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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.

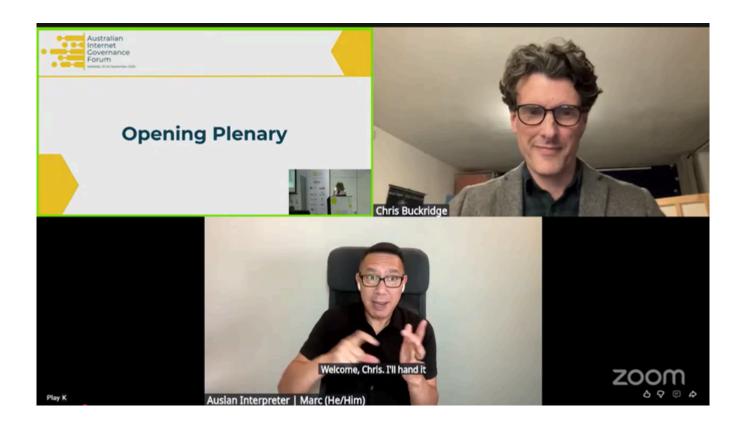
Introduction

The Australian Internet Governance Forum (auIGF) 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.

aulGF 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.



aulGF 2025

The auIGF 2025, held in Adelaide and online over 23 - 24 September, convened more than 200 participants from government, industry, civil society, academia, private sector and the technical community. The forum explored the theme "Global Visions, Local Impact: The Future of Australia's Digital Governance" focusing on informing Australian policy debates with regional and global Internet governance challenges.

Highlight moments included the Welcome to Country by Senior Kaurna man Uncle Mickey O'Brien, and a lively and very timely debate about the future of communications regulation following the Triple-Zero outages the week before the Forum.

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 second year of the auIGF <u>Position Papers</u> process. In 2025, the Forum agreed to work on developing a *Social Contract for Digital Wellbeing in Australia*, and it also updated its 2024 paper on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) review with messages to send to the co-facilitators writing the review's outcomes.

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 <u>auDA's blog recapping the event</u>. A sessions outcomes report will also be published on the auIGF website soon.

Location

auIGF 2025 was held in Adelaide at the Adelaide Convention Centre. The venue provided a warm atmosphere and convenient location for participants travelling from interstate.



Program

The 2025 aulGF program, designed by the Multistakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC) on advice of the Program Committee, brought to life the theme "Global Visions, Local Impact: the future of Australia's Digital Governance." The hybrid event, held over two days at the Adelaide Convention Centre and online, featured an engaging mix of plenary sessions, town halls, workshops, and expert-led panels.

The program commenced with a keynote from Internet governance expert Chris Buckridge. Thematic sessions explored pressing topics, including digital inclusion for Indigenous communities, strategies to strengthen online safety, trust in the online environment, communications regulation and Australia's contributions to global Internet governance frameworks like WSIS+20. The sessions provided diverse insights into future challenges and opportunities.

With over 50 expert speakers, the program showcased a wide range of perspectives from organisations like auDA, ICANN, the Australian Government; leading academic and civil society institutions like the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN), the Australian Telecommunications Alliance (ATA), the Tech Policy Design Institute, the University of South Australia and more. Participants were from across Australia, the Pacific and from further afield. Panels and workshops emphasised actionable strategies for shaping an inclusive, secure, and open digital future, with town halls showcasing Australia's engagement with the WSIS+20 review, and giving the chance for feedback on the Position Paper proposals.

By blending local insights with international expertise, the auIGF 2025 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.



First Peoples' Internet Governance and Policy Fellowship

Two recipients were announced for the newly renamed First Peoples' Internet Governance and Policy Fellowship, Astrid Innes and Simon O'Toole. The Fellows were mentored by 2023/24 Fellows Susan Beetson and Dr Jenny Fraser. Launched in 2023, the initiative encourages First Nations people to become involved in Internet governance and policy related discussion.

Astrid and Simon were active across the auIGF, joining panels and contributing from the floor in a range of sessions.

Now in its third year, the fellowship proved to be a success in engaging new people from First Nations communities in sharing their insights and developing their understanding of an array of Internet governance topics.



From left to right: David Wilson, Simon O'Toole, Astrid Innes, Uncle Mickey O'Brien, Dr Jenny Fraser, Susan Beetson.

Networking Event

The aulGF Networking Event, sponsored by Verisign, brought together Australia's diverse Internet governance community in a relaxed and engaging setting. Held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, the event was the perfect end to a day of intense discussion, providing 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, forging new relationships to shape Australia's Internet governance landscape into the future.



Speaker Breakdown

represented

Stakeholder Balance

Academia 18% Civil Society 17% Government 12% **User Community** 6% Private Sector 8% **Technical Community** 29% Academic Community 18%





List of 2025 Speakers

- Abdul Matheen, Project You
- Alexar Pendashteh, Linux Victoria & Goodness Triangle
- Ana McAllister, Internet NZ
- Andrew Molivurae, TRBR
- Anna Christina D'Addio, UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report
- Annaliese Williams, auDA
- Bruce Tonkin. auDA
- Cameron McTernan, The University of South Australia
- Carol Bennett, ACCAN
- Caroline Greenway
- Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Internet Australia and auIGF MSSC
- Christine Runnegar, Internet Society
- Dane Glerum, Good Things Australia
- Dr Kim Osman, Queensland University of Technology
- Ellen Dixon, Internet Society
- Heather Rea. Telstra
- Ian Sheldon, DITRDCSA
- Jay Chew, SDG4 network
- Johanna Weaver, Tech Policy Design Institute
- Jordan Carter, auDA
- Keith Besgrove, ACCAN
- Lizzie O'Shea, Digital Rights Watch
- Luke Coleman, Australian Telecommunications Alliance
- Michael Brown, Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Michael Des Tombe. Netsafe
- Narelle Clark, Internet Association of Australia
- Nicole Rossini, NSW Telco Authority
- Noelle de Guzman, Internet Society
- Patrick Kane, Verisign
- Rachael Falk, Ashurst
- Ram Mohan, Identity Digital
- Rebecca Papillo, auDA
- Rose Jamieson, InternetNZ
- Rury Demsey, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- Sam Grunhard, DITRDCSA
- Simon O'Toole, Alliance ICT, Leap Foundation & Dreaming Machines
- Susan Beetson, The University of Queensland
- Sylvia Cadena, WC3
- Terry Flew, The University of Sydney
- Tim Marshall, Australian Digital Inclusion Alliance
- Victoria Fielding, The University of Adelaide
- William Lee, DITRDCSA
- Zoe Hawkins, Tech Policy Design Institute

Registrations

Overall, due to the hybrid nature of the event, auIGF 2025 attracted registrations from across the globe, with 207 registrations from Australia and ten from New Zealand.

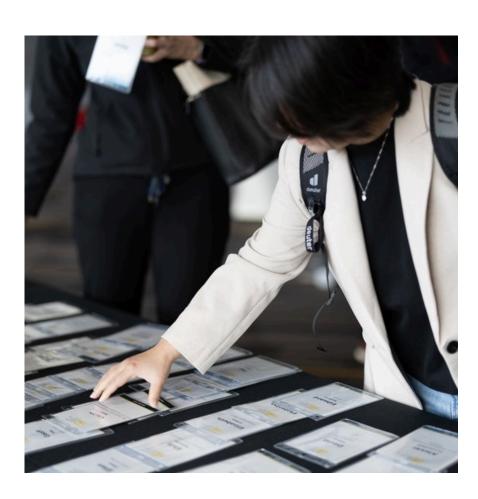
Registrations

registrants

registrants

Other Countries included:

- Bangladesh
- Bharat
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Congo-Kinshasa
- Cook Islands
- Fiji
- France
- Ghana
- Indian
- Indonesia
- Italy
- Madagascar
- Mali
- Morocco
- Netherlands
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Papua New Guinea
- República Dominicana
- Samoa
- Singapore
- Sri Lanka
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom
- United States
- USA
- Vanuatu
- Yemen



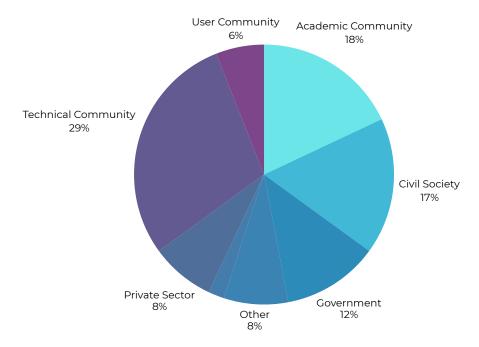
Attendance breakdown

Over the 2 days auIGF 2025 attracted more than 200 in-person and online attendees from government, industry, civil society, academia, private sector and the technical community.

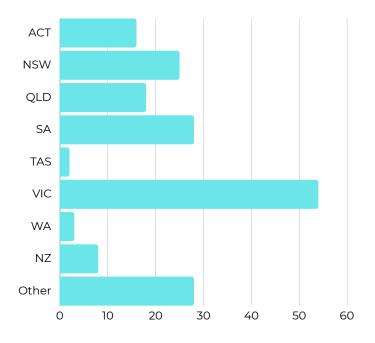
Attendees

Virtual attendees In-person attendees

Stakeholder Group



Regional Demographic



Marketing and Collateral

Email Campaigns

In the lead up to auIGF 2025, nine 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.

- 1,178 active subscribers
- 4,028 website visits during Sept
- 1,915 LinkedIn post impressions during Sept



Updated Position Papers for aulGF 2025

We're very pleased to be able to share two papers with you today that will be at the heart of the work at the 2025 Australian Internet Governance Forum (auIGF), coming up in Adelaide later this month.

To have your say and shape these ideas, register for auIGF 2025 today!

Digital Social Contract feedback incorporated.

There were several insightful comments shared in response to the initial draft paper released in August. The feedback has been assessed by the auIGF's Position Paper Committee, and incorporated in an updated paper, released today.



The auIGF 2025 is just weeks away! . II Two position papers are now ready, iodiscussion and debate - both in Adelaide and online:

- A Social Contract for Digital Wellbeing refreshed with community feedback to help chart a shared vision for Australia's digital future.
- Messages to WSIS+20 an updated paper on the global #WSIS20 review, outlining proposals for Australia's voice on the international stage.

These papers are a chance to shape the national and global Internet governance agenda.

- Read the papers.
- Register now.
- Be part of the conversation.

aulGF - Australian Internet Governance Forum 452 followers 1mo • Edited • 🖫

We. Are. Done! 🞉

Thank you!

Thank you so much to everyone who was part of #aulGF2025!

Participants, speakers, volunteers, sponsors, staff, tech, all from near and far - thanks for making '25 a great success!

More to come on outcomes but for now -





Last chance to register for auIGF 2025 - starting tomorrow!

This week's the week - the 2025 Australian Internet Governance Forum (auIGF) is in Adelaide and online on Tuesday and Wednesday, 23-24 September.

As a fully hybrid event, it isn't too late to register and attend any sessions of interest online.



A cracking start this morning to #auIGF2025 this morning! Vibrant contributions in the opening plenary followed by a fascinating deep dive into this year's #WSIS20 r. ...more



Sponsorship and financials

The aulGF 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, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (DITRDCSA)**, 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.

We deeply appreciated the steadfast support of **ICANN**, the **Internet Society Foundation**, and the **Internet Governance Forum Support Association** who all continue to champion national internet governance initiatives like the auIGF.

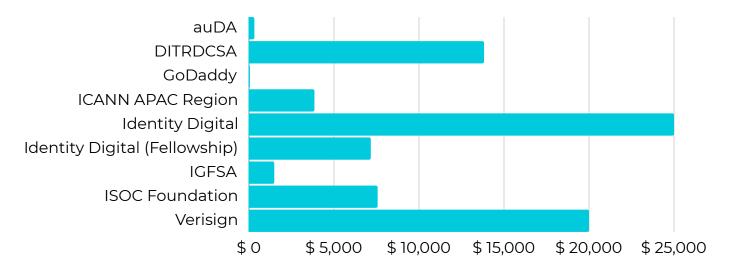
The **Internet Association of Australia** supported participants with the very popular drink bottles, while **GoDaddy** ensured the website remained functional and effective.

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

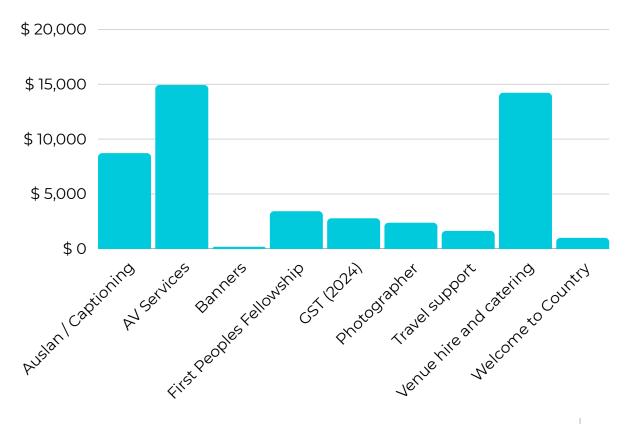
Total Sponsorship and or Support of \$79,272.82 AUD received



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 \$49,463.20 AUD.



Committee Debrief

A post-event debrief was held during the first monthly MSSC meeting following auIGF 2025 on 16 October 2025. This session provided an opportunity for the Committee to reflect on the event's successes and identify areas for improvement in 2026.

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 2026 is provided below.

Key takeaways

- Attendance & reporting: Confirmed final figures and a deadline for a full post-event report that will include demographics, session summaries, and feedback analysis.
- Feedback shortfall: Low survey completion limited insights; team agreed clearer messaging and a single reminder to improve response rates.
- Accessibility & AV: Auslan and live captioning met needs but caused budget pressure due to late changes; AV team performance was praised and simplification was recommended.
- Budget position: Overall underspend in several lines; overspend on accessibility; contingency returned to disaster recovery; remaining funds earmarked for diversity work pending grant confirmation.
- auIGF 2026: Canberra preferred for government engagement; Sydney considered for broader reach; Operations Committee to finalise location based on cost, timing, and space.
- Governance & deliverables: Position paper work progressed; membership renewals and chair reappointment agreed; next MSSC meeting scheduled with a brief pre-meeting window.

Lessons for 2026

- Collect feedback effectively: Use very short, clearly explained surveys at close-of-session plus one reminder; highlight how feedback will be used.
- Fix AV and accessibility early: Specify Auslan/captioning and a simplified AV package in contracts to avoid on-site changes and overspend.
- Simplify programming: Limit parallel streams to reduce logistical burden and improve audience focus.
- Formalise venue criteria: Create a decision matrix (government access, cost, breakout space, accommodation) and delegate selection to Operations.
- Tighten budget governance: Adopt a single-stream financial view and pre-approve contingency uses tied to strategic priorities.
- Streamline membership maintenance: Annual confirmation with automatic removal for non-responders to keep the committee list current.

Thank You

The success of auIGF 2025 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.

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 2025 Multistakeholder Steering Committee and Secretariat for their continued commitment to auIGF. As a self-organised and volunteer-led organisation, auIGF 2025 could not happen without the support of passionate individuals from across the Internet community and beyond it.

Chair:

• Donna Austin

Individual Members:

- Cheryl Langdon-Orr (Internet Australia) Technical Community / Civil Society
- Holly Raiche Civil Society
- Sophia Joo (Internet Association of Australia) Technical Community
- Keith Besgrove (ACCAN) Civil Society
- Anne-Louise Brown (Akin Agency) Private Sector
- Alban Kwan (CSC) Technical Community
- Caroline Greenway User Community
- Susan Beetson (The University of Queensland) Academic Community
- Kate Bower Civil Society
- George Pongas (GoDaddy) Private Sector

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, Sport and the Arts - Government
- Identity Digital Australia Technical Community
- Internet Australia Technical Community

The aulGF 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 2025 Program



aulGF 2025 Program

Day 1: Tuesday, 23 September 2025

Time	Program Description
9:00 – 10:00AM	Registration Collect your badge and enjoy some morning tea while meeting fellow participants.
10:00 – 11:30AM	Opening Plenary A Welcome to Country and remarks from the Chair lead into a keynote speech from international Internet Governance expert and ICANN Board Member Chris Buckridge. A multi-stakeholder panel will then unpack the event's big themes and invite audience reflection. The session will help to set Australia's Internet governance agenda for 2025. Panellists: • Michael Brown MP - South Australia's Assistant Minister for Artificial Intelligence and the Digital Economy • Zoe Hawkins - Tech Policy Design Institute (TPDi) • Christine Runnegar - Internet Society • Rohan Sachdeva - youth voice MC: • Jordan Carter - auDA
11:40AM – 12:40PM	The Commonwealth in Conversation: WSIS+20 Reflections Australia's negotiating team will take stock of two decades of the WSIS framework and highlight priorities for Australia as the WSIS+20 review approaches. In this dynamic session, expect insights into negotiation dynamics and to have your questions answered. Speakers: • William Lee - Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts • Cheryl Langdon-Orr - Internet Australia Sponsored by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
12:40 – 1:40PM	Lunch Break Lunchtime session available for those who wish to grab some lunch and listen in.
12:50 - 1:20PM	Lunch Session Sovereignty in the Digital Age: Reclaiming Identity, Governance, and Power This session explores digital sovereignty, and how uniting intent, consent, and governance in digital infrastructure can reclaim power from extractive models and seed a plural, regenerative digital future for all society. Speakers: • Simon O'Toole - Alliance ICT, Leap Foundation & Dreaming Machines • Alexar Pendashteh - Linux Victoria & Goodness Triangle

1:40 – 2:40PM	No One Left Behind – Digital Inclusion & Al Equity Everyone in Australia deserves the chance to succeed in today's digital society. With 6.6 million Australians lacking capacity to properly participate in online life, this panel will explore the imperative for national action on digital inclusion, covering key examples of strategy, leadership, and opportunities for policy to help deliver broader benefit. Speakers: Dane Glerum - Good Things Australia Dr Kim Osman - Digital Media Research Centre, Queensland University of Technology Heather Rea - Telstra Nicole Rossini - NSW Telco Authority Moderator: Tim Marshall - Australian Digital Inclusion Alliance Sponsored by ICANN
2:50 – 3:50PM	Digital Platform Ownership – Diversity, Resilience & Trust New data reveal Australia's Internet supply chain is dominated by key global tech giants. Panellists examine what this concentration means for media diversity, democratic resilience and public trust, and ask whether the firms are now both "too big to fail" and "too big to govern". Speakers: Cameron McTernan - The University of South Australia Terry Flew - The University of Sydney Mr Ram Mohan - Identity Digital Moderator: Victoria Fielding - The University of Adelaide Sponsored by Identity Digital
3:50 – 4:15PM	Afternoon Tea
4:15 – 5:15PM	Multi-stakeholder Ways to Improve Trust in Australia's Digital Ecosystem Co-regulation in the communications sector is under pressure. Consumers criticise it, and the trend is towards more direct regulation. Could multi-stakeholder methods help solve problems and reduce the need for regulation? Could lessons in this sector be applied more broadly on Internet issues? Speakers: Luke Coleman – Australian Telecommunications Alliance Carol Bennett – Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) Sam Grunhard – Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts Bruce Tonkin – auDA Johanna Weaver – Tech Policy Design Institute (TPDi) Moderator: Narelle Clark - Internet Association of Australia (IAA) Sponsored by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
5:15 – 6:30PM	Networking Event sponsored by Verisign Networking drinks will be served at the venue immediately after the final session concludes.

Day 2: Wednesday, 24 September 2025

Program Description
Town Hall - Position Paper This open forum is an opportunity for sharing views and feedback on the draft auIGF 2025 position papers circulated in advance of the auIGF. The session gives attendees the chance to share their analysis and perspectives about the topics in the papers, and test the general views of the participants as a whole about whether the direction set out is agreeable to most.
 At the 2025 auIGF there are two papers under discussion: The proposal to explore and develop a <u>Social Contract for Digital</u> <u>Wellbeing in Australia</u> - this is the new paper for 2025. An update to our <u>2024 paper</u>, expressing community views relevant to the last phases of the twenty year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (to be published in early September, alongside the revised Social Contract paper).
This session will be led and moderated by auIGF Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee members.
Morning Tea
New Playgrounds, New Rules: The Future of Child Digital Rights & Skills An interactive questionnaire, panel and Q&A examining how children build digital resilience amid debates regarding best practice for child online protection. This session highlights existing initiatives regarding child digital rights, existing research and data collection to support child digital resilience, and the connection of digital literacy to skills development. The purpose for this session is to feed into Australia's online-safety agenda, considering domestic, regional and global responses to child online protection. Speakers: Jay Chew - STEM educator Noelle de Guzman - Internet Society Michael Des Tombe - Netsafe New Zealand Rury Demsey - International Telecommunication Union, Asia-Pacific Anna Christina D'Addio - UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report Moderators: Abdul Matheen - Project You Ellen Dixon - Internet Society Youth Ambassador
How might approaches to digital inequities from the First Peoples of Australia and indigenous communities enhance global Internet governance? Open and collaborative multistakeholderism is a necessary pre-condition for First Peoples of Australia and indigenous voices to be heard in Internet governance. This panel explores our lived experiences in addressing digital inequities, and the impact that community-led responses can have. The session advances how solutions from First Peoples of Australia and indigenous communities to digital equity barriers may also enhance global Internet governance. Speakers: Ana McAllister - InternetNZ Susan Beetson - auIGF First Peoples Internet Governance and Policy Fellowship Mentor Simon O'Toole - Alliance ICT, Leap Foundation & Dreaming Machines Andrew Molivurae - TRBR Vanuatu

Program Description
Lunch
Lunch Session .au Licensing Rules Review: Policy Advisory Panel open session
The Chair of auDA's external Policy Advisory Panel, Matt Healy , together with two members of the Panel, will host an open lunchtime session to provide an update on the .au Licensing Rules Review . This Review is an important opportunity to reflect on how the .au Licensing Rules are working, and whether they continue to meet the needs of the Australian internet community. You can find more detailed information about the review, including the Terms of Reference here: <u>au Licensing Rules Review 2025</u> .
Matt and the Panel are keen to hear from participants. They welcome input not on the issues set out in the Terms of Reference and also on other matters that may be relevant or of interest to the review. This session is a chance to share your views, ask questions and help shape the future of the .au Licensing Rules. This session is available to on-site attendees only.
Fostering Trust Online for Australians – The Human Element Drawing on new findings from auDA's Digital Lives of Australians 2025 research, this panel explores where trust gaps exist in areas like cybersecurity and Al. Speakers translate the data and identify possible policy measures to rebuild confidence and encourage safer online behaviour.
 Speakers: Rachael Falk - Ashurst Risk Advisory Lizzie O'Shea - Digital Rights Watch Rebecca Papillo - auDA Moderator: Sylvia Cadena - World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
Afternoon Tea
Closing Plenary The 2025 Closing Plenary for auIGF will have three components: • Testing the community consensus on the Position Papers • Rapporteurs' readouts of the proceedings of this year's sessions • A brief panel reflecting on the event and next steps
 Panellists: Patrick Kane - Verisign Lizzie O'Shea - Digital Rights Watch Ian Sheldon - Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts Cameron McTernan - The University of South Australia
The closing remarks by auIGF Chair Donna Austin will include a call to action and an update on next steps for the auIGF and its community.
Sponsored by Verisign