



AUSTRALIAN
ACCESS FEDERATION

ORCID

Australian ORCID Consortium

Year in Review 2025

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Message from the CEO

2025 was a year of meaningful progress and strengthened collaboration for the Australian ORCID Consortium, proudly led by the Australian Access Federation (AAF). As we reflect on the year, our focus remains on advancing Australia's research infrastructure through persistent identifiers and delivering high quality, national scale services for our members.

A major milestone in 2025 was a key policy announcement from two of Australia's principal research funders: the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Both organisations, integral to shaping the national research landscape and contributors to the National PID Strategy and Roadmap, announced that ORCID iDs will be required in future research funding applications. This transformational shift ensures researcher activity can be consistently identified, connected, and tracked into the future — strengthening integrity, transparency, and efficiency across Australia's research reporting systems.

The year began with strong national momentum around persistent identifiers (PIDs). Following the release of the Australian National PID Strategy and Roadmap which the AAF worked on in collaboration with sector leaders. This collective work represents a significant opportunity to enhance the country's digital research ecosystem — improving integrity, discoverability, and the ability to track research impact. We look forward to continuing this important work in 2026.

Across the ORCID Consortium, engagement and collaboration remained central.

More than 130 national and international engagements were delivered throughout the year, including virtual events, community calls, focus groups, and one on one consultations. These touchpoints ensure our members remain connected to best practice and global developments in ORCID and persistent identifiers.

In 2025, the Consortium comprised of 44 members, collectively driving continued ORCID adoption across the sector. Member integrations connected more than 209,000 ORCID iDs, and over 1.69 million items were added to ORCID records via institutional systems. Since the Consortium's inception, more than 240,000 ORCID records with an .au domain have been created — demonstrating ORCID's deepening role in Australia's research landscape.

We are proud to have supported 100% of members to complete an ORCID integration, with 20 organisations operating multiple integrations across their systems. With nearly 30,000 new ORCID iDs created in 2025, ORCID continues to grow as a critical component of Australia's national research infrastructure.

These achievements are made possible through our community's commitment. I would also like to extend sincere thanks to the 2025 ORCID Steering Committee Chaired by Judi Zielke, whose leadership and insight have significantly shaped the Consortium's direction and success.

Between 2016–2025, the Consortium licensing managed by the AAF has delivered more than \$6.8 million in savings to members—representing cost reductions of more than 50% compared with joining ORCID directly. This collective model continues to ensure cost effective access to critical global research infrastructure.

As we look forward, we see a research system that is increasingly connected, interoperable, and globally aligned. ORCID will remain a cornerstone of efficient reporting, transparent attribution, and trusted research identity management. The AAF is committed to supporting the sector through new initiatives, deeper collaboration, and ongoing member engagement.

Together, we will continue to strengthen Australia's research ecosystem and support a future built on trust, integrity, and innovation.



Heath Marks

CEO, Australian Access Federation Ltd
and ORCID Board Member

ORCID in Australia

ORCID is a persistent identifier (PID) that uniquely distinguishes researchers and automates updates to their records, improving the discoverability of their work and reducing administrative workload so they can focus on research.

The Australian ORCID Consortium provides local technical support, guides organisations through system integrations, and drives national ORCID adoption. Members also benefit from premium ORCID features, reduced fees, and participation in a strong national community with tailored support and events.

2014

- Australian National Data Service (ANDS) & Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) hosted a national forum to address the challenge of identifying researchers and their research

2015

- ORCID Working Group formed
- Release of joint statements by peak bodies and funders supporting initiative
- Universities Australia Deputy Vice Chancellor's support of ORCID
- Consortium model developed
- AAF appointed Consortium Lead for Australia
- Agreement signed by 40 members

2016

- Australian Consortium launched
- 40 members
- 52% integrated

2020

- 136,000+ ORCID iDs registered to an '.au' email address
- 42 Consortium members
- 83% integrated
- Maturity assessment launched, aiming to highlight areas where members were excelling and where advancements were needed

2021

- 152,000+ ORCID iDs registered to an '.au' email address
- 42 Consortium members
- 90% integrated

2022

- 172,000+ ORCID iDs registered to an '.au' email address
- 43 Consortium members
- 90% integrated
- *Incentives to Invest in Identifiers: A cost-benefit analysis of persistent identifiers in Australian research systems* report released

A long history of delivering value to our members

The Australian ORCID Consortium has delivered over \$6.8 million in savings to members by cutting membership fees by more than 50% compared with joining ORCID directly.

2017

- 70,000+ ORCID iDs registered to an '.au' email address
- 40 Consortium members
- 57% integrated

2018

- 80,000+ ORCID iDs registered to an '.au' email address
- 40 Consortium members
- 70% integrated
- Australian Research Council use of ORCID in grant applications

2019

- 130,000+ ORCID iDs registered to an '.au' email address
- 41 Consortium members
- 78% integrated

2023

- 172,000+ ORCID iDs registered to an '.au' email address
- 44 Consortium members
- 95% integrated
- National PID Strategy and Roadmap Strategic Advisory Group formed
- National PID Strategy development

2024

- 217,000+ ORCID iDs registered to an '.au' email address
- 44 Consortium members
- 100% integrated
- Australian National PID Strategy and Roadmap released and Stakeholder Action Groups formed

2025

- 244,000+ ORCID iDs registered to an '.au' email address
- 44 Consortium members
- 100% integrated
- Australian PIDs benchmark report released
- ARC and NHMRC announced support of Australian National PID Strategy and their intention to increase the use of PIDs for research funding and evaluation exercises.

2025 in numbers

44
members

38
higher
education
institutes

2
national
funders

3
research
organisations

1
Government
organisation

"The AAF, as the lead organisation of the Australian ORCID consortium, continues its excellent service to researchers and research institutions in Australia. AAF collaborates closely with its 44 members to ensure ORCID is integrated into their workflows and systems. They add, on average, hundreds of thousands of works per year to their researchers' ORCID records, and have also added over 25,000 (28,000) affiliations, ensuring Australia is well represented in ORCID's global community trust network, and helping to reduce administrative burden for researchers throughout the country".

Chris Shillum, ORCID Executive Director

Our members

1. CSIRO
2. Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation
3. Australian Research Council
4. NHMRC (National Health and Medical Research Council)
5. Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC)
6. Australian National University
7. University of Canberra
8. Australian Catholic University
9. Charles Sturt University
10. Macquarie University
11. Southern Cross University
12. University of New England
13. University of Newcastle
14. University of NSW
15. University of Sydney
16. University of Technology Sydney
17. University of Wollongong
18. Western Sydney University
19. Charles Darwin University
20. Bond University
21. Central Queensland University
22. Griffith University
23. James Cook University (JCU)
24. QUT
25. University of Queensland
26. University of Southern Queensland
27. University of Sunshine Coast
28. Queensland Health
29. Flinders University
30. The University of Adelaide
31. University of South Australia
32. University of Tasmania
33. Deakin University
34. La Trobe University
35. Monash University
36. RMIT University
37. Swinburne University of Technology
38. The University of Melbourne
39. Victoria University
40. Federation University Australia
41. Curtin University
42. Edith Cowan University
43. Murdoch University

Member integrations and development

We work closely with members to integrate ORCID effectively across their systems.

Integrating with ORCID provides a reliable way to support your researchers by enabling secure, consent based access to their ORCID records. Through the ORCID Member API, your organisation can retrieve, update, or add information to a researcher's record.

We enable bi-directional integrations with the ORCID Registry so your systems can both push information to ORCID and pull verified data back — streamlining workflows and improving data quality across your organisation.

69

member integrations

20

members with multiple integrations

270,380

items added through member integrations

240,000+

ORCID records with an '.au' domain

209,000+

ORCID iDs connected by integrations

36,586

researchers that have benefitted from automatic updates to their ORCID records

32,972

unique ORCID iDs updated with affiliation

29,826

new ORCID iDs created in 2025

Australian National PID Strategy and Roadmap

In 2025, the AAF continued to play a central role in advancing Australia's national approach to persistent identifiers (PIDs). Our team actively contributed to the National PIDS Strategy Stakeholder Action Groups, established in 2024 to implement the Australian National PID Strategy and inform the National Collaborative Roadmap. Throughout 2025, AAF representatives participated across all Stakeholder Action Groups — including the Research Organisations, Funders, and NCRIS Providers — helping shape national alignment and strengthen Australia's PID ecosystem.

This work builds on the momentum created by the Australian National Persistent Identifier (PID) Strategy and Roadmap, released by the ARDC in early 2024. The Strategy sets out a clear vision to enhance Australia's research quality, efficiency, and impact through the broad, connected adoption of PIDs across the entire sector.

The Strategy itself was informed by the *Incentives to Invest in Identifiers* report, commissioned by the AAF and ARDC and released in 2022. This evidence based analysis demonstrated the substantial economic and sector wide value of implementing PIDs at scale.

Our involvement in this national work is grounded in nearly a decade of leadership. Since launching the Australian ORCID Consortium in 2016, the AAF has actively driven the uptake of ORCID and other PIDs across Australia's higher education,

research, and innovation sectors. ORCID provides a global, trusted solution for uniquely identifying researchers and connecting them with their activities and contributions over time. Australia's strong adoption of ORCID reflects the importance of integrating persistent identifiers into modern research systems to improve transparency, strengthen attribution, and support richer impact reporting.

We look forward to continuing this collaborative work and supporting the successful, sector wide implementation of ORCID and PIDs throughout the Australian research community.

"ORCID is a 'priority PID' in the Australian National PID Strategy because it reliably, unambiguously and permanently connects researcher names with their works. ORCID ensures accurate attribution, reduces administrative burden through automated updates, and increases the discoverability of research. The Australian ORCID Consortium led by AAF plays a key role in enabling and driving ORCID uptake at national scale, delivering value to its organisational members by providing local support, assisting with integrations and encouraging use."

Natasha Simons, Director, National Coordination at Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC).



ORCID iDs enhancing national research infrastructures

Persistent identifiers for the Australian research ecosystem: Information Session with ARC and NHMRC

In December we hosted national funding agencies the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) with a focussed conversation on the evolving landscape of persistent identifiers including ORCID.

The session provided attendees with timely updates on key policy developments currently underway in both ARC and NMHRC. Both funding agencies play a pivotal role in shaping Australia's research landscape and are members of the Australian ORCID Consortium and the Australian National Persistent Identifier (PID) Strategy and Roadmap.

This important conversation offered members of the Australian ORCID Consortium and the wider research community the opportunity to ask questions and discuss their intentions around the use of persistent identifiers in research evaluation activities.





Engaging with and supporting our members

In 2025, we had a productive year filled with various engagements to support our valued members. We conducted one-on-one consultations, webinars, and community calls, and attended several informative conferences and workshops, both domestically and internationally.

To support the needs of the community, we ran two focus group sessions in May, with a cross-section of Consortium members. The focus groups provided the AAF with valuable feedback and assisted in identifying areas for continued improvement.

In May we welcomed Brian Minihan (ORCID Engagement Lead, Asian Pacific region) and Tiffany Oulavallickal, (ORCID Lead at Royal Society Te Apārangi, New Zealand) to share their insights, knowledge and experience with our members. The community calls gave members an opportunity to hear the latest ORCID news and updates, share tips and tricks and ask any questions related to ORCID and PIDs.

We look forward to continuing to engage with our members in 2026.

International Data Week 2025

The Australian Access Federation (AAF) proudly participated in International Data Week 2025 (IDW2025), held in Brisbane Meanjin and Turrabal country.

The event brought together global leaders in research, infrastructure, and policy to explore the future of data driven science and the critical role of trust and identity in enabling secure, FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) data practices.

Melroy Almeida, PIDs and ORCID Consortium Lead, said:

"Attending IDW2025 alongside the RDA Plenary was invaluable for fostering conversations around data access and its impact on research. It was fantastic to connect with like-minded professionals, share national and international initiatives, and engage in informal discussions on global best practices in data sharing and governance. These connections may lead to exciting future collaborations."



Engagements and community outreach in numbers



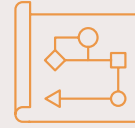
14

conferences and workshops (participated/co-chaired/presented)



32

engagement meetings with consortium members



92

community of practice events



2

focus groups



8

ORCID communications released



86

support tickets solved

International engagements

1. ORCID Consortia Interest group meeting, Munich, Germany
2. ORCID Consortia Interest group meeting, Cape Town South Africa
3. ORCID Consortia Interest Virtual group meetings x3

National engagements

1. eResearch Australasia 2025, Brisbane, Qld
2. International Data Week 2025, Brisbane, Qld

Community support

In 2025, Consortium members continued to receive comprehensive support and assistance from the AAF team. This support included integrations, testing, and planning services. Members were provided with administrative and technical assistance, as well as consultations and training.

Committees and working groups

International

- ORCID Board Director
- ORCID Consortia Interest Group
- Crossref Ambassador
- Research Data Alliance (RDA) interest and working groups

National

- Australian ORCID Consortium Steering Committee
- National PIDs Strategy Stakeholder Action Groups
- Identifiers for Instruments Australia (i4iOZ) Community of Practice

Governance

The ORCID Steering Committee acts in the interests of the Australian ORCID Consortium members. Providing guidance to the AAF as Consortium Lead and ensuring future sustainability. It aims to provide expert knowledge and contribute to the development of the National PIDs Strategy and Roadmap and support future policy development and implementation.

Judi Zielke	Independent Chair
Natasha Simons	Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC)
Melroy Almeida	AAF nominee
Martin Borchert	Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL), Chair's nominee
Professor Deborah Sweeny	Universities Australia Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Research Committee, Chair
Greg Sawyer	Council of Australasian University Directors of Information Technology (CAUDIT), CEO
Julie Glover	National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Executive Director
Alison Beasley	Australian Research Council (ARC)
Michelle Vincent	Australasian Research Management Society (ARMS)





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Enabled by NCRIS

Australian Access Federation receives funding from the Australian Government through the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS).

Written by a human, some editing by CoPilot, verified by the AAF.

Publication correct as of April 2026