Australian Access Federation

Strategic Plan 2016-17

About us

Established in 2009, the Australian Access Federation (AAF) is Australia's leading identity broker, enabling access to online resources for the Education and Research sector. The AAF is a vital part of the Australian eResearch infrastructure landscape facilitating trusted electronic communications and collaboration between education and research institutions both locally and internationally.

The Federation, which is the product provided by the AAF is a combination of technology and policy which provides a trust framework. It provides subscribers with a national single sign-on that allows individuals across many different organisations to collaborate and access online resources within a trusted environment.

By logging in via the AAF, end users are able to access a variety of services including file transfer, data storage, compute, collaboration tools and portals, scientific instrumentation, administrative systems, scholarly resources and teaching, learning and research resources.

AAF lowers the costs and effort associated with federated identity management in each individual subscriber organisation. It also removes inter-organisational barriers to collaboration by enabling people to quickly and easily connect with electronic resources. Resource providers are also able to quickly and easily connect their services to over 1 million people connected to the AAF today.

Operating as a shared service, the growing AAF subscriber base encompasses many leading organisation in the research and education sector, these include:

- all Australian Universities
- CSIRO and other government research agencies as well as leading research support organisations
- organisations providing online products or services for teaching, learning and research.

Our **vision** and **mission**

The AAF's **vision** is to lead access management for Australian education and research.

The AAF's **mission** is to support collaboration through effective access management.

Objectives
2016-17

Objective 1: *Be the identity broker for Australia's research and education community*

Initiative	Outcome	Target
Attract **new subscribers** (public and commercial research organisations, medical research institutes, government agencies, broader education community, eResearch organisations)	10% subscriber growth	Larger subscriber base achieves broader reach into the research/ education sector and greater economies of scale per annum
Grow **new services** connected to the federation	15% growth per annum	Broader service catalogue grows AAF value proposition
Remain aligned with **Australian eResearch Agenda**	Assessed value of AAF as a part of the Australian eResearch landscape	AAF is central to national eResearch planning and operations
Establish **key strategic partnerships** where mutually beneficial	Assessed value of collaboration/integration with relevant Australian eResearch initiatives	End users benefit from AAF collaboration/ integration with related eResearch initiatives

Objective 2: *Extend AAF services*

Initiative	Outcome	Target
Expand AAF's **identity and access management products**	Increased utility of the federation's services	Reduced barriers for participation in the AAF
Provide **Professional Services** to the Australian education and research community	Simplification of Identity Management	Reduced barriers for participation in the AAF
Take **leadership** in facilitating and developing best practice federated identity management communities	A community of practice established by Q4 2016	Reduced barriers for participation in the AAF through increased collaboration in the community

Objective 3: *Technologies and trends supporting global research and education*

Initiative	Outcome	Target
Align with international Federation initiatives to enable **international access to federated services**	eduGAIN co-federation connection established by mid-2016	Significant progress in enabling international access to federated services
Continue to **align with international Federation initiatives through REFEDS** (Research Education Federations)	Assessed value of collaboration/integration with relevant international initiatives	Engage with high value international initiatives
Take a **leadership** role in facilitating the development of federated technologies in the Asia Pacific Region	Assessed value of collaboration/ integration with relevant international initiatives	Engage with initiatives which facilitate the development of federations in the Asia Pacific Region

Stakeholders

Stakeholders	Present/potential value from the AAF
Shareholders/Subscribers	Sustainable operations focused on achievement of agreed AAF objectives
Identity Providers	Cost effective, quick and simple access to a broad range of online services
Service Providers	Scalable and easily accessed services with low management overheads
End Users	Seamless access to services and resources
Government	Support for the Australian eResearch agenda
Other Federations	Easy to deal with, compatible technologies that leverage international standards and trends

Operating model

The core operations are funded by our subscribers.

Development model

The development of new functionality and services is funded through three sources:

- Professional services to meet the evolving needs of our subscribers;
- Incremental development funded through an increase in subscriptions; and
- Major development funded by co-investment (Government, other eResearch groups, individual subscribers, etc.).

Service model

Our customer centric service delivery focus maintains high levels of subscriber, supplier and end user satisfaction. AAF aims to deliver high quality sustainable and innovative products and services to assist our subscribers grow their capabilities and achieve efficiency.

www.aaf.edu.au