

ASSOCIATIONS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 32

Action required to protect your corporate identity

Associations and clubs are being urged to take immediate action on planned domain name changes to prevent the possibility of their corporate identity being stolen and their contacts being scammed.

.au Domain Administration Limited (auDA) will soon introduce the option of registering names with just the .au, removing the .com, .net, .org or other variations.

Owners with domain names that end in .com.au; .net.au or .org.au etc., who want to protect their identity or brand, have until 20 September 2022 to apply to be given priority status to claim their current domain names with just the .au suffix.

From 3 October 2022, unclaimed .au only domain names will be available to the general public for registration, creating fears that cyber criminals may use this as an opportunity to steal identities.

Acting Executive Director for Consumer Protection Penny Lipscombe said organisations need to act quickly to protect their trading and brand names.

“While the change to shorter domain names is designed to simplify, cyber criminals are rubbing their collective hands together with the chance of financial gain by perpetrating identity theft to deceive customers, contractors and members associated with the business or organisation,” Ms Lipscombe said.

Domain names that currently just have .com, .net .org etc. without the .au will not be affected by this change.

If you want to register the .au direct match equivalent of your existing domain name, you will need to [apply for Priority Status](#) before 8am WA time on 21 September 2022. To check your priority category or see if there are other registrants eligible for the .au direct name you seek, you can use [auDA's Priority Status Tool](#).

Regulations passed to reduce reporting burden

On 13 August 2022, new regulations came into operation with the aim of reducing the burden on WA's incorporated associations by increasing the financial reporting thresholds.

The financial thresholds have increased as follows:

- **Tier 1** – was less than \$250,000 and is **now less than \$500,000**.
- **Tier 2** – was \$250,000 to less than \$1 million and is **now \$500,000 to less than \$3 million**.
- **Tier 3** – was \$1 million and above and is **now \$3 million and above**.

The three-tier system of financial reporting is based on the association's total revenue. It is designed to minimise the obligations on smaller, tier 1 associations, while ensuring larger tier 2 and 3 associations are accountable to their members for their financial management.

The new reporting thresholds take effect when an association's financial year ends on or after 13 August 2022. For financial years that ended prior to 13 August 2022, the old reporting thresholds are applicable.

The new reporting thresholds also bring WA in line with the national reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

Further information regarding [tiered financial reporting](#) is available from our website.

Review of the Act

Our previous [Newsletter - Issue 31](#) provided an update on the ongoing review of the Associations Incorporation Act being conducted by Consumer Protection. For information on the review and to stay up to date with its progress, please click on the link below.

[Associations Incorporation Act Review](#)

[Forward](#)

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