS abuse down to 0.005 per cent	G
Drive up the integrity of the .au domain	99 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	100 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	\$2.2m invested in innovation initiatives	G
Multi-stakeholder engagement		
Grow auDA's membership	6,000 .au members	G
Increase auDA's influence in multi-stakeholder internet governance	Actively participate at 40 key international and domestic internet governance and policy forums	G

Objective	Key Result by 30 June 2025	Status
People		
Build an organisation regarded as a great place to work	Maintain or improve culture survey result	G
Governance		
Strive for excellence in our reporting	Assurance of 2024-25 Annual Report conducted by external body	G

On track	G
Being managed within tolerance	A
Outside tolerance	R

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