

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Spill-over hearing March 2017
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 327

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 31/03/2017

Topic: Internet Governance

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

1. For the year of 2016 please advise what ICANN meetings/processes the Australian Government took part in, including dates and details of the involvement.
2. For the year of 2016 please advise what auDA meetings/processes the Australian Government took part in, including dates and details of the involvement.

Answer:

1. The Department represents the Australian Government in ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC). One officer participated in all three of ICANN's 2016 meetings:

- ICANN 55 in Marrakech, Morocco, 5-10 March
- ICANN 56 in Helsinki, Finland, 27-30 June
- ICANN 57 in Hyderabad, India, 3-9 November

In addition to these meetings, the Department participated in some meetings of an ICANN working group that was working on measures to ensure that ICANN would remain accountable once the US Government relinquished its historical oversight of key technical internet functions. One officer participated in face to face meetings on 4 March, 26 June and 2 November that were held in conjunction with the ICANN meetings, and in meetings via webinar on 19 January, 2 February, 8 February, 16 February and 23 February.

One officer also participated in numerous teleconferences throughout 2016 relating to the work of the GAC. Providing exact details of these teleconferences would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

2. Representatives from the Department may choose to attend meetings of auDA's Board as observers. In 2016, Departmental participation in Board meetings was as follows:

- 15 February – one officer attended via teleconference for part of this meeting (the first part related to a staffing matter)
- 24 March – one officer attended in person
- 18 April – two officers attended in person
- 20 June – one officer attended in person
- 25 July – two officers attended in person
- 30 August – two officers attended in person
- 10 October – two officers attended in person
- 14 November – no officers were able to attend
- 12 December – no officers were able to attend

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Two officers also attended as observers auDA's Annual General Meeting on 28 November 2016.

In addition to official auDA meetings, three officers attended the Australian Internet Governance Forum that was hosted by auDA on 11-12 October.