Quarterly Report

.auDA

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

Contents

From the CEO

Rosemary Sinclair AM
auDA Chief Executive Officer

The October–December quarter rounded out a successful and productive 2023 for auDA. We undertook a large program of work in the quarter which was, as ever, enriched by the support of and contributions from our multi-stakeholder community.

Among our most important stakeholders are our **.au members**. In the quarter, we were delighted to host events in New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland, South Australia, ACT and Victoria. We were also pleased to deliver a range of different events, including presenting to university student groups, hosting networking events, conducting panel discussions

and sponsoring innovation seminars and industry awards nights. We look forward to delivering a broader program of events and initiatives in 2024.

.au registrars play an equally important role in our stakeholder community, delivering .au registration services to members of the public. During Q2, we brought registrars together at the annual .au Registrar Summit. It provided a platform for information sharing between auDA, the .au registry operator and registrars, and an opportunity to hear from expert guest speakers. I thank all those who joined us, and registrars for their shared commitment to maintaining a secure and trusted .au domain.

Over the quarter, we also sought feedback from the public on **minor amendments to .au Licensing Rules**. The proposed changes sought to enhance the operation

auDA and industry experts at a .au member event in Adelaide

auDA delegation attends the global Internet Governance Forum

Atlas of Australia Online 2023 research report

of the Rules by providing clarification and minor updates to processes. We thank those who participated in the consultation. The outcome of the consultation and updated Rules are now available on the auDA website.

One of auDA's core functions is to advocate for and actively participate in the multi-stakeholder model of **internet governance**. In Q2, we attended the global Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and 78th meeting of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN78). At these forums, the auDA team had the opportunity to present on auDA's **Internet Governance Roadmap**, which sets out recommendations to sustain multi-stakeholder internet governance and contribute to panel discussions on topics such as addressing internet fragmentation and domain name system (DNS) abuse.

We're always pleased when we're invited to speak on areas related to our expertise, and DNS abuse is an area we're particularly passionate about. We take pride in administering one of the most secure domains in the world with low levels of DNS abuse. Our dedicated Compliance Team takes seriously its role rectifying any instances that do emerge and, in the quarter, it completed 461 DNS abuse audits, up 48 per cent year-on-year.

As set out in our 2021-25 Strategy, auDA is committed to producing leading insights that support Australians online. In November we were thrilled to release our latest **Digital Lives of Australians 2023: Readiness for emerging technologies report** and in December we released the **Digital Atlas of Australia Online 2023 report**, the latter of which was developed in partnership with CSIRO's Data61 and the University of Technology Sydney. These reports provide insights on the Australian
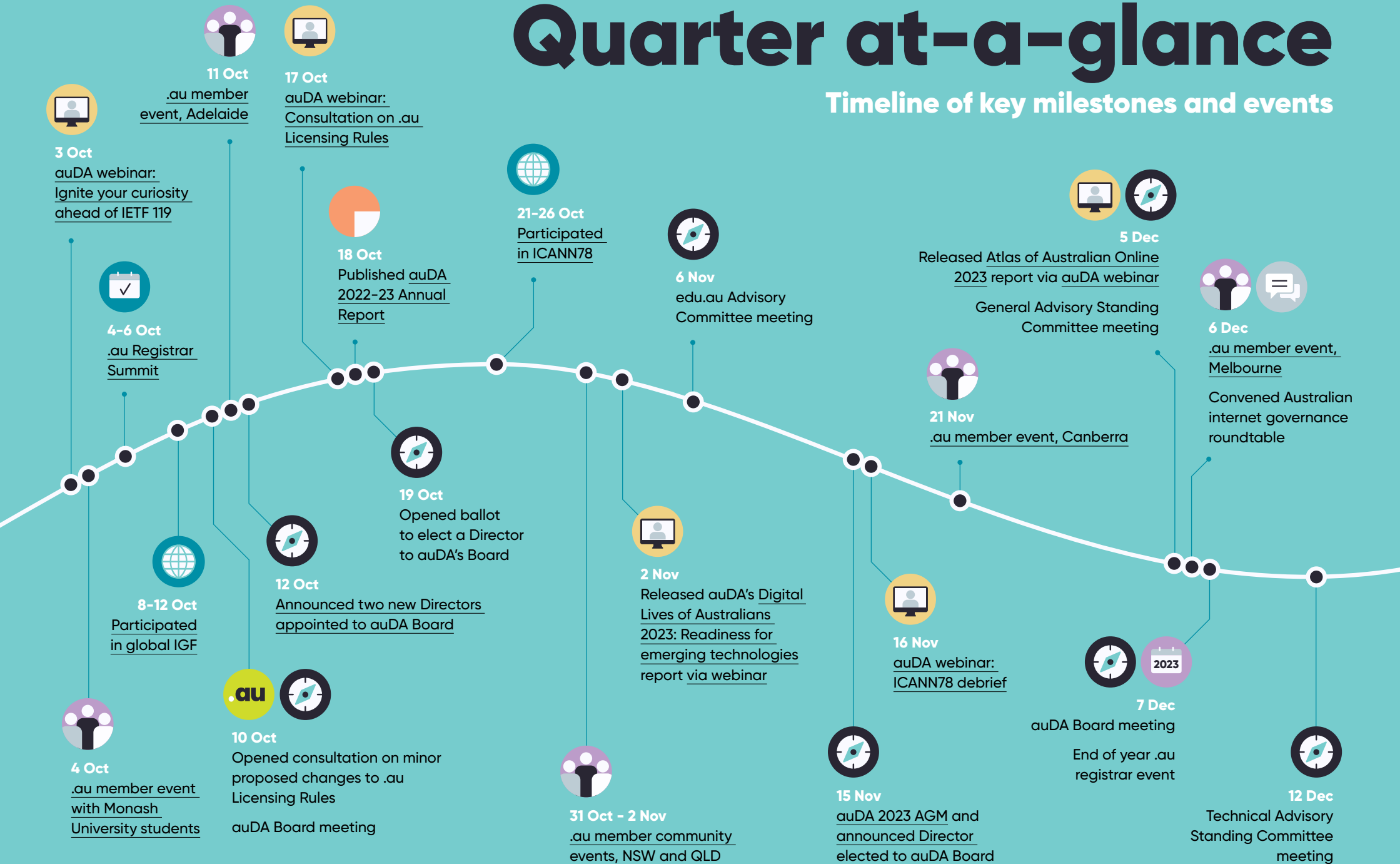
internet ecosystem and are recommended reading for policymakers, academics and industry leaders. We welcome any feedback on them.

In Q2, we announced changes to the **auDA Board**. We farewelled Directors Matt Healy and Jackie Korhonen, and welcomed two new Appointed Directors, Tara Commerford and Thu-Trang Tran. We also invited our members to vote to elect an Elected Director to the Board. At our November AGM, we announced the result of the ballot, and the return of Peter Elford to the Board for another term. I thank our departing Directors for their expertise and contributions during their terms and look forward to working with our Elected Director and new Appointed Directors over their time on the auDA Board.

As we enter a new calendar year, I look forward to continuing to work closely with auDA's multi-stakeholder community to advance our work supporting .au and an open, free, secure and global internet that benefits all Australians.

Quarter at-a-glance

Timeline of key milestones and events

3 Oct
auDA webinar: Ignite your curiosity ahead of IETF 119

11 Oct
.au member event, Adelaide

17 Oct
auDA webinar: Consultation on .au Licensing Rules

18 Oct
Published auDA 2022-23 Annual Report

21-26 Oct
Participated in ICANN78

5 Dec
Released Atlas of Australian Online 2023 report via auDA webinar

General Advisory Standing Committee meeting

6 Dec
.au member event, Melbourne

Convened Australian internet governance roundtable

6 Nov
edu.au Advisory Committee meeting

21 Nov
.au member event, Canberra

4-6 Oct
.au Registrar Summit

19 Oct
Opened ballot to elect a Director to auDA's Board

8-12 Oct
Participated in global IGF

12 Oct
Announced two new Directors appointed to auDA Board

2 Nov
Released auDA's Digital Lives of Australians 2023: Readiness for emerging technologies report via webinar

16 Nov
auDA webinar: ICANN78 debrief

7 Dec
auDA Board meeting

End of year .au registrar event

4 Oct
.au member event with Monash University students

10 Oct
Opened consultation on minor proposed changes to .au Licensing Rules

auDA Board meeting

31 Oct - 2 Nov
.au member community events, NSW and QLD

15 Nov
auDA 2023 AGM and announced Director elected to auDA Board

12 Dec
Technical Advisory Standing Committee meeting

.au by numbers

Overview of key Q2 operational metrics

Variations are year-on-year

REGISTRATIONS

Domains under management, Dec 2023

4,223,429 +1.5%

New domain names created in Q2

144,393* −48%

MEMBERS

.au members, Dec 2023

4,745 +26%

New members in Q2

279

SECURITY

All registrars have completed an annual baseline security audit

27 | **4**

Registrars with ISO 27001 certification or equivalent
Registrars with ISO 27001 progress plan in place

ENGAGEMENTS

3 Registrar briefings

2 .au member workshops

3 .au member events

5 auDA webinars

COMPLIANCE

Enquiries	Complaints	Audits	Enforcement body requests	auDRP disputes
765 −38%	**194** −58%	**3,374** +90%	**16** +45%	**10** −57%

DNS AND REGISTRY SERVICES

Average .au DNS queries per second in Q2

103,400* +183%

DNS availability

100%

WHOIS availability

100%

Registry database availability

100%

DNS abuse audits

461 +48%

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* The introduction of .au direct in March 2022 and close of the .au direct Priority Allocation Period in September 2022 drove a spike in new .au domain names created in 2022. ***** Increase in DNS queries traffic is due to logging improvements at some DNS nameservers.

.au scorecard

Objective	Key Result by 30 June 2024	Status
Trust		
Drive down DNS abuse	.au domain names with an instance of DNS abuse down to 0.02 per cent	G
Drive up the integrity of the .au domain	98 per cent of new .au registrations and 92 per cent of .au renewals have a validated Australian presence	G
Lead world's best practice ccTLD security	80 per cent of registrars have ISO 27001 certification or equivalent	G
Innovation		
Improve the utility of the .au by providing greater choice of .au domain names	.au direct names account for 18 per cent of total .au domain names	G
Invest to enable innovation and research by others	$1.3m invested in innovation initiatives	G
Multi-stakeholder engagement		
Grow auDA's membership	5,000 .au members	G
Increase auDA's influence in multi-stakeholder internet governance	40 key international and domestic internet governance and policy forums attended	G

Objective	Key Result by 30 June 2024	Status
People		
Build an organisation regarded as an employer of choice, a great place to work	Maintain or improve culture survey result	A
Governance		
Strive for excellence in our reporting	Assurance readiness review of 2022–23 Annual Report conducted by external body	G

On track	G
Being managed within tolerance	A
Outside tolerance	R