POST EVENT
REPORT

auIGF 2024

Prepared by auDA acting as auIGF Secretariat

January 2025
auigf.au

Table of Contents

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.

Introduction

The Australian Internet Governance Forum (auIGF), formerly known as NetThing, is an annual event for the discussion of public policy issues pertaining to the Internet in Australia. It is a multidisciplinary community, forged by the common will to increase understanding of Internet related issues but, most importantly, increase understanding of a diverse range of stakeholders' views on these issues.

auIGF aims to provide a diverse and inclusive platform for the exploration of Australian technology policy issues, to mobilise Australians to collaborate on solutions, and to connect Australia to the regional and global Internet Governance Forums.

At auIGF, our aim is to:

- build Australia's Internet community so that it includes a diversity of interests, experiences and views;
- gather together that Australian multistakeholder community and hold interactive and participative Internet policy discussions;
- have those policy conversations provide a foundation for robust and visionary government, industry and community decision making in Australia as well as giving Australia-based participants a strong basis for contributing to global policy making.

auIGF 2024

The auIGF 2024, held in Melbourne and online over 28-29 October 2024, convened more than 160 participants from government, industry, civil society, academia, private sector and the technical community. The forum explored the theme "Connecting local to global – Connecting Australian community and policy debates to the region and the world" focusing on informing Australian policy debates with regional and global Internet governance challenges.

A highlight moment was the keynote address by the Minister for Communications, emphasising Australia's commitment to multistakeholder governance and fostering a safe, inclusive, and resilient digital environment.

Panel discussions and workshops tackled pressing issues like online safety, cybersecurity, and digital inclusion, encouraging collaboration and cross-sectoral dialogue.

The forum also marked the launch of the auIGF's inaugural Position Paper, addressing the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) review. This initiative served as a platform to distill community perspectives and generate cohesive inputs to global discussions.

Engagement was a hallmark of the event, with participants contributing actionable insights and building networks that strengthen Australia's voice in international forums. The auIGF highlighted the importance of integrating local expertise into broader global frameworks, reinforcing Australia's role in shaping a fair and open Internet.

For more details, visit auDA's blog recapping the event.

Location

auIGF 2024 was held in Melbourne at the Rydges Hotel, 186 Exhibition Street. The venue provided a warm atmosphere and convenient location for participants travelling from interstate.

Program

The 2024 auIGF program, designed by the Multistakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC) on advice of the Program Committee, brought to life the theme "Connecting local to global – Connecting Australian community and policy debates to the region and the world." The hybrid event, held over two days at Rydges Melbourne and online, featured an engaging mix of plenary sessions, town halls, workshops, and expert-led panels.

The program commenced with a keynote from the Minister for Communications, highlighting Australia's commitment to collaborative Internet governance. Thematic sessions explored pressing topics, including digital inclusion for Indigenous communities, strategies to strengthen online safety, and Australia's contributions to global Internet frameworks like WSIS+20. Standout discussions, such as "What is Happening in Internet Governance in 2025," provided insights into future challenges and opportunities.

With over 50 expert speakers, the program showcased a wide range of perspectives from organisations like auDA, ICANN, Pacific IGF, the Australian Government and leading academic and civil society institutions such as the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) and the ANU Tech Policy Design Centre. Panels and workshops emphasised actionable strategies for shaping an inclusive, secure, and open digital future, with town halls offering attendees an opportunity to provide direct input into policy discussions.

By blending local insights with international expertise, the auIGF 2024 program reinforced Australia's pivotal role in advancing equitable and sustainable Internet governance. The event's dynamic agenda not only fostered meaningful dialogue among stakeholders but also contributed to shaping global and regional Internet policy directions.

View the full program in the Appendix.

Indigenous Fellowship

Two recipients of the 2023 auIGF and Identity Digital Indigenous Leaders Internet Governance and Policy Fellowship attended the auIGF 2024, Susan Beetson and Dr Jenny Fraser. Launched in 2023, the initiative encourages Indigenous Australians to become involved in Internet governance and policy related discussion.

Susan and Jenny participated in a panel on "Indigenous Australia: Building Digital Availability, Access and Affordability" alongside Gabi Briggs, focusing on their experience living in and researching Indigenous communities.

In its second year, the fellowship proved to be a success in generating diversity by engaging a minority group and in creating an understanding of issues surrounding trust and digitisation amongst Aboriginal elders.

Susan and Jenny highlighted the importance of ensuring all members of the Indigenous community remain connected and aware of their role in building a better system.

Networking Event

Sponsored by Verisign, the auIGF Networking Event was a vibrant conclusion to the first day, bringing together Australia's diverse Internet governance community in a relaxed and engaging setting. Held at the Rydges Melbourne, the event provided a platform for industry leaders, policymakers, academics, and civil society members to connect, exchange ideas, and reflect on the day's key discussions.

The informal atmosphere encouraged lively conversations, fostering new connections and strengthening existing collaborations. Attendees seized the opportunity to delve deeper into the day's topics, sharing diverse perspectives and insights over refreshments. The event reinforced the collaborative spirit of the auIGF, reinforcing the importance of community-driven dialogue in shaping Australia's Internet governance landscape.

Speaker Breakdown

53
speakers at
auIGF

40
organisations
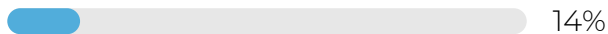represented

19
sessions

Stakeholder Balance

Academia
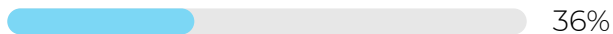17%

Civil Society
10%

Government
12%

User Community
12%

Private Sector
14%

Technical Community
36%

List of 2024 Speakers

- Adam King, auDA
- Alban Kwan, CSC
- Andrew Molivurae, PacificIGF
- Annaliese Williams, auIGF Chair
- Anne-Louise Brown, Cyber Security CRC
- Bri Norton, OzeWai
- Briony Daley Whitworth, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Dr Fitriani, ASPI
- Gareth Downing, ACCAN
- George Pongas, GoDaddy Registry
- Gunela Astbrink, ISOC
- Ian Sheldon, Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
- Jean-Jacques Sahel, Google
- Jennifer Chung (DotAsia)
- Jenny Duxbery, DIGI
- Dr Jenny Fraser
- Jodi Anderson, InternetNZ
- Prof Johanna Weaver, ANU Tech Policy Design Centre
- Jordan Carter, auDA
- Joyce Chen, APNIC
- Keith Besgrove
- Kiki Fong Lim, EFA
- Maureen Hilyard, ISOC
- Mercedes Page
- Pat Kane, Verisgn
- Rachael Falk, Cyber Security CRC
- Ram Mohan, Identity Digital
- Reg Levy, Tucows
- Rosemary Sinclair AM, auDA
- Save Vocea, ICANN
- Sarai Tevita, PICISOC
- Sebastian Brash, Tech Council
- Susan Beetson
- William Lee, Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
- Zoe Hawkins, ANU Tech Policy Design Centre

Registration and Attendance

Overall, due to the hybrid nature of the event, auIGF 2024 attracted registrations from across the globe, with 256 registrations from Australia and six from New Zealand.

383
registrations

170
virtual registrants

213
in-person registrants

Other Countries included:

- Bangladesh
- Botswana
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Congo-Kinshasa
- Egypt
- Fiji
- Ghana
- Hong Kong
- India
- Indonesia
- Macedonia
- Malaysia
- Mali
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Samoa
- Singapore
- Solomon Islands
- South Asia
- Sri Lanka
- Switzerland
- Tanzania
- United States
- Vanuatu

Marketing and Collateral

Email Campaigns

In the lead up to auIGF 2024, eight EDMs were distributed to the auIGF database to promote the event, sponsorship, speakers and program. The auIGF also posted regularly on our social media channels and we were grateful for the amplification from event partners such as auDA.

- **1,873 subscribers**
- **2,818 campaign opens**
- **376 unique clicks on links**

Draft Program, Position Paper and Charter

The auIGF Multistakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC) is pleased to announce the release of three key documents for public review and feedback ahead of the auIGF 2024 event in Melbourne from 28-29 October.

These include:

- The draft 2024 Program
- An inaugural draft Community Position Paper
- A new Governance Charter for the event

Each document serves a vital role in shaping the future of internet governance in Australia and reflects our commitment to an open, inclusive, and secure digital environment. We welcome your feedback and thoughts.

Draft Program

The draft program for auIGF 2024 offers a glimpse into the diverse and engaging sessions planned for the event.

auIGF - Australian Internet Governance Forum
360 followers
1mo · 🌐

As we wrap up #auIGF2024, a heartfelt thank you to all our sponsors for making this event possible! Special thanks to Identity Digital Inc. We appreciate your support in fostering Internet governance in Australia and beyond! 🟢 🟡 #InternetGove ...more

auIGF - Australian Internet Governance Forum
360 followers
3mo · 🌐

auIGF 2024 is shaping up to be an unmissable event! Join us for a wide range of sessions, including "Digital rights and digital responsibilities: the challenge of Online Safety," "The climate challenge and the Internet," and "Supporting security ...more

Sponsorship and financials

The auIGF remains committed to being open and accessible to all community members, with no attendance fees. This accessibility is made possible through the generous support of volunteers and sponsors, who cover event and operational costs. We were delighted to welcome back several sponsors from previous years.

Identity Digital, our returning Principal Sponsor, once again offered essential financial backing, ensuring stability for this year's event and beyond. **Verisign**, another long-time supporter, contributed as a major sponsor, making the networking function a highlight of the event.

Our Strategic Partner, **auDA**, provided financial and in-kind secretariat support, enabling efficient event management, administration, and delivery. In addition, auDA provided the Zoom and email accounts needed to run the event.

Accessibility remained a core focus thanks to the **Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA)**, whose continued support funded live captioning and Auslan services.

As a strategic partner and legal entity for the auIGF, **Internet Australia** played a central role in the event's success. Additionally, **APNIC** provided in-kind support for AV and event expertise, complemented by financial contributions from the **APNIC Foundation**.

The I**nternet Association of Australia** once again supported participants with notepads and pens, while GoDaddy ensured the website remained functional and effective.

We also deeply appreciated the steadfast support of **ICANN** and the **Internet Society**, both of whom continue to champion national Internet governance initiatives like the auIGF.
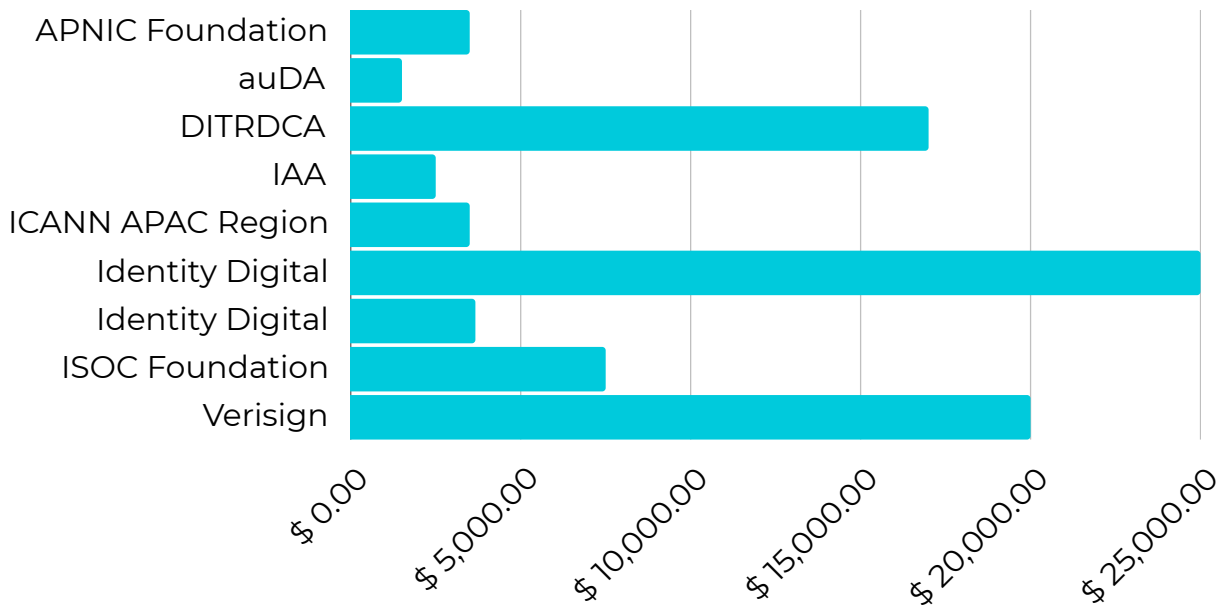
Finally, **Communications Day** returned as our media partner, helping us amplify event outcomes and reach their extensive readership. We are grateful for their assistance to increase the reach and amplify the outcomes of auIGF.
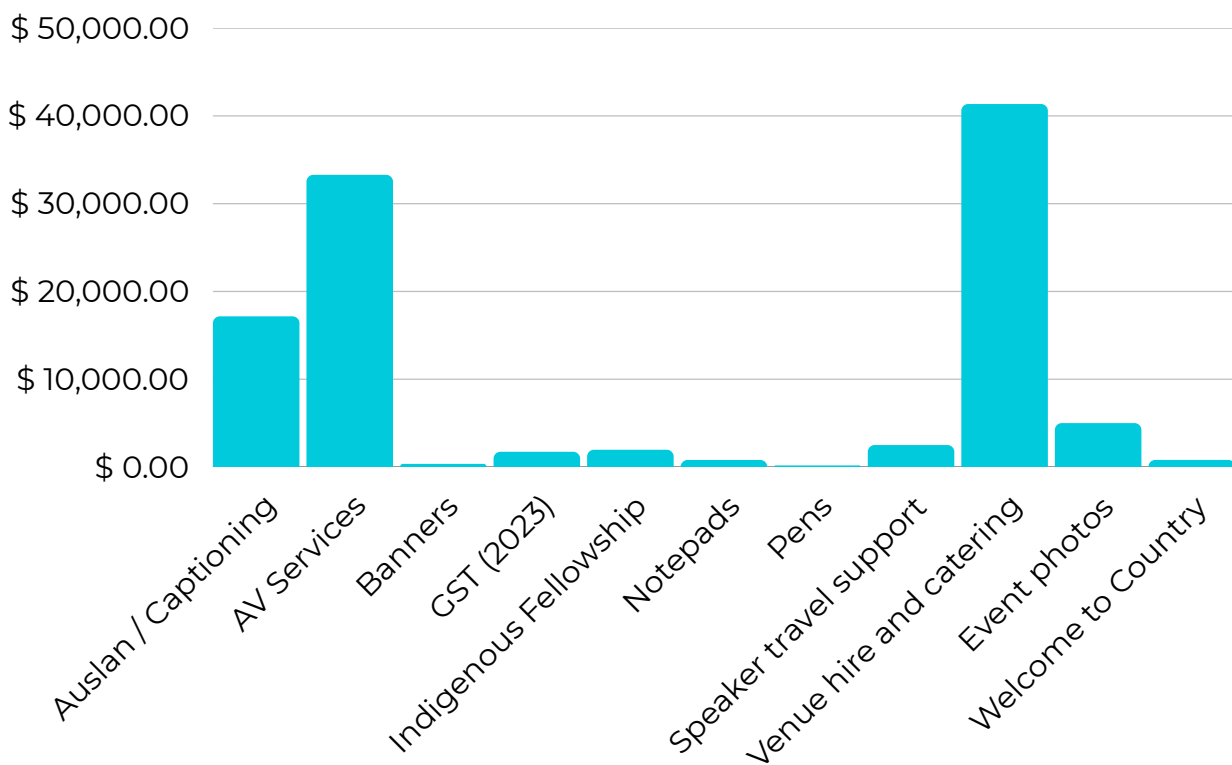
Income

Total Sponsorship and or Support of $87,466.16 AUD received,

Please note that some funding from sponsors and partners, and costs covered by in-kind agreements, may not appear in the figures presented in this report. The MSSC acknowledges the in-kind support provided by auDA for the secretariat and event support as well as APNIC for AV and event advice.

Expenditure

Total event expenses were 105,133.98 AUD.

Committee Debrief

A post-event debrief was held during the first monthly MSSC meeting following auIGF 2024 on 28 November 2024. This session provided an opportunity for the Committee to reflect on the event's successes and identify areas for improvement in 2025.

During the event, feedback was taken live from Committee members and they were given an opportunity to further contribute prior to the debrief. A summary of key takeaways and lessons for 2025 is provided below.

Key Takeaways

- High-calibre speakers: The quality of speakers and moderators enhanced audience interaction and engagement, contributing to a vibrant atmosphere.
- New participation: The event successfully attracted individuals new to Internet governance, fostering broader interest and curiosity.
- Inclusive programming: Aligning sessions with general topics and a well-structured position paper process ensured relevance and participant satisfaction.
- Hybrid setup: The AV setup supported seamless integration of virtual speakers, with positive feedback from those participating remotely.
- Venue and catering: Venue facilities, including catering, were praised, creating a comfortable and welcoming environment.

Lessons for 2025

- Streamlined internal processes: Consolidating speaker documents and establishing clearer timelines for key tasks will improve coordination and reduce last-minute pressures.
- Enhanced resources: Expanding roles, resourcing chat moderation, and engaging more contributors in program planning will strengthen support for organisers and participants.
- Optimised venue layout: Choosing a larger venue and refining the layout will address space constraints and improve the attendee experience.
- Focused programming: Reducing the number of session streams and curating a tighter agenda will help maintain coherence and ease of management.
- Improved promotion: Finalising event elements earlier, such as lanyards and moderators, will allow for stronger and more timely marketing efforts.
- Expanded community involvement: Encouraging more community-driven proposals and including interactive or youth-focused strands will enhance inclusivity and engagement.

Thank You

The success of auIGF 2024 would not have been possible without the generous support of our volunteers, partners and sponsors. Their contributions were instrumental in realising our vision: to create an open and inclusive platform that unites a diverse and multidisciplinary community to discuss Internet policy and governance in Australia.

This year marked an exciting chapter as we rebranded back to auIGF, reflecting our renewed focus on strengthening the event's role in the Internet governance ecosystem.

Looking ahead, the partnerships we build with our sponsors remain essential to the ongoing growth and impact of auIGF. These collaborations not only sustain the event but also support its continued relevance and influence. We deeply value the trust and support of our community and look forward to building on this momentum together.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to our 2024 Multistakeholder Steering Committee and Secretariat for their continued commitment to auIGF. As a self-organised and volunteer-led organisation, auIGF 2024 could not happen without the support of passionate individuals from across the Internet community and beyond it.

Chair:
- Annaliese Williams (auDA) - Technical Community

Individual Members:
- Cheryl Langdon-Orr (Internet Australia) - Technical Community / Civil Society
- Christopher Hawker (Internet Australia) - Technical Community
- Holly Raiche - Civil Society
- Joyce Chen (APNIC) - Technical Community
- Melody Bendindang (APNIC) - Technical Community
- Sandra Davey - User Community
- Sophia Joo (Internet Association of Australia) - Technical Community

Organisational Members:
- Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) - Technical Community
- .au Domain Administration (auDA) - Technical Community / Secretariat
- Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts - Government
- Identity Digital Australia - Technical Community
- Internet Australia - Technical Community

The auIGF Multistakeholder Steering Committee is supported by auDA acting as Secretariat.

Catch up on the event by viewing the recordings or reading the transcripts.

Appendices

Appendix A. auIGF 2024 Program

auIGF 2024 - Program

All times below are Melbourne time, AEDT (UTC+11).

To join sessions visit *auigf.au/join*

Day 1: Monday 28 October

Time	Day 1 program description
09:00 -10:00	**Registration**
10:00	**P1: Opening plenary (75 mins)**
	Description: This opening plenary explores the theme of auIGF 2024 - "Connecting local and global". The speakers bring their perspectives on a set of different issues to this theme - from the domain name space, the impact of social media, a tech policy perspective and voices from the regional and global IGF. After the first round of contributions, the speakers will form a panel to reflect on the theme and react to each others' contributions. **10am -** Official open and Welcome to Country auIGF Chair's address **10:10am -** Recorded address by the Australian Minister for Communications, the Hon Michelle Rowland MP **10:15am -** Update from Ian Sheldon, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts **10:25 -** Opening Plenary: • Johanna Weave, ANU Tech Policy Design Centre • Jennifer Chung, Dot Asia • Ram Mohan, Identity Digital • Ian Sheldon, Department of Infrastructure Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts • Rosemary Sinclair AM, auDA (session moderator)

Time	Day 1 program description	
11:15	**Morning Tea**	
11:45	**T1: Townhall (45 mins)**	
	Description: The Town Hall sessions provide an opportunity for participants to engage with and provide feedback on the Draft Position Paper: Shaping the WSIS+20 Review, prepared by the MSSC. There will be two Town Hall sessions to introduce the paper and rationale for drafting and provide an open forum for discussion. Participants are encouraged to read the paper in advance. More information on the Position Paper and the process is available on the auIGF website. **Moderator:** Keith Besgrove / Annaliese Williams	
12:30	**Lunch**	
13:30-14:30	**WS 1.1: What is happening in Internet Governance in 2025 - and what happened in 2024?**	**WS 2.1: Social media and children: Is a total ban the answer?**
	Description: 2024 was a big year for Internet governance and 2025 is shaping up to be even bigger. Join us as we discuss key 2024 developments including Netmundial+10, the Global Digital Compact and the Summit of the Future and look at what's on the agenda for 2025. What do these events mean for multistakeholder Internet governance, and how will they combine to influence what the digital space looks like post-2025? **Speakers:** • Jodi Anderson, InternetNZ • Briony Daley-Whitworth, DFAT • Mercedes Page • Pablo Hinojosa, APNIC **Moderator:** Annaliese Williams, auIGF Chair	**Description:** Australia is looking to impose penalties for social media platforms that allow children to access their services. Doing so often already breaches companies' terms of service. What are the implications of this change? Will it work? What risks does it create? **Speakers:** • Zoe Hawkins, ANU TPDC • Pyrate Passell, UN IGF DTC • Jenny Duxbury, DIGI • Lizzie O'Shea, Digital Rights Watch **Moderator:** Sandra Davey, auIGF MSSC
14:35-15:35	**WS 1.2: TheWorld Summit on the Information Society 20 year review** *[Sponsored by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts]*	**WS 2.2: Challenges of cybersecurity** *[Sponsored by Identity Digital]*
	Description: Description:The World Summit on the Information Society was a United Nations process that took place in two	**Description:** Exploring the dimensions of cybersecurity in the Internet age. How do we prepare ourselves now for the future? Do we

Time	Day 1 program description	
	phases in 2003 and 2005, with the aim of building an inclusive and development-oriented digital society. Outcomes included formal recognition of the multi-stakeholder approach to Internet governance and the creation of the Internet Governance Forum as a platform for non-binding discussion on Internet related public policy. But the multi-stakeholder approach isn't guaranteed and many governments would prefer a model where governments are the primary decision-makers. In 2025, governments will meet for the 20-year review of WSIS. Join us to explore what the outcomes of this Summit might mean for the future of Internet governance. **Speakers:** - William Lee, DITRDCA - Chris Buckridge - Chat Ramilo Garcia, APC **Moderator:** Keith Besgrove, auIGF MSSC	need systemic change? Individual action? Both? **Speakers:** - Vanessa Teague, ANU - Ram Mohan, Identity Digital - Xavier O'Malley, NOCS **Moderator:** Anne-Louise Brown, Cyber Security CRC
15:35-16:00	**Afternoon tea**	
16:00-17:00	**WS 1.3: Lifting the Australian voice in Internet Governance** *[Sponsored by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts]*	**WS 2.3: Protecting the data in our online lives**
	Description: How can we strengthen Internet governance in Australia? How can we lift our contribution across the region and around the world? How can the auIGF work best as the Hub of this effort? This will include reflections: what has worked & what hasn't in the past, & ideas for the future. **Speakers:** - Ian Sheldon, DITRDCA - Susan Beetson, UQ - Annaliese WIlliams, auIGF Chair - Joyce Chen, APNIC **Moderator:** Jordan Carter, auIGF MSSC	**Description:** Security of data is critical for everyone in this time of ubiquitous online living. With privacy law reform in Australia and the recent track record of cyber incidents, what do we need to do in law, governance and practice to keep our data safe(r)? **Speakers:** - Rachael Falk, Cyber Security CRC - Holly Raiche, Privacy Foundation **Moderator:** Mercedes Page

Time	Day 1 program description	
17:05-17:45	**WS 1.4: Session break**	**WS 2.4 (40 mins): Connecting across the region**
		Description: Many of the challenges on the table at the auIGF are also being faced by Pacific countries. Roundtable of what's happening in IG in the Pacific, and how can Australia support the ambitions of Pacific Island countries? **Speakers:** • Maureen Hilyard, ISOC • Andrew Molivurae, Pacific IGF • Sarai Tevita, PICISOC **Moderator:** Jordan Carter, auIGF MSSC
17:45	**Networking event**	

Day 2: Tuesday 29 October 2024

Time	Day 2 program description	
08:00	**Registration**	
09:00-10:00	**WS 1.5: The Internet as an essential service**	**WS 2.5: The climate challenge and the Internet**
	Description: What if the Internet and Internet connectivity were an essential service? What would this mean for its governance, its funding, its rollout? **Speakers:** • Daniel Featherstone, RMIT • Gareth Downing, ACCAN • Theresa Corbin, Telstra **Moderator:** Holly Raiche, auIGF MSSC	**Description:** Internet technologies hold great promise in giving people options to do things in more environmentally friendly ways - think teleworking, virtual tourism and more. Yet the Internet's technologies and infrastructure also have an environmental impact. What would a whole-of-digital approach to improving environmental outcomes look like? **Speakers:** • Edmon Chung, DotAsia • Shawna Finnegan, APC • Sebastian Brash, Tech Council of AU **Moderator:** Cheryl Langdon-Orr, auIGF MSSC

Time	Day 2 program description	
10:10-11:10	**WS 1.6: Indigenous Australia - Building Digital Availability, Access and Affordability**	**WS 2.6: Disinformation and Misinformation**
	Description: Panelists have lived experience, professional practice, and completed research in and with remote, urban, and rural communities, in fields impacted by digital availability, accessibility, and affordability, as Aboriginal peoples. This session will discuss how Internet governance of these factors relates to Aboriginal peoples and Knowledges. **Speakers:** • Susan Beetson, UQ • Jenny Fraser • Gabi Briggs **Moderator:** n/a	**Description:** Exploring the impact of misinformation and disinformation challenges on digital wellbeing. **Speakers:** • Jean-Jacques Sahel, Google • Noelle DeGuzman, ISOC • Fitriani, ASPI **Moderator:** Alban Kwan, CSC
11:10	**Morning tea**	
11:30-12:30	**WS 1.7: Digital rights and digital responsibilities: the challenge of Online Safety**	**WS 2.7: What the DNS? How can the Domain Name System sector help with security online?** *[Sponsored by ICANN]*
	Description: Online safety requires balancing rights that can be in conflict: the safety of children and young people, privacy, security and more. How to strike this balance in 2025 and beyond? **Speakers:** • Deborah Welsh, eSafety • Jenny Duxbury, DIGI • Kiki Fong-Lim, EFA **Moderator:** Sandra Davey, auIGF MSSC	**Description:** How this 40 year old protocol is evolving to provide additional layers of security to your Internet experience. Can infrastructure providers do more to improve online security, should they? Be careful what you wish for! The DNS was never designed for security, yet it now supports our digital lives. Let's explore what's possible with one of the oldest protocols. **Speakers:** • Pat Kane, Verisgn • Reg Levy, Tuscows • Save Vocea, ICANN **Moderator:** Adam King, auDA
12:30	**Lunch**	

Time	Day 2 program description	
13:30-14:30	**WS 1.8: Supporting security by design through the Internet environment**	**WS 2.8: Accessibility at the core**
	Description: What does 'security by design' mean and is it achievable in the digital environment? What policy and practice changes are needed to make 'security by design' a reality across the Internet environment? In particular, how can diverse regulatory and policy frameworks - even within Australia – work together to drive this goal? This session examines the changes to policy and business practice that are required to make it a reality. **Speakers:** • Anne-Louise Brown, Cyber Security CRC • Jordan Newnham, CyberCX • Michael Wallmannsberger, Trust Hound Limited • Ryan Payne, Uni Canberra **Moderator:** Zoe Hawkins, ANU TPDC	**Description:** Foundational requirements to deliver accessibility of even basic Internet service are not being met. How to secure accessibility for all people to the Internet and the content it provides. **Speakers:** • Gunela Astbrink, ISOC • Bri Norton, OzeWai **Moderator:** Holly Raiche, auIGF MSSC
14:30	**Afternoon tea**	
15:00-16:00	**T2: Townhall (60 mins)**	
	Description: The Town Hall sessions provide an opportunity for participants to engage with and provide feedback on the Draft Position Paper: Shaping the WSIS+20 Review, prepared by the MSSC. There will be two Town Hall sessions to introduce the paper and rationale for drafting and provide an open forum for discussion. Participants are encouraged to read the paper in advance. More information on the Position Paper and the process is available on the auIGF website. **Moderator:** Keith Besgrove / Annaliese Williams	
16:00-17:00	**P2: Closing Plenary (60 mins)**	
	Purpose: To conclude the event, speakers will be asked to reflect on their key takeaways from auIGF and vision for what's next.	