

AVAA Member Guide 3

## CAAu & CVAu Post-nominal Use

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CAAu – Certified Auctioneer Member  
CVAu – Certified Valuer Member

## Introduction

# AVAA Member Guide



The Auctioneers and Valuers Association of Australia (AVAA) is pleased to provide this installment of a series of guides to help members understand the criteria for membership, the professional expectations associated with the AVAA Certified Auctioneer (CAAU) and AVAA Certified Valuer (CVAU), and the many ways to leverage the benefits of belonging to Australia's leading association for auctioneers and valuers of fine art, antiques, collectables, goods, vehicles, plant, and equipment.

Whether you are newly joining AVAA, renewing your membership, or looking to deepen your professional engagement, these guides provide clear direction on how to get the most value from your membership and how to confidently position your professional standing in the marketplace.

The AVAA Certified Auctioneer (CAAU) and AVAA Certified Valuer (CVAU) credentials represent an individual's investment in credibility, capability and long-term professional recognition. The best way to leverage membership is to become active and visible. Members are encouraged to participate in AVAA initiatives, attend events and professional development activities, contribute to interest groups and consultations, and share practical insights that strengthen our profession. The more you are involved, the more benefit you will realise through learning, networking, opportunity and the collective influence AVAA delivers through advocacy and leadership.

### About This Guide — CAAU and CVAU Post Nominal Use

This guide to using post-nominals explains how AVAA Certified Auctioneers (CAAU) and AVAA Certified Valuers (CVAU) can correctly use these credentials to promote their professional standing. It outlines where post-nominals should appear in email signatures, business cards, reports, marketing material and online profiles. Correct use helps clients identify certified auctioneers and valuers thus supporting industry recognition, and reinforces the trusted standards AVAA members uphold.

Importantly, members should actively promote their credentials and professional standing. Being recognised as an AVAA Certified Auctioneer (CAAU) or an AVAA Certified Valuer (CVAU) demonstrates commitment to professional standards, continual improvement and accountable practice. These credentials help clients, government and the broader public identify qualified professionals they can trust. They also help you differentiate your services in a competitive environment.

This membership guide should also be read alongside the AVAA *Professional Practice Guides* (in development) and the AVAA *Code of Practice*, which outline the expectations and requirements of professional auctioneers and valuers. Together, these documents support consistent, high-quality practice across the sector and help members remain compliant, confident and well-informed.

Most importantly, AVAA is a member-driven association. Your involvement strengthens our profession, shapes our priorities, and ensures the benefits of membership remain relevant, valuable and future-focused.

AVAA Membership – It's a great time to get involved.

Troy Williams FIML MAICD  
AVAA Chief Executive

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## CAAu & CVAu Post-nominal Use



### 1. Introduction

Post-nominals are a widely recognised hallmark of professional recognition, used by established professional bodies across industries such as law, accounting, medicine, and engineering. They serve as visible, credible markers of an individual's professional standing and adherence to recognised standards.

For the Auctioneers and Valuers Association of Australia (AVAA), the decision to allow members to use post-nominals represents was an important step in strengthening the professional identity of its members. Post-nominals:

- Denote professional membership and credentialing within the auctioneering and valuation fields, confirming that holders meet nationally recognised standards of practice.
- Provide clients and stakeholders with assurance, making it easier to identify qualified auctioneers and valuers who operate under AVAA's rules, ethics, and professional standards.
- Enhance the member value proposition, offering AVAA Certified Auctioneers (CAAu) and AVAA Certified Valuers (CVAu) a prestigious, marketable credential that demonstrates credibility and trustworthiness.
- Support the growth of membership, by creating a visible point of distinction between AVAA certified members and non-members, generating a competitive advantage that attracts professionals to seek certification.

The post-nominals are designed to become a respected, shorthand indicator of quality in the marketplace, aligning AVAA with the best practices of leading professional associations.

### 2. Post-Nominals

2.1 Two post-nominals are approved for AVAA Certified Members:

- i. CAAu – Certified Auctioneer member of the association.
- ii. CVAu – Certified Valuer member of the association.

2.2 Where a member has achieved certification as both an auctioneer and a valuer, they are entitled to use both post-nominals (e.g., CAAu CVAu).

2.3 Arrangements for the use of post-nominals by Fellows of the Association are set out in separate guidance.

### 3. Eligibility

3.1 CAAu is granted to AVAA Certified Auctioneer members who have satisfied the criteria for admission, including qualifications, experience, and compliance with professional standards.

3.2 CVAu is granted to AVAA Certified Valuer members who meet the criteria for admission, including qualifications, experience, and compliance with professional standards.

3.3 Members must remain financial and in good standing with the AVAA, having complied with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements and other obligations under the Constitution and AVAA *Code of Ethics*.

3.4 Eligibility is confirmed by the AVAA Board or its delegated authority, upon which Certified Members are formally entitled to use the relevant post-nominals.

#### 4. Use of Post-Nominals

- 4.1 Post-nominals may be used immediately by individuals upon confirmation of AVAA the Certified Auctioneer (CAAU) or AVAA Certified Valuer (CVAU) credential has been conferred.
- 4.2 They may be displayed on:
  - i. Business cards, professional stationery, and email signatures.
  - ii. Professional profiles, including websites and social media.
  - iii. CVs, biographies, reports, valuations, and other professional documents.
- 4.3 Post-nominals must always follow the member's name (e.g., Jane Smith CAAU).
- 4.4 Where a member holds both certifications, they are able to use both post-nominals. (e.g., Jane Smith CAAU CVAU).

#### 5. Display requirements

- 5.1 The post-nominal must appear as a contiguous four character block without the addition of full stops.
- 5.2 The first three letters are in uppercase and the fourth letter must be in lowercase.
- 5.3 Ideally, the post nominal should appear in a font size that is 70% of the size of the name that precedes it (e.g. Mary Smith CVAU).

#### 6. Withdrawal of Entitlement

- 6.1 Entitlement to use post-nominals will be withdrawn if the member resigns from AVAA.
- 6.2 Entitlement will be withdrawn if membership lapses due to non-payment of subscriptions.
- 6.3 Entitlement will be withdrawn if the member is suspended or expelled following disciplinary action.
- 6.4 Entitlement will be withdrawn if the member fails to maintain eligibility, including CPD obligations, professional indemnity insurance (where required), or other compliance matters.
- 6.5 Upon withdrawal, members must immediately cease using post-nominals in all forms of communication, marketing, or representation.

#### 7. Monitoring and Compliance

- 7.1 AVAA reserves the right to monitor and enforce correct usage of post-nominals.
- 7.2 Misuse or unauthorised use of post-nominals may constitute a breach of the AVAA Constitution or Code of Ethics, potentially leading to disciplinary action.
- 7.3 Members are encouraged to report any suspected misuse of post-nominals to the AVAA for review.

#### 8. Review and Future Development

- 8.1 This framework will be periodically reviewed by the AVAA Board to ensure alignment with professional standards and member expectations.
- 8.2 Updates to this framework will be communicated to members through official AVAA channels, including the website and newsletters.



The Auctioneers and Valuers Association of Australia (AVAA) is the leading national body representing professional auctioneers and valuers across a diverse range of specialties, including fine art, antiques, collectables, goods, plant, vehicles and equipment.

#### **Our Vision**

As the peak body for those holding the AVAA Certified Auctioneer (CAAA) and AVAA Certified Valuer (CVAU) credentials, AVAA upholds the highest professional and ethical standards through education, advocacy, and leadership.

#### **Our Mission**

To support and represent Australia's auctioneers and valuers through rigorous standards, ethical leadership, quality education, and credible advocacy, this ensuring trust, professionalism, and future-readiness in a changing world.

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