

CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

HEAD OF ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

Includes:

- Background information on working with us
- Position description
- Submitting an expression of interest.





The Australian Access Federation

We are on a Mission

The Australian Access Federation (AAF) is an ambitious organisation with a purpose to make access and authentication easier, and more cyber secure for research, learning and teaching.

Our work has meaning

We are a not-for-profit company who support our subscribers and the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure (NCRIS). NCRIS are National Research Infrastructure providers that support Australian research. We focus on delivering leading edge Trust and Identity solutions for our communities. AAF staff have a sense of pride and satisfaction, knowing that our work has meaning and helps to make the world a better place.

We are part of the Australian Federal Government's eResearch infrastructure roadmap - that's right - how many companies are part of Australia's Research technology strategy? Our staff work closely with high value innovative initiatives tackling issues from infectious diseases, genome mapping, children's cancer research, astrophysics, threatened species, to identifying low wave frequencies in space and capturing gravitational waves.

We don't work with old tech

Who wants to work on old tech - not us! Our tech is ahead of the curve because we provide our team with the tools and empower staff to innovate. The AAF is a cloud-native company and the applications, and solutions we build are at the cutting edge in Trust and Identity.

Cybersecurity is integral to our operations

Our services are cyber secure by design, this means that everything we do has a focus on cyber. We are a member of and participate in the Australian Higher Education Cyber Security Service ([AHECS](#)). We work closely with many peak groups such as AUSCert, AARNet and CAUDIT to support the cybersecurity of Australia's teaching, learning and research.

We work with interesting customers, partners and stakeholders

Just to name a few, Australia's leading research data infrastructure facility – Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC), Australian Nuclear Science Technology Organisation (ANSTO), leading research facilities such as the Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organisation CSIRO, all the Australian Universities as well as our national funders the Australian Research Council (ARC), and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

We are a globally connected service working with other like-minded community driven organisations who are all doing similar things around the world. This means AAF staff get to collaborate with our global community and take part in innovative activities.



AAF staff are on the road participating in initiatives and working groups with like-minded, professionals around the globe. In the past our staff have travelled to interesting places such as Estonia, Prague, Ireland, Norway, New Orleans, India, Iceland, Portugal, and China to be part of leading-edge global strategy development in trust and identity.

We are passionate about our what we deliver

The Federation

The Federation is Australia's national authentication service for research and education. Using cutting edge technologies and standards. The Federation delivers world-class single-sign-on that allows individuals across organisational boundaries to collaborate and access online resources within a trusted environment.

The Australian ORCID Consortium

The Australian ORCID Consortium provides a national coordinated approach to Open Research Contributor ID (ORCID – see: orcid.org). The consortium has enabled a globally unique persistent identifier for every researcher.

Consulting and Training Services

We provide bespoke consulting and support to our communities in meeting their identity and access management needs.

VerifID Global

VerifID Global, the national verification service enables universities, public agencies, and commercial providers (e.g. Spotify, YouTube and Flight Centre) to accurately deliver services to Australian students and other roles in the research and education sector (see: [VerifID.global](https://verifid.global)).

Trust and Identity

The AAF is a National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy ([NCRIS](https://ncris.gov.au)) capability. We provide leading services in Trust and Identity that underpin Australia's research.

Our goal and guiding principles

Our goal is that we are transforming Australia's research, teaching, and learning communities by delivering innovative solutions that provide secure access to high-value digital resources and infrastructure.

Our guiding principle is that our trust and identity solutions are co-designed by a nationally engaged expert team using international best practice. Our services are underpinned by sustainable business operations.



Our company values underpin everything we do

- Innovation - an essential ingredient
- Mastery - a good mix of enthusiasm, quality, care and experience
- Trust - strengthened through our actions
- Community - achieving more together.

So apart from working for an awesome NFP tech company who are doing great things, why else should you be part of the AAF?

- A 35-hour working week
- The option to salary sacrifice rent/mortgage payments (yep! that's right)
- "Extra" long service leave
- 3 days bonus 'recharge leave' over the Xmas and New Year period

.... and most importantly let's not forget that the AAF team prides itself on its inclusive, innovative and flexible culture that rewards and recognises great work.

If you are looking to move into a new role where you can make a difference and are empowered to apply best practice techniques to create a positive global impact - then you are the person we've been looking for!

Head of Engagement & Partnerships

August 2024

Position Title	Head of Engagement & Partnerships
Closes	TBC
Salary Range	Dependent on qualifications and experience
Term	Fixed term to December 2026, with the opportunity to extend
Location	Brisbane, although candidates from any location in Australia who have easy access to a major airport and can work remotely will be considered
Open to	This position is open to Australian citizens and residents who have approval to work in Australia

About Us

The Australian Access Federation Limited (AAF) operates national authentication services for Australian higher education and research, enabling cross-organisational access for over 1.5 million users. The AAF is part of the Australian Government eResearch Infrastructure Roadmap and is a provider of national digital research infrastructure for the *National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS)*.

Clients of the AAF's services include all Australian Universities and several prominent research organisations including the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), leading medical research institutes, government departments and NCRIS capabilities.

The AAF was founded in 2008 and is headquartered in the Brisbane CBD. Our applications and solutions are state of the art and cutting edge. With a strong reputation and extensive track record, AAF offers a unique opportunity to work in an innovative and progressive company recognised as a global leader in its field.

For further information about the AAF please visit:

<https://aaf.edu.au/about/>

Job Description

You will operate in a dynamic environment to lead the AAF's Engagement and Partnerships portfolio. Through AAF's role in the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS), you will lead the engagement with other NCRIS capabilities to adopt a national approach to Trust and Identity. In addition, you will also foster increased engagement and identify and cultivate partnership opportunities with the Council of Australasian University Directors of IT (CAUDIT), with Higher Education members and subscribers, national research infrastructure providers, industry and government stakeholders to co-design, support and implement secure trust and identity solutions for Australia's teaching, learning and research.

You will work with various research communities and research infrastructure providers to influence the adoption of national approaches to trust and identity. You will support them by understanding their requirements and connecting them with trust and identity expertise to integrate and implement innovative solutions for a more connected and secure national research system. You will work closely with AAF project teams and technologists to apply innovative identity and access management solutions and emerging standards to solve research challenges across all fields (such as human genomics, cardiovascular disease, astronomy, humanities, and social science).

You will lead engagements, influence adoption and manage the ongoing relationship, with a team of AAF specialists. You will directly foster strong and enduring relationships and act as an advocate for Trust and Identity within the sector. The role will lead the planning and execution of engagement and partnership activities with Australia's research community and AAF's members, subscribers and stakeholders. You will also represent the AAF at national and international industry events and conferences.

As part of the AAF Leadership Team, you will work closely with the Chief Executive Officer to develop a plan to expand and more effectively maintain and build relationships, that drive NCRIS/NDRI and member and subscriber engagement activities leading to the creation of project initiatives and partnering opportunities. It is key to this role that these activities realise the broader adoption of Trust and Identity and secure solutions across NCRIS capabilities, research organisations, the higher education community, industry and government.

Qualifications

The appointee will have:

- postgraduate qualifications in and extensive relevant experience in an academic research discipline; or
- extensive senior management experience and proven management expertise, or
- equivalent, alternate combination of relevant knowledge, training and/or experience; and
- demonstrated experience in stakeholder engagement and partnership development.

Selection Criteria

Essential

1. Demonstrated ability to foster and develop relationships with senior stakeholders and both established and potential partners. A proven record of customer focus, particularly in establishing credibility and delivering against commitments.
2. Strong track record in delivering results and strategic outcomes in a government, tertiary education or research environment in either a national or international context.
3. Demonstrated experience in stakeholder engagement and partnership development, including the establishment of internal governance, including both processes and tools.
4. Demonstrated advocacy at a senior level coupled with a track record of achieving positive outcomes through application of exceptional negotiation skills.
5. Demonstrated understanding of research infrastructure challenges in both domestic and international settings.
6. The ability to establish & maintain strong networks and links with industry, research bodies, higher education institutions, CAUDIT, relevant government authorities and other bodies relevant to the NCRIS system.
7. Proven experience implementing strategic plans, undertaking operational planning, providing advice and implementing initiatives that deliver organisational and project objectives.
8. Demonstrated extensive and broad experience in leading, motivating and developing a multi-disciplinary national team.
9. Exceptional interpersonal and communications skills, including the ability to work with a diverse group of individuals, groups and organisations and the ability to articulate complex concepts.

Reporting Relationships

The position reports to the CEO, who provides broad supervision. The position will be a member of the AAF Leadership Team, leading a small team of engagement specialists.

Key Result Areas and Accountabilities

1. Lead and manage the AAF's Trust and Identity (T&I) and secure solutions engagement and partnership activities:
 - a. Provide national leadership on the adoption of AAF's services, T&I frameworks and solutions by the broader NCRIS, research and higher education communities, that inspires and creates confidence in the community around the value of adopting frameworks and technologies to provide appropriate and secure access to national digital research infrastructure and resources;
 - b. Identify, build and strengthen high-level collaborative relationships with the AAF's primary stakeholders: NCRIS, members and subscribers, CAUDIT, Department of Education and other State and National bodies, and leverage these to create partnerships through funded projects and collaborative engagements;
 - c. Advocate and promote AAF's interests in meetings, committees and other interaction with partners and stakeholders, including senior management as required;
 - d. Participate in and supporting community events, round tables, etc. (e.g. NEESF – National Earth and Environmental Facilities Forum, industry forums);
 - e. Actively seek out and recommend new engagement and business partnering opportunities, scoping and co-designing programs of work around new funding opportunities (i.e. seeking co-investment with NCRIS capabilities on a state and federal level);
 - f. Lead the development of a long-term T&I engagement and partnering strategy for NCRIS, members and subscribers, and the broader Australian research community.
2. Contribute to the strategic planning of the AAF's communication activities and lead engagement activities by representing/promoting it to industry, government and the broader community, ensuring stakeholder satisfaction and strong engagement.
3. Fostering the development of a deep understanding of the broader national research ecosystem among all AAF staff.
4. Act as a constructive and innovative member of the AAF leadership team.
5. Work independently with initiative and a degree of autonomy, given broad direction.
6. Create and maintain effective working relationships with all AAF subscribers, CAUDIT, NCRIS, Government and broader research community, always demonstrating exemplary professionalism.

Other Information

1. The AAF is committed to ensuring a healthy work-life balance for all staff.
2. The position is a full-time position, with normal office hours from Monday through Friday.
3. Out-of-hours work may be required.
4. Travel will be required for interstate trips within Australia and internationally (applicants must have a valid passport).
5. Applicants are required to be eligible to work in Australia.



Want more information on our vision for Trust and Identity in the research system?

Visit trust.aaf.edu.au



Expressions of interest and/or questions
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