

# Record of Meeting

Meeting	General Advisory Standing Committee Meeting	
Date / Time	Tuesday 30 November 2021 / 3.00pm – 5.00pm AEDT	
Location	Teams Meeting	
Present	Madeleine Roberts, Interim Chair Charles Reis P R Khangure Steve de Mamiel	Ian Halson ( <i>attendance from 3.17pm</i> ) Sae Ra Germaine Michael Dodge
In attendance	Sonia Joksimovic, auDA Co Sec Bruce Tonkin, auDA COO Colin Brown, auDA CPCO Sandra Davey, auDA Director	Steph Viljoen, Manager Compliance Analytics & Privacy Officer Katherine Sainty, auDA General Counsel ( <i>attendance from 3.10pm</i> )
Apologies	Rosemary Sinclair AM, auDA CEO Anneliese Williams, auDA Specialist Advisory, Policy Sophie Mitchell, auDA CCO Andrew McCallum, Member & Community Manager	Trent Wabbis John Graham Jon Lawrence Leslie Callaway

## 1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed all present and opened the meeting at 3.02pm.

The Chair noted auDA's CEO, Rosemary Sinclair was an apology and confirmed that both the auDA's COO, Bruce Tonkin and CPCO, Colin Brown, would address any Committee matters.

## 2. Acknowledgment of Country

The Chair provided an Acknowledgement of Country paying respect to the traditional owners of the land upon which the Committee was meeting, including elders past and present.

## 3. Approve Record of Meeting –15 September 2021

The Committee reviewed the record of the meeting held 15 September 2021 and **resolved** to approve the record of the meeting, as true and correct.

#### **4. Actions Arising from Previous Meeting**

The Committee noted an update on previous actions, as tabled.

#### **5. AuDA Overview**

The Committee noted the auDA Overview Report, as tabled.

The Chair invited the auDA COO to provide an overview of auDA's Direct Registration noting a new general use namespace, .au direct, will launch on 24 March 2022.

The Committee noted .au direct will allow shorter names to be registered that are easier to type and display on mobile devices, which will also allow Australians who might not be eligible for one of the existing spaces, such as com.au or org.au, to register a .au domain.

The COO outlined the eligibility requirements, which were discussed.

*Katherine Sainty joined the meeting.*

The Committee noted an update on Cyber Security and the Critical Infrastructure Bill Reform and auDA's active participation in the consultation process to provide feedback and assist the government's understanding of the DNS and DNS Industry.

*Ian Halson joined the meeting*

The Committee further noted that the first Bill to update the Security of Critical Infrastructure Act (SOCI) was passed by both houses of Parliament on 22 November 2021, which will designate the Australian domain name system as critical infrastructure.

It was noted a second Bill will go to Parliament early in 2022 and will introduce a framework for managing risks relating to critical infrastructure.

The Committee noted further development in 2022 of specific rules to the DNS sector which will be shared with TASC.

The COO updated the Committee on the Select Committee on Foreign Interference through Social Media being established by the Senate to examine the risk posed to Australia's democracy by foreign interference through social media.

It was noted auDA is monitoring the Inquiry's progress but has not made a submission.

#### **6. Policy Act Legislation/ Obligations**

The Committee noted the Presentation titled *Privacy: Reforms and Obligations*, dated 30 November 2021, as tabled.

The Chair invited auDA's General Counsel to provide the Committee an update on the:

- Privacy Reform Agenda
- Legal Issues under the Issues/Discussion Papers
- Draft Bill; and
- Next Steps

The Committee noted auDA's commitment to both data privacy and security obligations.

## 7. Licensing Review Framework & Complaints Handling Process

The Committee noted the Presentation titled: *Complaints Handling*, dated November 2021, as tabled.

The Chair invited auDA's Manager of Compliance Analytics and Privacy Officer to update the Committee on the Company's Licensing Review Framework and Complaint Handling Processes.

The Committee noted the four (4) levels auDA has adopted to process Complaints, which was discussed.

The Committee further noted the "Domain Name Tools" available on auDA's website for review and information.

The Committee queried the most common complaints received by auDA, noting these relate to both Eligibility and Allocation Rules.

Ian Halson expressed concern about Registrants that use the business information of legitimate not-for-profit organizations without authorisation, which was discussed.

Ian Halson provided feedback for website improvement for complaints to be submitted about .au domain name services provided by auDA accredited registrars or their resellers, which the COO confirmed would be considered.

**ACTION:** The Committee requested auDA engage the Chair of the Technical Advisory Standing Committee (TASC) to consider ways of increasing the Integrity of the .org.au space, in light of the practices of some registrants to harvest the credentials of legitimate not-for-profit organizations from Government databases.

## 8. Reconstitution of GASC Committee

The Chair invited auDA's CPCO to speak on the reconstitution of the Committee.

The CPCO noted that the Board would be determining the shortlisted candidates at its 8 December 2021 meeting and that communication to current members would be provided prior to year-end.

It was confirmed the appointment of approved candidates will then take effect January 2022.

## **9. Other Committee Matters raised by GASC Members**

Mr Khangure expressed concern regarding Committee members attendance at GASC meetings, and that this was an area for future improvement.

Ian Halson queried whether auDA members must have a unique email address to assist validation to ensure elections are conducted fairly and appropriately. auDA confirmed that a legal entity that is a Company may have a contact email address that is the same as a separate legal entity that is a natural person. However, auDA does require a unique mobile phone number when new members join via the auDA website.

Ian Halson asked whether a legal entity can be both a registrar and a reseller of another registrar. auDA's COO confirmed that this is allowed.

Ian Halson queried the transparency process to the general public when auDA has undertaken an investigation of a complaint about a Registrar. auDA confirmed Registrars, just like Registrants, have an opportunity to correct a compliance issue. It is only if the registrar is not able to correct the compliance issue that a registrar's access to the registry may be suspended, or their agreement with auDA maybe terminated. In those cases auDA would make public the enforcement action that has been taken.

Ian Halson asked about the reporting for funds provided to registrars as part of the co-marketing program. auDA noted that it provides information on co-marketing funding provided to registrars in its quarterly and annual reports.

No other Committee matters were raised by GASC Members.

## **10. 2022 Meeting Calendar**

The Committee noted the following meeting dates scheduled for 2022:

- Wednesday 16 March 2022 @ 3.00pm - 5.00pm
- Tuesday 14 June 2022 @ 3.00pm - 5.00pm
- Tuesday 13 September 2022 @ 3.00pm -5.00pm
- Tuesday 13 December 2022 @ 3.00pm - 5.00pm

## **11. auDA Members Update/ Community Events Calendar**

The CPCO provided the Committee an update on auDA's future Community Events and encouraged member's participation:

- **AuDA Webinar - Digital Lives of Australians Research** scheduled Thursday 2 December 2021 @ 12pm - 1.00pm;
- **GASC & TASC End of Year Celebration @ Dexus Place** for pre-dinner drinks, followed with dinner at Rosa's Canteen scheduled Tuesday 14 December 2021 from 5pm - 10.00pm
- **AuDA's member Networking (in person) Event @ Hyatt Hotel Melbourne** scheduled Wednesday 15 December 2021 @ 5.00pm - 7.00pm

*Steve de Mamiel and Sae Ra Germaine left the meeting.*

## 12. Meeting Close

The Chair confirmed there were no further questions from the Committee and thanked all members for their time and contribution at the meeting.

Subject to the determination on the future Committee composition, it was noted the next Committee meeting is scheduled Wednesday 16 March 2022 @ 3.00-5.00pm.

The Meeting closed at 5.16pm.

Signed as a true and correct record.

**Madeleine Roberts**

Committee Chair

Date: