

## Response to Discussion Paper - Public Review of edu.au Domain's Governance Arrangements and Eligibility and Allocation Policies

<b>Name of organisation or person submitting this response</b>	Education Services Australia Ltd
<b>Date Submitted</b>	27 January 2015

#	Recommendation	Response
1	That no changes be made to the arrangements for the management of edu.au domain policy by eDAC, nor the composition of eDAC.	Agree.
2	Once the proposed reform of the Higher Education sector is settled and its impact apparent, eDAC should consider whether changes are warranted to the higher education sector representation on eDAC.	Agree.
3	That no changes be made to the registrar arrangements for the edu.au domain.	Agree.
4	That the current interim governance arrangements be confirmed as appropriate for the edu.au domain.	Agree.
5	That a formal, published pricing policy be established where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The objective is to keep the fees for an edu.au domain name licence at a minimum; and</li> <li>b) Pricing is subject to regular review, including periodic external independent scrutiny.</li> </ul>	Agree.
6	That the current eligibility policy be restructured and simplified by dividing eligibility types into two categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) entities for which there is an appropriate accreditation/registration authority; and</li> <li>b) entities where there is a need to rely on warranties and references as there is no appropriate accreditation/registration authority.</li> </ul>	Agree.
7	That the evidentiary requirements for entities where there is no appropriate accreditation/registration authority be standardised and simplified, with the process to involve the applicant:	The Registrar suggests that the standardised form for both warranty and references also include a confirmation of the geographic scope of the applicant's operations to assist in establishing the appropriate level the applicant may register their domain name in line with section 3.1.2 of Policy 1.

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	<p>a) warranting that their primary function is the provision in Australia of education, training, education and training related research; and/or education and training related services; and</p> <p>b) providing a reference in a standard form from an unrelated entity that currently holds an edu.au licence where the reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. warrants that the referee is an eligible entity under current policy and holds a current edu.au domain name licence; and</li> <li>ii. warrants that the applicant's primary function is the provision in Australia of education or training; education and training research; and/or education and training related services.</li> </ul>	<p>In relation to point (b), the Registrar proposes that the number of references should be increased to two.</p> <p>We believe this would help to maintain the current level of integrity enjoyed by the .edu.au domain space as well as consistency in the level of assessment between applications submitted prior to and after the policy changes to be made as a result of this review.</p> <p>Requirement of one reference also poses a potential risk to the registrant of losing their domain name in the event of a review such as via an audit or a complaint being raised through the process outlined in Policy 7 where the referee ceases to be eligible or to maintain their own licence. A second reference reduces this risk and provides an additional security for registrants by removing the single point of failure.</p> <p>Additionally, providing two references from licence holders in different states/territories has often proved to be the simplest way for an applicant under applicable categories to demonstrate eligibility for a third level domain.</p> <p>Given the benefits and standardisation of the reference form, we do not believe that this creates an undue burden on applicants nor would it be unreasonable for an entity which is considered recognised within the Australian education or training sectors to provide.</p>
8	<p>That eligibility policy be amended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) ensure that if an entity is eligible under a category where there is an appropriate accreditation/registration authority, they must apply under that category;</li> <li>b) remove references that research organisations need to be in receipt of funding;</li> <li>c) provide examples of the type of bodies that fall within the category of national bodies;</li> <li>d) define the term 'related services' to ensure that it is clear that it refers to services whose primary function is the provision in Australia of services specifically related to education and training.</li> </ul>	<p>Agree.</p>
9	<p>That eligibility policy be amended to allow schools that are being established to obtain a domain name prior to achieving formal accreditation/registration if a warranty from</p>	<p>Agree.</p>

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	the relevant government authority/governing body is provided.	
10	That the current allocation policy be amended to clarify that the Registrar does not need to assess whether the project or program is educational in nature.	<p>The Registrar believes that there are some projects and programs being conducted by eligible entities that may not meet the original intent of the .edu.au domain space.</p> <p>For example, item 5.3.1e in the reserve list of Policy 1 prohibiting political statements which could be taken to suggest that political campaigns were not intended to be covered by the composition criteria in section 5.1.2b.</p> <p>We ask that the policy committee consider if there are any such types of projects or programs which may have impact on the integrity or otherwise be counter to the general principals of the .edu.au domain space. Subsequently we would also ask whether projects or programs of this nature should be excluded or prohibited if assessment of being educational is no longer required.</p> <p>With respect to this type of application, we would also propose a standardised form to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Warrant that the applicant is the owner or principal administrator of that project or program</li> <li>- More readily establish the connection or semantic relationship between the proposed domain name and the project or program</li> </ul>
11	That no policy change is required in relation to the current allocation rule <i>'first come, first served'</i> .	Agree.
12	That no change is required to the policy rules controlling the level of edu.au domain name that different applicant types can register.	As per our previous submission, we broadly agree with the current rules. The Registrar would like to suggest however that section 3.1.2 of Policy 1 be made consistent with and directly reference each of the eligibility categories to be defined in Policy 2, and provide additional clarification on geographic scope of an entity versus that of a project or program in determining the level at what a domain name may be registered to assist both applicants and assessment.
13	Once the proposed reform of the Higher Education sector is settled and its impact apparent, eDAC should consider whether changes are warranted to the policy rules controlling the level of edu.au domain name that different applicants can register.	Agree.
14	That no change is required to the policy rules requiring there to be a direct link between the name of the applying entity (or	The Registrar proposes additional details be added to section 5.1.2a of Policy 1 to clarify the approved/appropriate use of business and trading

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	related project or program) and their proposed edu.au domain name.	names in meeting this criteria given previous instances of their abuse.
15	That no change is required to the policy rules governing the types of words and terms that are restricted or that cannot be registered as an edu.au domain name.	Agree.
16	That the current rules in Policy 10 – edu.au Mandatory Terms and Conditions regarding prohibitions on the redirection of domain names be carefully reviewed to ensure they do not prevent instances where the redirection of domain names could not be considered to undermine the integrity of the edu.au domain.	Agree.
*	Are there any other issues regarding edu.au domain governance arrangements or domain name eligibility or allocation rules that you wish to raise?	Nil.