

AVCC SUBMISSION FOR SECOND LEVEL DOMAIN NAMES

A) NAME

The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee seeks to create the domain **research.au**.

B) PURPOSE

The **research.au** domain is open to all publicly funded and publicly sponsored research bodies and will provide members and affiliated entities with an opportunity to further develop and expand their research capabilities both collectively and individually through a more clearly defined internet identity. This will assist in closer cooperation within Australia's research community and marketing success internationally.

This initiative will assist in promoting and protecting the online identity of Australian publicly funded research bodies by providing a rigorous online registration process, like the new EDUCAUSE process in the US higher education market.

The major Internet search engines support advanced searching by sub-domain names so it will be very simple to find publicly funded research organisations most of which are associated with Australian universities, of which nearly all are members of the AVCC, and research funding bodies including the Australian Research Council and the National Health and Medical Research Council.

C) INTENDED USERS

The users of the **research.au** 2LD will be universities and other organisations that undertake substantial publicly funded research activity.

D) ESTIMATED NUMBER OF POTENTIAL REGISTRANTS

It is estimated that there will be some 500 to 1000 potential registrations in the research.au domain.

E) FUNDING MODEL

The intention is to levy each registrant for a fixed amount per annum in order to cover the auDA levy and the AusRegistry Pty Ltd payment for registry services. Administrative costs will be minimal and domain name applications will be handled through the AVCC.

F) SELECTION CRITERIA

1. *Clear long term commitment to manage the domain*

The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee advances higher education and research through voluntary, cooperative and coordinated action. The Committee is non-partisan and exists exclusively for educational and research purposes. Its continuing aim is to serve the best interests of the universities and, through them, the nation.

The organisation that ultimately became the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee was formed in May 1920 of Australia's then six universities. In 1966, the AVCC

secretariat was re-located from Melbourne to Canberra, where it now operates with an annual budget of \$3.99 million and 25 staff.

The Board of Directors consists of nine Vice-Chancellors and meets six times a year. The full membership of the AVCC strongly supports this proposal as it is anticipated that it will provide a new avenue for raising the profile of Australian research capability and efforts nationally and internationally.

2. *Serve the needs of users not well served by existing 2LDs (ie. edu.au)*

The research community in Australia currently does not have a domain that in any way reflects the nature of the work of the research community. Many research organisations operate in the .edu domain due to their education role or in .gov as Government bodies. For others the closest existing domain to meet this need is the .com.au domain. All of these are large domains that do not reflect the research focus. Given the importance of research activity in Australia to the nation's economic well-being and its international competitiveness in the global market, and the value to the economy of intellectual property in its own right, there is strong argument for a dedicated research domain. This move is consistent with the spirit of the Commonwealth Government's commitment to research, especially under the *Backing Australia's Ability* Statement and the commitments of Australia's State and Territory Governments to expanded research activity. It is important to note that a major part of Australia's research activity, especially basic research, is publicly funded or publicly sponsored.

A separate domain identity will greatly improve the marketing success of our research community.

3. *Clear support from members*

The proposal is supported by the AVCC members. In addition, the AVCC has held discussions with representatives of the Council of Australian University Directors of Information Technology (CAUDIT) (www.caudit.edu.au) and AARNet Pty Ltd (www.aarnet.edu.au). Both organisations fully support the proposal.

4. *Widen the choice of names*

While the universities have a significant investment in the current edu.au domain name this proposal adds options for more online identities, and individual research organisations may choose to migrate quickly or slowly to the new names as their preferred identity. It is expected that most will however maintain their existing presence in the edu.au domain.

G) REASON TO BE CLOSED

Research organisations are very keen to promote their research capabilities and research results both domestically and internationally. However, the integrity of the domain is vital to establish and maintain the bona fides of registrants with highly valued and recognised domestic and international research capability. The creation of a closed domain restricted to organisations with publicly sponsored research will ensure that only well credentialed research organisations will be able to register in the domain.

H) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's definition of Research and Experimental Development (R&D) will be the basis on which eligibility as a research organisation will be based:

Research and experimental development comprises creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of people, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications.

This definition will be underpinned by the following statement from the Federal Department of Education, Science and Training's Higher Education Research Data Collection:

Any activity classified as research and experimental development is characterised by originality; it should have investigation as a primary objective and should have the potential to produce results that are sufficiently general for humanity's stock of knowledge (theoretical and/or practical) to be recognisably increased. Most higher education research work would qualify as research and experimental development.

All organisations that are principally engaged in research as defined above and that receive public research funding will be eligible to register in the research.au domain. The criteria would allow for collaborative activities, consortiums and representative groups where membership is restricted to universities to register domains.

The use of the full geographic name of a university will be allowed (eg. *Charlessturtuniversity.research.au* and *sydneyuniversity.research.au*).

I) POLICY RULES

The AVCC will adopt the auDA Policy of Domain Names except that the use of the full geographic name of a university will be allowed.

Any cases of disputes will be considered by the AVCC Board of Directors.

J) PEAK BODY

The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee will manage the **research.au** 2LD.