

AUSTRALIAN ACCESS FEDERATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



AUSTRALIAN
ACCESS FEDERATION
AAF.EDU.AU



2019 was a significant year for the Australian Access Federation (AAF) in celebrating 10 years of successful and sustainable delivery of a national approach for identity and access management for Australia's research and education sector. An exciting program of communication and engagement was executed throughout the year to celebrate this great milestone.

The AAF also transferred from an incorporated association to a company limited by guarantee in January 2019. As a result, the Executive Committee transitioned to a Board of Directors.

As Consortium Lead of ORCID in Australia, the AAF has continued to work at a national level to embed ORCID, the global persistent identifier for researchers within the Australian higher education and research system. These efforts have seen ORCID registrations grow to over 130 000 identities and over 39 member integrations in Australia since the Consortium commenced. The AAF continues to progress the persistent identifier agenda, working closely with the Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC) nationally and with other international programs.

Over the past 12 months, the AAF has continued to build on the success of its cloud-based Rapid Identity Provider platform (Rapid IdP). Following product launch in 2018, Rapid IdP was rolled out to Macquarie University, University of Tasmania, Swinburne University, University of Newcastle, and the AAF's own Virtual Home in 2019.

VerifID Global, AAF's privacy-preserving verification service, has gone from strength to strength in 2019 with half a million verifications processed. VerifID Global makes it easier for students to access discounted services and products to support their university experience in a privacy-preserving manner. The AAF has continued to grow its leadership internationally with VerifID Global through entering into an agreement with Jisc, its counterpart in the United Kingdom, to provide the service to their university and research sector.

Cyber and systems security continues to remain at the forefront of AAF's operations. AAF's program of security-related activities included engaging external consultants to test and report on AAF's systems and processes.

AAF forms a key infrastructure component in Australia's 2016 eResearch Infrastructure Roadmap, as such it has continued to support the government's agenda through close engagement with the National Collaboration Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) projects. As such, AAF has been grateful for grant funding from the ARDC to advance the Rapid IdP platform and investigate strong authentication. In addition, the AAF received funding from Pawsey Supercomputing Centre to collaborate on a joint investigation into non-web-based authentication for high performance computing.

The AAF Board in conjunction with the Leadership Team has developed a solid strategy for the company over the next five years. This will see the AAF maintain a strong focus on strategic partnerships, skills and capabilities, strengthening foundational services, leading innovation and diversifying through value-added services.

Importantly, the AAF continues to be a national and international leader in identity and access management and a summary of achievements for 2019 are reflected in the following Annual Report.

Fiona Rankin

Chair | Australian Access Federation



PROJECT: HPC AUTHENTICATION

PAWSEY SUPERCOMPUTING CENTRE/AAF ADVANCING HPC AUTHENTICATION

The AAF worked in partnership with Pawsey Supercomputing Centre on the High-Performance Computing (HPC) Authentication project to explore potential solutions to integrate HPC facilities with AAF.

The project has benefited Pawsey and AAF to develop a greater understanding of the operation of HPC facilities and associated authentication requirements. It has also strengthened relationships with Pawsey as a trusted partner in the NCRIS ecosystem.

The project was completed, with a final report submitted to Pawsey in October 2019 and a joint presentation about the outcomes of the project delivered by John Scullen (AAF) and Dr Jenni Harrison (Pawsey) at the eResearch Australasia conference, also held in October 2019. Furthermore, in December 2019, AAF conducted a workshop with Pawsey staff to work through the outcomes of the final report and determine next steps with a view to identify future partnership activities.

PROJECT: MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

EXPLORING HIGHER LEVELS OF ASSURANCE FOR FEDERATED ACCESS TO SENSITIVE DATA

Funded by the ARDC mini-project program, the AAF explored how higher levels of identity proofing and multi-factor authentication might be leveraged for federated access to sensitive data. Findings from this project will inform further project work in 2020.

The project team delivered a report, presentation and poster for the ARDC Summit at the eResearch Australasia conference in October 2019. The ARDC published the project outputs to their website under 'Federated access to sensitive data' on 20 November 2019.

PROJECT: RAPID IDENTITY PROVIDER (RAPID IDP)

REDUCING BARRIERS TO FEDERATED AUTHENTICATION

Funded in 2019-20 by an ARDC grant, the AAF's cloud identity provider (IdP) platform, Rapid IdP, continued to evolve throughout the year. AAF grew membership of Rapid IdP by connecting new organisations, such as University of Newcastle, and piloting the platform with the Children's Medical Research Institute and the Queensland Department of Environment and Science.

The AAF has streamlined tools and processes for new organisations wishing to connect to the AAF. AAF also migrated the University of Tasmania and the AAF Virtual Home to the new Rapid IdP infrastructure in December 2019.

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT



- ASIA**

 - APAN 47 Korea
 - APAN 48 Malaysia
- EUROPE**

 - TNC 2019 Estonia
 - Jisc Meeting
- UNITED STATES**

 - Internet 2 Tech X New Orleans
 - ORCID Consortium Workshop Atlanta
- AUSTRALIA**

 - ORCID National Forum
 - IDAM Forum
 - ORCID Town Hall Meetings Virtual
 - QUDIT IDM Meetings
 - CAUL ARMS Senior Executive Forum
 - IATUL
 - THETA
 - Symplectic Userfest
 - NAUDIT Meeting
 - Resbaz Brisbane
- ARDC Skills Forum
 - AeRO Forum
 - QuestNet Lite
 - ARMS Conference 2019
 - eResearch Australasia 2019
 - Dept Energy Science Federated Service Showcase

ATTENDED
22
KEY CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

PRESENTED
37
TIMES

COMMUNICATION

In 2019, the AAF saw a steady increase of website users. This can be attributed to a more assertive digital marketing approach, as well as hosting and attending multiple industry events throughout the year. A year-long, multi-channel campaign was run to promote 10 years of AAF's success with every message directed back to elements on the website.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

CHAIR EDUGAIN STEERING COMMITTEE	REFEDS STEERING COMMITTEE	CHAIR APAN IAM TASK FORCE	ORCID NOMINATION COMMITTEE	AERO MEMBER	DDERP GROUP	PROJECT FREYA AMBASSADOR	NCRIS COMMS NETWORK	ORCID ADVISORY GROUP	APAN B@CKFIRE PROJECT	ORCID GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
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VIRTUAL

ORCID TOWN HALL MEETINGS	AERO MEETINGS	ORCID ADVISORY GROUP	QUDIT	DATA LIFE CYCLE	DDERP STRAT PLANNING
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ANNUAL SURVEY

In 2019, the annual subscriber survey was conducted. Each year the AAF runs a survey of CIO and technical contacts to help inform future planning. The AAF received valuable feedback from the 2019 survey forming five main recommendations:

1. Internationalisation
2. Technology enhancements and processes
3. Growing the federation
4. Outreach and engagement
5. Products

2019 AT A GLANCE



1.4M
USERS

100+
ORGANISATIONS

230+
NATIONAL SERVICES

200+
INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

17.8%

NECTAR RESEARCH CLOUD

The Nectar Research Cloud provides scalable computing power to store, access and run data.

14.8%

AUSTRALIAN PHENOMICS (APN) FACILITY

APN supports open access large-scale phenotyping of humans and mice to uncover the biological drivers in human disease.

12.5%

AURIN PORTAL

AURIN is crucial infrastructure for researchers, government and industry, providing data to accelerate research into our towns, cities and communities.

7.1%

MONASH eRESEARCH CENTRE (MeRC)

MeRC is used by Monash University as a service to translate SAML tokens to x509 and OpenSSH certificates.

6.0%

CLARIVATE ANALYTICS

Clarivate Analytics provides analytics to accelerate the pace of innovation and deliver critical data.

5.8%

QUT EGRAD SCHOOL & OTHER SERVICES

Provides students, teachers and researchers within the ATN Network with seamless access to QUT services.

5.8%

NECTAR METRICS

Provides users with an overview of various metrics from Nectar Cloud resources.

3.9%

REDCAP UNSW

Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) provides web-based data entry for researchers.

3.5%

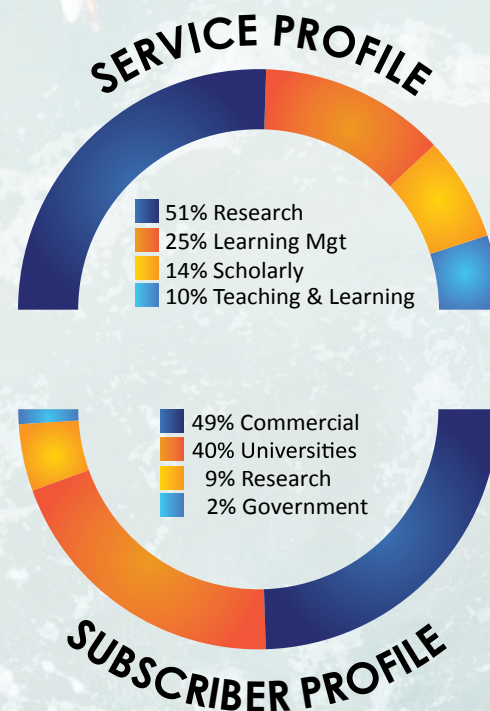
ACADEMIC WORKLOAD MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (WAMS) — DEAKIN

WAMS is a web-based tool to manage academic workload.

2.0%

CAUDIT WEBSITE

Online space providing public information to all IT staff within member institutions.

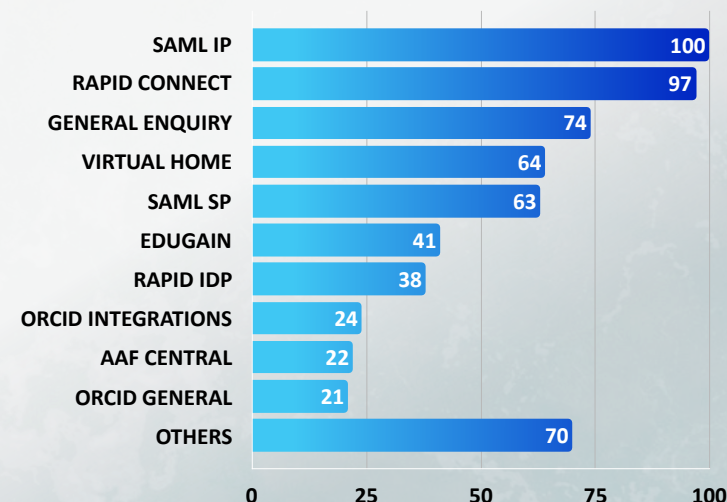


Launched in 2018, VerifID Global, the national verification service enables universities, public agencies and commercial providers to accurately deliver services to students and other roles in the sector. It provides a privacy-preserving interface to the Federation.

In 2019, Jisc, the operator of the UK Federation entered into an agreement with the AAF to use VerifID Global as their verification solution for UK students.

SUPPORT TICKETS

AAF 2019 support tickets by category:



Rapid Identity Provider

2019 saw significant developments to the Rapid Identity Provider SaaS solution including:

1 DAY
SET UP

100%
AVAILABILITY

27+
SECURITY PATCHES
AND UPDATES

24

SERVICES CONNECTED
THROUGH OpenID
CONNECT

19

ORGANISATIONS
CONNECTED TO
EDUGAIN

500 000+

PRIVACY-PRESERVING
VERIFICATIONS IN 2019
WITH VERIFID

120 000+

AUSTRALIAN
RESEARCHERS WITH
AN ORCID ID





AAF BOARD

Chair
 Director
 Director
 Director
 Director
 Independent Director
 Independent Director
 Company Secretary and Independent Director

Fiona Rankin
 Jonathan Churchill
 Paul Sherlock
 Niranjana Prabhu
 Ian Gibson
 Karen Hill
 Bruce Callow
 Richard Northam

AAF TEAM

Chief Executive Officer
 Chief Operating Officer
 Head of Support
 Head of Technology
 Head of Projects and Managed Services
 Principal Developer
 Senior Developer
 Senior Developer
 Developer
 Solutions Analyst – Identity and Access
 Customer Relationship Manager
 Technical Support Analyst
 Technical Support Analyst (ORCID)
 Communication Coordinator
 Administrative Support Services

Heath Marks
 Elleina Filippi
 Terry Smith
 Bradley Beddoes
 John Scullen
 Shaun Mangelsdorf
 Russell Ianniello
 Ryan Caught
 Christopher Jones
 Patrick Carnuccio
 Andrew Bowness
 Dalia Abraham
 Melroy Almeida
 Jacinta Rebelo
 Marita Dore, Donna Magrath,
 Carolyn Plant, Claire Ackfun,
 Cynthia Ramirez

SPECIAL THANKS

AAF Board of Directors
 AAF Team
 CAUDIT
 Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC)
 ORCID Advisory Group, ORCID Governance Committee, ORCID.org
 The Department of Education Skills and Employment

OUR VISION

Our vision is to lead access management for Australian education and research.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to deliver secure access and identity services that connect Australian teachers, students and researchers with global online resources.