Strategic Plan 2018-19

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 one million people connected to the AAF today.

Operating as a shared service, the growing AAF subscriber base encompasses many leading organisations 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.

In 2017 the AAF became global, by providing international access to Australia's teaching, learning and research as well as providing AAF users access to international online resources via eduGAIN (the international connection of federations).

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

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

The AAF's **mission** is to deliver secure federated access that connects Australian teachers, students and researchers to global online resources

AUSTRALIAN ACCESS FEDERATION

Objectives
2018-19

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 (international and domestic)	15% growth per annum	Broader service catalogue grows AAF value proposition
Maintain the subscription base	Low levels of attrition	AAF is a core service utilised within subscriber organisations
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
Provide Managed Services to new and existing Australian subscribers	Increased utility of the federation's services	Reduced technical barriers for participation in the AAF
Take leadership in facilitating and developing best practice federated identity management	Increased utility of the federation's services and simplification of federated Identity Management	Reduced barriers for participation in the AAF

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	Funding obtained for a national roll out of eduGAIN 2018-2019	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
Become a global leader in federated technologies	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*

www.aaf.edu.au

Operating model

The core operations are funded by our subscribers.

Development model

The AAF has an active policy for research and development with new functionality and services funded through three sources:

- Professional services to meet the evolving needs of our subscribers;
- Incremental development funded through revenue generation; and
- Major research and 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.