

DIGITAL ID**Digital ID program****Issue**

Is Digital ID compulsory?

Headline Response

Digital ID is a secure, convenient, voluntary and inclusive way to verify yourself online, with privacy safeguards to help make it easier and safer to avoid over-sharing personal information.

Facts and Figures

- Digital ID is a modern version of the traditional 100-point check. It provides a way to verify your ID without having to repeatedly share sensitive ID documents.
- Using a Digital ID makes it easier to access everyday services, saves time and money for people and businesses, and helps reduce impacts of data breaches.
- Government is working with industry to pilot the use of Digital ID and the Consumer Data Right (CDR) in the rental sector. The pilots will test how Digital ID and the CDR can reduce paperwork and better protect people's personal information when they apply to rent a property.
 - Government ran an open and competitive call for expressions of interest to identify businesses wishing to undertake rental sector pilots.
 - Businesses will lead the delivery of the pilots at their own cost, in consultation with the Department of Finance and the Treasury.
- The Australian Taxation Office (myID wallet) and Services Australia (Trust Exchange) are piloting government digital wallets and verifiable credentials through the Digital ID Technical Pilot Program, with the first phase proof of concept completed in February 2025.
- An Inclusion Proof of Concept is currently underway in Western Australia to explore ways to improve the accessibility of Digital ID for a broader range of people in the community who don't have access to traditional ID documentation like a Driver Licence or Passport, via a digital vouching process.

DIGITAL ID

- Digital ID is voluntary. The *Digital ID Act 2024* ensures people can't be forced to get or use a Digital ID when accessing Commonwealth services in a personal capacity.
- Digital IDs can be used to access over 240 Commonwealth and state services. Private sector digital ID providers have also been accredited under the Government's scheme.
- In line with the *Digital ID Act 2024*, private sector entities may apply to offer their Digital IDs for use with government services, and use myID for their services, by 30 November 2026 at the latest.

If pressed

- The *Digital ID Act 2024* contains privacy safeguards preventing the use of Digital IDs to track people's online activities.
- Digital IDs are not a surveillance tool. There is no single national Digital ID database. All providers must meet the same privacy, security and other requirements.
- The *Online Safety Act 2021* prevents social media platforms from requiring the use of a Digital ID accredited service in the context of limiting access to social media for young people; however, people can choose to use a Digital ID accredited service to access social media platforms.
- The Trust Exchange initiative enables individuals to choose to share verifiable information from their identity document (such as their Medicare card) with third parties via a government-issued digital wallet.

Policy Commitments

- The Government is investing \$288.1 million over four years from 2024-25 to expand Australia's Digital ID System. This makes a total of \$459.6 million invested by this government, so more Australians can realise the security and privacy benefits of Digital ID.
- In the 2024-25 Budget, the Government provided \$23.4 million in funding over two years, for the Department of Finance, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and Services Australia to pilot the use of government digital wallets and verifiable credentials (VC) through the Digital ID Technical Pilot Program.

DIGITAL ID**Background**

In the previous Parliament, a Private Member's Bill (The Digital ID Repeal Bill 2024) sponsored by Senators Antic, Babet, Canavan, Hanson, Rennick and Roberts was introduced on 26 June 2024 seeking to repeal the *Digital ID Act 2024* and the *Digital ID (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2024*.

Recent Media Articles

No significant media reporting.

Innovation Aus enquiry received 17 June 2025 regarding the 'double blind' approach within the Australian Government Digital ID System (AGDIS). Following this on 18 July 2025, Innovation Aus published an article titled "*Digital ID stuck 'between worlds' despite major privacy shift*" referencing the double-blind in the AGDIS and the move to a single blind.

The article included comments from Mr Stephen Wilson (Founder and Principal, Lockstep) who said the shift to a single blind is the 'right thing to do' but described it as 'nibbling at the edges' while verifiable credentials were 'changing the game' and could challenge the overall model for the AGDIS.

In the same article, Mr Wilson described the exchange as 'old world' and suggested that a decentralised model is the 'new world'. The article noted a Finance spokesperson indicated there are no changes under active consideration to move away from the current exchange model for the AGDIS.