

Australian Access Federation

Strategic Plan 2015-16

About us

The Australian Access Federation (AAF) provides solutions for accessing online resources and services within the Australian Higher Education and Research sector. This is achieved by delivering a secure framework which exchanges information between an individual and a provider of digital data resources. The outcome of our work is to facilitate collaboration and sharing of data for the benefit of end users in Australian universities and research organisations.

The AAF was initiated by the Council of Australian University Directors of Information Technology (CAUDIT) in December 2008 to provide an Access Federation for organisations which undertake or support higher education and research in Australia. Since commencing operations, the AAF has established a functioning federation that provides a range of services to both identify providers (university and research organisations) and service providers (owners of data or information resources).

The AAF's subscriber base consists of all Australian universities, CSIRO and a number of leading research support organisations. Some initial development funding was provided through an Australian Government grant and ongoing operations are funded through subscription fees.

The AAF has established a vital role as part of the Australian eResearch infrastructure landscape through its core value proposition of a shared service for the Australian research/education sector. AAF lowers the costs and effort associated with managing federated identity in each individual subscriber organisation. AAF removes inter-organisational barriers to collaboration by enabling people to quickly and easily connect with resources. Conversely, resource providers are able to quickly and easily connect their services to people. A national Federation also provides the capability for collaboration on a global scale through the interconnection of national federations.

AAF planning is conducted on a rolling two year basis. In 2015-2016, the focus will be on meeting the needs of education and research subscribers to enhance the range of online resources that can be accessed seamlessly across organisational boundaries.

Our vision and mission

The AAF's **vision** is to be the authoritative provider of access management services for Australian education and research.

The AAF's **mission** is to support collaboration and resource sharing through effective access management services.

Objectives

2015-16

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
Expand the provision of Professional Services to the Australian education and research community	Simplification of 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	eduGAIN co-federation connection established by mid-2015	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

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