

Explanatory Statement

Proposed updates to Schedule A of the .au Domain Administration Rules: Licensing

1. Purpose of this explanatory statement

The purpose of this explanatory statement is to explain:

- the process that applies when making administrative changes to an auDA published policy;
- the proposed changes to Schedule A of the .au Domain Administration Rules: Licensing (.au Licensing Rules);
- the timeline for this process.

2. Our multi stakeholder approach to policy review

This is an auDA managed policy development process in accordance with section 44 of the *Process for the Development and Review of auDA Published Policies Policy*. This process is for managing minor policy amendments, where the change is required for administrative, technical or legal reasons.

Public consultation plays an important role in ensuring the best outcome for this review. Public submissions will be published on our website.

The auDA Board will be advised of the subject matter of submissions and will review any changes to Schedule A and the explanatory statement, as a result of submissions.

3. Background

Schedule A of the .au Domain Administration Rules: Licensing specifies the eligibility and allocation criteria which a Person must satisfy when applying for a Licence in the **edu.au** namespace and **edu.au** Child Zones. The edu.au namespace is used by recognised education and training entities in Australia.

The Schedule requires periodic updates to remain contemporary and effective for the management of the edu.au namespace. Changes proposed in this consultation are focused on ensuring accurate and contemporary definitions of terms, and articulating an exemption to some rules for edu.au domain names that were registered under old rules.



4. Summary of changes

The redline version of Schedule A of the .au Licensing Rules clearly sets out all proposed changes with the key updates summarised as:

- Expanding the definition of an 'Entity delivering non-accredited training' to add providers of micro-credentials to the existing list of entities delivering non-accredited training
- Expanding the definition of 'Generic Education and Training Terms' to exclude the use of geographic terms in domain names
- Adding a (new) definition of 'Value judgement' for clarity
- Expanding the definition of an Eligible Referee to provide examples of related entities
- Expanding the definition of 'National Interests and Responsibilities' to include registration or accreditation with a Commonwealth education or training authority
- Providing an exemption for a small number of longstanding domain names, often for government related entities, that would not meet the criteria for edu.au today.

5. Timeline

The proposed changes to Schedule A will be open for public consultation for 28 days commencing on 20 April 2026 and closing on 15 April 2026.