

14 March 2002

Mr. Derek Whitehead  
Chair  
New Names Advisory Panel  
.au Domain Administration Limited (auDA)  
107 Faraday Street  
CARLTON VIC 3053

Re: New 2LD Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Whitehead:

We have read with interest the draft recommendation of the auDA New Names Advisory Panel of February. We are disappointed with the report's conclusions with respect to closed 2LDs in general, and the lack of recommendation of the catholic.au proposal in particular.

We note that the panel found the catholic.au proposal to be "well documented and strongly argued, with a great deal of supporting information" and that it "rates well against the selection criteria." That the panel retains the view that the Catholic community in Australia is a "single organisation" does not recognise the complexity and distinct terms of auspice of Catholic entities as diverse as aged and childcare services, parishes, hospitals, schools, retreat houses, religious community residences, welfare services, hostels, universities, etc., which collectively make up the Catholic Church in Australia.

On its merits, we believe a positive recommendation for our proposal is justified. Our submission has met, and in many instances exceeded, the standards that were set forth in this process. Furthermore, we believe the proposal is consistent with the spirit of creating an Australian domain name space that responds to the needs of Australian communities.

We hope the draft recommendations will receive further reflection in this regard. We again reiterate our willingness to work with the New Names Advisor Panel and the auDA Board in this process.

Sincerely,

Fr. Brian Lucas  
General Secretary  
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

cc Jo Lim, auDA Chief Policy Officer  
Reverend Michael Kelly SJ, Chief Executive Officer, Church Resources  
The Hon. Senator Richard Alston, Minister for Communication, Information,  
Technology and the Arts.