

# Record of Meeting

Meeting	Edu.au Advisory Committee Meeting	
Date / Time	Monday 15 May 2023 / 11.00am – 12.00pm AEST	
Location	via Microsoft Teams Meeting	
Present	Dr Andrew J. Smith, Committee Chair Juliana Shea, ISA Duncan McKellar, Qld DoE Troy Williams, ITECA Phil Sherwin, NSW DoE Haydn Cockayne, Catholic Ed, WA	Andrew C. Smith, ESA CEO Kris Cutmore, ESA Amanda Shay, ESA
Also in attendance	Bruce Tonkin, auDA COO Colin Brown, auDA CPCO Sonia Joksimovic, auDA Co Sec	Jane Smith, Interim CPCO
Apologies	Rosemary Sinclair, auDA CEO Margot McNeill, TAFE, NSW Michelle Edwards (replacing Craig Bennett), ACECQA Michael O'Leary, Qld DoE	

## 1. Welcome, attendance, apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.03am.

The Chair noted those who were apologies for the meeting and provided a warm welcome to Duncan McKellar who was attending on behalf of Michael O'Leary.

The Chair noted an organisation update at auDA following the resignation of its Chief People & Culture Officer (CPCO), Colin Brown and welcomed Jane Smith who has been appointed interim CPCO.

The Committee and ESA CEO acknowledged and thanked Colin Brown for his support with the Committee to date.

## 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 6 March 2023.

The Committee **confirmed** the 6 March 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.

The ESA CEO confirmed a status update on Action #1 from the 14 November 2022 meeting and 6 March 2023 meeting, noting no feedback on the RTO review had been received from the Committee and the review remains *ongoing*.

auDA's COO provided an update on action #4 advising that auDA's internal project to launch indigenous domain space remains in early exploration stage, with auDA ascertaining interest from the Indigenous Community.

#### 6. ESA Quarterly Report Update for March 2023 YTD

The edu.au Domain Registrar Progress Report for the January – March 2023 reporting period was tabled.

The Chair invited Kris Cutmore from ESA to update the Committee on key activities, issues, operational outcomes and trends, including:

- Abuse of wildcard DNS entries for domain names that are deceptively similar to the name of a namespace, noting concerns from the Catholic Education Network (CEnet) have been raised for the use of the .au Direct registration **deu.au** that is deceptively similar to **edu.au**, and its potential for spoofing and phishing using wildcard DNS entries (\*.deu.au, such that a name like catholic.deu.au resolves). It was noted that auDA has placed the domain name in serverHold (suspended), and recommend auDA include deu.au on the Reserved Names List. auDA's COO confirmed that the Company continues to track domain names that are deceptively similar to a namespace, which are either suspended or deleted.
- Summary of service support requests received during the reported period, with an update on unresolved requests noted.
- One complaint under Part 3 of the .au Domain Administration Rules was received for the reported quarter, in relation to a review of a decision taken with an internal review for the proposed name deemed to be a *generic education and training term* and therefore upheld.

- Website availability outlined for the quarter
- Registry statistics for edu.au applications and renewals in comparison to the same quarter in 2022
- Domain composition for eligibility categories with the edu.au domain space outlined for the quarter, with *Training Organizations*, *Non-Government Schools* and *Government Schools* recorded as high-volume categories, accounting for 83.61% of the names space recorded for the reported period.

No further comments 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 noted there was no update from CAUDIT (Council of Australian University Directors of IT).

ESA's CEO noted an emerging issue in the school sector with the "use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms", further noting intersections with the domain space is yet to be known. It was noted the key issue is centred on "Safe and Equitable Use" with Education Ministers setting up a taskforce to develop an evidence-based, best practice framework to guide schools in harnessing AI tools to support teaching and learning.

Haydn Cockayne noted a Safe Technology of Schools (STFS) Program initiative to further consider the risk assessment of AI, with consideration of threats and also opportunities.

auDA's COO noted recent impacts of AI impacting the Domain Industry, which will be progressed and further monitored by auDA further in the coming year. It was noted this advance in technology is an opportunity to identify malicious behaviour and problematic domain names before they cause harm.

No further comments were noted.

## 8. Update on Committee Focus / 2023 Workplan

The Chair spoke to the Committee Workplan developed and tabled in 2022, with a focus on what topics for 2023 the Committee should consider.

The Chair provided an outline of a meeting held with auDA's CPCO, Company Secretary and ESA's CEO to review and assist the Committee's future focus.

The Chair noted there is an opportunity for the Committee to assist with auDA's projects in future, including policy changes for edu.au, as and when required and that a review of the Committee membership and meeting schedule would also be considered, in concert.

**Action:** It was **agreed** auDA CPCO, Interim CPCO and COO would review auDA's internal projects for potential Committee involvement [Chair, CoSec, CPCO & ESA, May 2023].

**Action:** It was **agreed** the ESA CEO would review the Committee's Terms of Reference for any recommendations on a broader scope to be considered by the Committee and approved by auDA's Board [A. Smith, ESA CEO, May 2023].

## **9. Meeting Close**

No Other Business was noted.

The Meeting closed at 11.31am.

It was noted the next meeting is scheduled **Monday 7 August 2023 at 11.00am – 12.00pm.**

Signed as a true and correct record.

**Andrew J. Smith**  
Committee Chair

Date: