

Our Ref : ES02/18706  
Your Ref : NNAP



Ms Jo Lim  
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Copy to: Mr T J Mullarvey, Chief Executive Officer,  
The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee

Dear Ms Lim

Re: Public consultation: New Names Advisory Panel's recommendations:  
uni.au/university.au and research.au proposals

While this Department is neutral on the abovementioned proposals (ie on whether or not these new second level domains should be established), I have to advise auDA, the responsible regulatory body, that any arrangement of Internet domain space for Australian universities and Australian research should take into account that:

1. "An Australian university is an institution which meets nationally agreed criteria and is established or recognised as a university under State, Territory or Commonwealth legislation." The definition is set out in the National Protocols for Higher Education Approval Processes [<http://www.curriculum.edu.au/mctyapdf/protocols.pdf>] approved by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) and published by this Department in 2000. The Department regulates the use of the title 'university' on behalf of the Minister under Corporations Law. At this point, my understanding is that not all Australian universities are included in the membership of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC), the applicant for second level domain space specifically for universities. Any governance planning and arrangements for the proposed second level domains, uni.au/university.au, would have to involve MCEETYA, as well as this Department.
2. If new second level domains, uni.au/university.au, were established, the eligibility criteria for those domains would have to ensure that only bodies which met the definition set out above would be able to obtain a licence for a name.

3. Any planning, governance and administrative arrangements for research.au should also be representative of, and provide for, the wide range of private, government and other public organisations engaged in pure and applied Australian research across scientific, humanities and technical fields. Research conducted in universities is but one part of the Australian research effort.

Yours sincerely

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Branch Manager  
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