

ESTIMATES BRIEF – Hot Issue

Additional Estimates – February 2026

DIGITAL ID PROGRAM

Digital ID Program

Subject/Issue

Australia's Digital ID System

Key facts and figures

- The Government has provided \$465.8 million for the Digital ID Program and related identity security initiatives since 2023. This includes:
 - 2023-24 Budget – \$26.9 million in 2023-24 to maintain the Government's Digital ID System (including privacy assurance), develop Digital ID legislation, and undertake communications research on myGovID (now called myID).
 - 2023-24 MYEFO – \$145.5 million over four years from 2023-24 for the next stage of the Digital ID Program in 2023-24 and 2024-25; and the Identity Verification Services (IVS) in the Attorney-General's portfolio. This included funding the Digital ID Regulator (ACCC) until 2025-26 and \$17 million per year (ongoing) for operation of the IVS.
 - 2024-25 Budget – \$288.1 million over four years to continue delivery of the Digital ID Program in 2024-25 and 2025-26, and enhancement of the Credential Protection Register over four years to 2027-28.
 - 2025-26 Budget – \$5.3 million in 2025-26 for the Information Commissioner's privacy oversight for Digital ID and the IVS.
- The *Digital ID Act 2024* (the Act) commenced on 30 November 2024. This created an Accreditation Scheme for Digital ID services and legislated the Australian Government Digital ID System (AGDIS).
- There are currently more than 15.2 million reusable myIDs, including more than 6.3 million at the strongest level of assurance. People can use them to access 255 Commonwealth and state government services.
- Seven services are accredited under the Act. This includes:
 - Australian Taxation Office (ATO): myID as an identity provider and the Relationship Authorisation Manager (RAM) as an attribute provider;
 - Services Australia: The Services Australia identity exchange and myGov linkID as an attribute provider; and
 - Private sector: ConnectID as an identity exchange, and iDKit (provided by LexisNexis, formerly IDVerse) and RatifyID (provided by Makesure Consulting Pty Ltd) as identity providers.
- Australia Post's accreditation as an identity provider for its Digital ID™ service ended from 31 October 2025 at Australia Post's request.

DIGITAL ID PROGRAM**Key points**

- With the Act now in effect, government and private sector services can apply to the Digital ID Regulator, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) for accreditation of their Digital ID services.
 - Commonwealth and state and territory government services can also apply to join the AGDIS as relying parties (e.g. to use myID).
 - From 30 November 2026, businesses will be able to apply to participate in the AGDIS as relying parties and accredited providers of Digital ID services.
- The Government is piloting using Digital ID and the Consumer Data Right (CDR) for rental applications. This aims to demonstrate an important use case and help renters share less information during these applications.
 - Early feedback has flagged barriers that may require changes to CDR policy settings and reform of inconsistent state and territory regulations. Treasury has recently conducted targeted consultation about possible changes to the CDR to help resolve barriers.
- The *Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024* took effect in December 2025. It requires age-restricted social media platforms to implement age assurance, while protecting user privacy.
 - Under the framework, Australians will not be compelled to use an accredited Digital ID service for age verification, and platforms must offer users alternative age verification methods.
- Section 74 of the Act ensures that, in Australia, Digital ID is voluntary when accessing government services through the AGDIS for personal purposes. If people cannot use Digital ID, or do not want to, they can keep accessing services over the phone or in person via shopfronts.
- On 19 November 2025, the Digital ID Amendment (Redress Framework and Other Measures) Rules 2025 commenced. The amendments established a redress framework to support individuals impacted by Digital ID fraud or cyber security incidents in the AGDIS.
 - On 27 November 2025, Senator Shoebridge gave a notice of intention to move a disallowance motion for these rules. The motion of disallowance must be resolved on or before 24 March 2026 or the rules will cease to be in effect.
- On 5 December 2025, Finance released a Request for Information (RFI) seeking information from potential vendors on the experience and skills they could bring to building an Australian Government verifiable credential system. **The RFI closed on 30 January 2026.**

DIGITAL ID PROGRAM

Background

Australian Government Digital ID System (AGDIS)

The Digital ID Regulator (ACCC) oversees and maintains the AGDIS. The AGDIS System Administrator (the CEO of Centrelink) manages the day-to-day operation of the AGDIS and works with entities to support participation in the system.

The AGDIS currently includes:

- An accredited identity service provider: myID, the government's Digital ID provider operated by the ATO.
- An identity exchange operated by Services Australia, which facilitates use of Digital ID across connected services in the system.
- Two attribute service providers: the ATO's RAM, which supports linking of a person's myID with their authority to act on behalf of businesses; and Services Australia's myGov linkID which supports use of Digital IDs with myGov.
- Participating relying parties which use the accredited services in the system, such as myID for ID verification. As of January 2026, there are 255 participating relying party services using accredited Digital ID services (e.g. myID) in the AGDIS.

Digital wallet and verifiable credentials pilot

At the 2024–25 Budget, the Government provided \$23.4 million for Finance, ATO and Services Australia to pilot the use of government digital wallets and verifiable credentials. This pilot includes two proofs of concept that build on the existing Digital ID Program:

- Services Australia's Trust Exchange initiative, announced by the former Minister for Government Services, the Hon Bill Shorten on 13 August 2024. This tested selectively sharing credential details (e.g. Medicare, DVA veterans' card, Centrelink concession) from the myGov app wallet.
- The ATO proof of concept, which has tested issuance of a verifiable credential equivalent of myID and RAM business authority attributes.

Both proofs of concepts have two phases – Phase 1 in 2024-25 and phase 2 in 2025-26. An Independent Review Panel assessed the first phase in February 2025, concluding that it was successful and that the proofs of concept should proceed to Phase 2 in 2025-26.

Services Australia and ATO can provide further details on their respective proofs of concept.

Digital ID legislative framework

The Digital ID legislative framework comprises the Act, the Accreditation Rules, the Digital ID Rules, the Accreditation Data Standards and the AGDIS Data Standards. The Act, rules and data standards commenced on 30 November 2024.

Digital ID redress framework (Digital ID Amendment (Redress Framework and Other Measures) Rules 2025)

The Minister for Finance made further rules under the Act, including a redress framework for accredited services in the AGDIS. The rules commenced on 19 November 2025.

- The AGDIS redress framework aims to provide non-financial support to individuals impacted by cyber security or Digital ID fraud incidents. The framework requires certain accredited entities in the AGDIS to notify individuals affected by Digital ID fraud or cyber security incidents, unless doing so would likely cause harm to the

DIGITAL ID PROGRAM

individual or materially affect the AGDIS. The framework is intended to support individuals dealing with and getting assistance in relation to those incidents.

- The ACCC published a submission to the exposure draft rules consultation, focusing on the redress framework. The ACCC and other stakeholders called for stronger notification requirements, a broader application of the framework and financial redress. The notification requirement in the rules was strengthened in response to the consultation feedback.
- On 27 November 2025, Senator Shoebridge (Australian Greens) gave a notice of intention to move a disallowance motion in relation to the Digital ID Amendment (Redress Framework and Other Measures) Rules 2025. The first sitting day in the House of Representatives is 19 January 2026 and the rules will be taken to have been disallowed if the motion has not been resolved by 24 March 2026 (the fifteenth sitting day from the date of the notice).

Accreditation Scheme

The Accreditation scheme is voluntary for Digital ID service providers and enables organisations to demonstrate their services meet the Act's privacy, security, fraud control, usability and accessibility requirements.

Digital ID service providers that wish to participate in the AGDIS must be accredited. The Digital ID Regulator (ACCC) is responsible for accrediting Digital ID service providers.

The Digital ID Regulator (ACCC) maintains the public register of accredited entities.

Digital ID Rules, data standards and instruments relating to the AGDIS.

From 30 November 2026, private sector will be able to participate in the AGDIS, as both accredited Digital ID service providers and relying parties using accredited services in the system (e.g. using myID for identity verification).

Accredited entities and relying parties that wish to participate in the AGDIS must be approved by the Digital ID Regulator (ACCC).

Digital ID Inclusion

The Digital ID alternative proofing Proof of Concept (PoC), sponsored by Data and Digital Ministers, aims to enable people who lack traditional ID documentation (such as a birth certificate or driver licence) to get a Digital ID to access online services.

From April to July 2025, the Department of Finance, the ATO and Services Australia worked with the Western Australian Government to trial a digital vouching prototype in remote Fitzroy Valley communities and Fremantle.

The trial's early results are promising. Digital vouching has the potential to make it easier for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to access online services.

Digital ID Repeal Bill 2024

On 27 August 2025, Senator Askew moved a notice of motion that the Digital ID Repeal Bill 2024 be restored, and consideration of the bill resume at the second reading stage.

- This private members' bill was introduced in the previous Parliament, sponsored by Senators Antic, Babet, Canavan, Hanson, Rennick and Roberts, seeking to repeal the Act and the *Digital ID (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2024*.

DIGITAL ID PROGRAM**Questions for other agencies**

All questions relating to myGov User Audit, myGov and Centrelink adoption of Digital ID should be referred to Services Australia.

All questions relating to myGovID, myID and online Tax File Number applications should be referred to the ATO.

All questions relating to age assurance (including relevant solutions that could enable this, such as Digital ID), and legislation of a minimum age to access social media should be referred to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts.

Supporting information**No Questions on Notice asked****Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests**

- Finance FOI request 25-26/018. All Question Time Briefs provided by the Department to the Minister for Finance, Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, for each parliamentary sitting day from 23 July 2025 to 31 July 2025. Response due 30 September 2025.
- Finance FOI request 24-25/136. Final copies of the department's incoming government briefs (the "red" and "blue" books) prepared for the incoming ministers since 3 May. Response provided 27 June 2025.

Recent Ministerial Comments

- On 4 December 2025, Minister Gallagher published a media release showcasing uptake of myID and growth in Digital ID use since the Digital ID Act commenced.
- On 22 October 2025, Minister Gallagher published a media release highlighting the current pilot using Digital ID and the CDR for rental applications.

Relevant Media Reporting

- Nil

Date sent to MO: 20/01/2026
Cleared by (SES): John Shepherd
Telephone No: s22
Group/Division: Governance and Resource Management Group / Digital ID and Data Policy Division
Contact Officer: s22
Telephone No: s22
Consultation: Nil
PDR Number: SB26-000048