

I am writing to express my profound reservations regarding the Trusted Digital Identity Bill 2021:

Security and Privacy Risks: The centralised nature of the Digital Identity System not only makes it a prime target for cyber-attacks but also poses significant risks to national security and individual privacy. The assurance of an infallible cybersecurity environment is unattainable, and assurances to the contrary have been proven wrong in the past and will be proven wrong in the future.

Automated Data Handling Concerns: Previous instances, such as the Robodebt scenario, have demonstrated the potential pitfalls of automated data handling by government systems, resulting in undue stress and financial burden on citizens. Robodebt writ large is not the direction we need to head. Can the government guarantee that automated systems (vastly enabled by digital id) will be entirely accurate? Historically this has proven not so.

Enabling of Technologically Authoritarian Systems: The Digital Identity Bill, while not explicitly designed for such, can facilitate the implementation of systems akin to China's Social Credit System, which raises concerns about its compatibility with democratic and liberal values, potentially infringing on privacy and individual liberties.

Centralisation and Control: The proposed system, is a foundational step towards integrating various aspects of an individual's data (including financial, medical etc.), and could inadvertently pave the way for overarching control by governing bodies, which is antithetical to the principles of a free society.

The risks posed by, and implications of, the Trusted Digital Identity Bill 2021 necessitate a clear balance against individual rights and societal values. And that

It seems that such technical implementations such as the Trusted Digital Identity Bill seek to raise the level of digital consolidation of Australian Individuals, while offering a promise of ease-of-use.

While opt in at the moment, surely these systems will tend towards becoming compulsory. This is an alarming prospect that must be considered when taking the first steps in this critical junction. Such a system once in place, might prove too lucrative in data analytics and the governing and indeed corporate processes to be removed.

Might I suggest that we need be looking at a Bill titled "Trusted And Transparent Digital Government Bill", that enable the centralised tracking and identification of Government Activities in great detail.

If the usefulness of such Centralised Identity Systems would appear to outweigh the risks, and even offer bountiful efficiencies, but we must think closely about the risks.

