

Education and training sector response to the AuDA Competition Model Advisory Panel - Stage 3 Report for Public Consultation

The following is the education and training sector ‘in principle’ position on the proposals outlined in its report.

Policy Authority – Proposal 4.2

The education and training sector supports the proposal that auDA should set overall policy and manage the .au domain name space.

The sector supports the proposal that auDA should be able to delegate policy for specified 2LDs. The sector envisages that there would be a policy body for the .edu TLD which would operate under the general authority of the Ministerial Council for Education, Employment, Training and Youths Affairs.

Registry – Proposal 4.3A and 4.3B

The sector would prefer the option of multiple registries on the grounds that there would be advantages in there being a separate .edu registry. If this option is adopted, the sector would like to reserve the option of the .edu policy authority body having the role of selecting the registry for the .edu domain.

We understand that this would be subject to any proposed auDA processes for ensuring transparency and probity in selection of service provision.

Registrar – Proposal 4.4

The sector does not support the proposal that all registrars should have access to all 2LDs as it is of the view that this is not appropriate for closed second level domains.

In terms of compliance checks, the sector is of the view that this function should be carried out by the .edu registrar, not the registry.

It is likely that the sector will wish to continue the current policy of not seeking to recover the costs of operating the .edu domain by charging for individual licences. It is also likely that the sector will wish to operate eligibility rules which closely reflect the nature of the education and training sector and which will need to be applied by a body with a good understanding of the sector. For these reasons, it is the sector’s view that its interests will be best served by a model which involves a single registrar for .edu which carries out all processing of licence applications, apart from basic registry functions.

Reseller – Proposal 4.5

The sector does not consider that the issue of resellers is relevant to the .edu closed domain. The sector needs to have flexibility to simplify the framework for .edu.au to ensure an effective and efficient service.

Registrant – Proposal 4.5

In respect of dispute resolution, the sector notes that as it is likely that the eligibility rules for .edu will be significantly more restrictive than those for domains such as .com or .net, there will be a need for a separate .edu dispute resolution procedure to deal with applicants wishing to challenge a rejection. The sector would wish to leave open the option that such a process might also handle disputes between applicants rather than the general UDRP.