

Record of Meeting

Meeting	Edu.au Advisory Committee Meeting	
Date / Time	Monday 7 August 2023 / 11.00am – 12.00pm AEST	
Location	via Microsoft Teams Meeting	
Present	Dr Andrew J. Smith, Committee Chair Haydn Cockayne, Catholic Ed, WA Michelle Edwards (ACECQA) Troy Williams, ITECA Michael O’Leary, Qld DoE (<i>joined from 11.07pm</i>)	Andrew C. Smith, ESA CEO Corinna Maloney, ESA Kris Cutmore, ESA Amanda Shay, ESA
Also in attendance	Bruce Tonkin, auDA COO Sonia Joksimovic, auDA Co Sec Jane Smith, CPCO	Steph Viljoen, auDA Manager Licensing Framework Compliance & Privacy Officer
Apologies	Phil Sherwin, NSW DoE Juliana Shea, ISA Margot McNeill, TAFE, NSW	

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.

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 15 May 2023.

The Committee **confirmed** the 15 May 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 Chair noted that an update on those actions which remain ongoing will be addressed at today's meeting.

6. Update on RTO Eligibility and University Legislation

The Chair invited auDA's COO and Manager Licensing Framework Compliance & Privacy Officer to provide an update on the process for changing the edu.au policy with respect to the eligibility rules for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) to hold names at the third level of edu.au (example.edu.au) and the steps auDA has taken to implement changes in legalisation with respect to the use of the term *University* in domain names, which have been previously discussed at Committee meetings.

6.1 Audits of use of the term *University* in domain names

The Australian Government implemented legislation in April 2021 to protect the use of the term *University* in domain names (see <https://www.education.gov.au/quality-and-legislative-frameworks/guidelines-use-word-university>).

The Committee noted that auDA undertakes daily audits of all new registrations, seeking keywords such as *Olympics* and *University* and should auDA detect a name registered in .au direct (e.g., forexample.au), com.au, net.au, org.au, asn.au or id.au that contains the keyword *University*, the registrar is contacted and requested to obtain a copy of approval from the Department of Education for its use.

The Committee further noted that should no such approval be confirmed, the domain name is suspended and then cancelled.

auDA's COO concluded that on average auDA received approximately four (4) domain names registered a month that contain the keyword *university*, which are commonly related to personal gyms, sport training or animal training; with a monthly report of new names registered that include the word *University* provided to the Federal Department of Education.

The Committee confirmed no process change was required and there were no questions or further comments noted.

6.1 Policy development process for edu.au policies

auDA's COO and Manager Licensing Framework Compliance & Privacy Officer provided an overview of the *Process for the Development and Review of auDA Published Policies*

(<https://www.ada.org.au/about-ada/corporate-strategies-values-and-policies>), noting there are two options for updating policies:

Minor policy amendments

- Include where the change is required for administrative, technical or legal reasons.
- auDA will publish the proposed change for a minimum of 21 days.

It was noted that should there be a minor policy amendment that the education community would like to make, the edu.au Advisory Committee could recommend a proposed policy amendment and send this to the auDA Board for consideration. If the auDA Board approves, it will then be published for public consultation.

The Committee was provided an example of this process with org.au rules recently amended to support foreign embassies and consulates (<https://www.ada.org.au/consultation/proposed-changes-definition-australian-presence-and-not-profit-entity>)

Major policy amendments

It was noted the auDA Board would form an Advisory Committee to recommend major changes to the Licensing Rules in 2025.

The Committee was provided an example from 2017 (<https://www.ada.org.au/have-your-say/policy-panels-and-committees/2017-policy-review-panel>), which resulted in the rules for the implementation of .au direct

It was further noted for edu.au, as there is already an edu.au Advisory Committee, any major policy reviews required for edu.au could be managed by this Advisory Committee which requires publishing an issues report, taking submissions from the public, proposing changes, and taking public comments on those changes.

The Committee noted that the process is not that dissimilar to the process the Government undertakes for updating major pieces of legislation (i.e. Privacy Act).

auDA's COO and Manager Licensing Framework Compliance & Privacy Officer noted that auDA undertakes major policy reviews on a 4-5 year cycle (see <https://www.ada.org.au/consultation/policy-panels-and-committees>).

7. ESA Quarterly Report Update for June 2023 YTD

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

The Chair invited Amanda Shay from ESA to update the Committee on the report layout, which included key activities, issues, operational outcomes and trends for the reported quarter, noting:

- Edu.au name space grew by 0.76% in the past twelve (12) months.
- As at 31 June 2021, there were 18,374 domain names registered by ESA
- In Quarter 2, 329 new applications were received with a YTD Quarter 2 comparison from 2022 noted.
- Overview of contested .au Direct applications was noted, which was discussed.

The Committee queried the rejection reasons by eligibility categories, which was discussed.

The Committee discussed campaigns to encourage Early Care Education Services to use edu.au domain names, noting ESA and Michelle Edwards would discuss this further offline to assist greater awareness.

The Chair encouraged feedback from other members representing other sectors to assist with domain education/awareness.

No further comments were noted.

8. 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).

auDA's COO noted an update on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impact on domain industry, which remains a *watching brief*.

No further comments were noted.

9. Update on Committee Direction

The Chair spoke to the effectiveness of the Committee, following recent discussions held internally with members and separately between auDA and ESA.

The Committee confirmed its value to continue meeting on a regular basis to better understand the education domain industry, which includes rejections and complaints to protect the edu.au. It further noted the Committee can then monitor trends and address any opportunities for improvement, whilst providing comfort to Education Ministers on this governance arrangement.

The Chair informed the Committee that auDA is exploring project opportunities that the Committee may assist with in future.

10. Meeting Close

No Other Business was noted.

The Meeting closed at 11.40am

It was noted the next meeting is scheduled **Monday 6 November 2023 at 11.00am – 12.00pm.**

Signed as a true and correct record.

Andrew J. Smith
Committee Chair

Date: