

Mr. John Shepherd
First Assistant Secretary.
Digital ID Taskforce.
Department of Finance,
One Canberra Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603

10 October 2023

Lodged via portal CC: John Shepherd (via email)

A Digital ID System - Enabling Australians to better manage and protect their identity data

Dear John,

Australian Payments Plus (AP+) welcomes the consultation on the exposure draft of the Digital ID Bill 2023 (Exposure Draft) and the drafts of the Digital ID Rules 2024 (Digital ID Rules) and Digital ID Accreditation Rules 2024 (Accreditation Rules).

AP+ brings together Australia's three domestic payment rails, BPAY, eftpos and the New Payments Platform (NPP), into one integrated entity. AP+ builds and operates Australia's national payment and data infrastructure.

AP+ is a committed supporter of the work of the Digital ID Taskforce and this is important legislation that will enhance the privacy and security of Australian's personal information, thereby making Australian identities harder to steal. **ConnectID** which is our Trusted Digital Identity Framework (**TDIF**) accredited Digital Identity Network, is a key part of the national infrastructure that AP+ now operates. ConnectID is intended to be a whole-of-economy identity verification solution with uses across governments, financial services, telecommunications, utilities, retail, travel, hospitality and payments. ConnectID is purposefully designed to support and complement other government and private sector identity initiatives and to be a hub in our national Digital ID System to address the growing issue of identity theft and data breaches.

To achieve the objectives of the proposed reform, AP+ wishes to offer some recommendations on the draft legislation to better reflect our experience as a Digital ID network operator and also lessons learnt from overseas, namely that the future Australian Digital ID System will contain accredited (e.g., **ConnectID**) and unaccredited ID Providers (**IDPs**); and there is a need to ensure clarity in the reach and operation of the legislation outside the accredited environment so as to not disadvantage accredited entities in non-accredited environments.

Many accredited entities will offer other services to their customers outside a Digital ID Service. ConnectID and our banking partners is a perfect example. Banks (or government agencies) may offer their customers a Digital ID, but that Digital ID is not the only product or service a bank or agency offers to a customer, in fact, a Digital ID could be considered a new ancillary service. Whilst not the intention of the Government, some sections of drafting in the proposed legislation for the Digital ID System appears to be, in parts, too restrictive to achieve the interoperability sought by the Digital ID Taskforce. Interoperability is an objective which has broad support across the industry. It appears that an accredited Digital ID is the only service an accredited IDP can offer, with the legislation in some parts potentially restricting some other legitimate (and

in the case of banks, highly regulated) interactions with their customers, for example, the collection of certain attributes (s41), biometric information (s45) and marketing (s52).

Without amendments, the benefits of consumer choice, consumer control, data minimisation and greater resilience against identity fraud will not be achieved as the Digital ID System will lack the necessary public and private sector interoperability. AP+ therefore makes a number of drafting recommendations to achieve the stated objects of the Digital ID Bill (recommendations discussed in detail below).

The proposed legislation

As a long-standing supporter of the TDIF and as the operator of (TDIF accredited) ConnectID - AP+ has a keen interest in ensuring the legislation that enables the Australian Digital ID System is fit for purpose now and into the future. A successful national Digital ID ecosystem relies on interoperability and mutual recognition of digital credentials between the public and private sector; this will yield the privacy and security benefits for all those Australians who choose to use a Digital ID.

This AP+ submission:

We have structured this AP+ submission as follows:

Covering letter: Outlines key issues regarding the scope and potential reach of the exposure draft which AP+ believes need to be addressed before the legislation proceeds.

Attachment A: Recommendations for each of the key issues outlined in this cover letter and the necessary changes sought before the legislation is passed. We have also included additional holistic recommendations on other aspects of the proposed Digital ID system.

Attachment B: Additional detailed comments on the draft legislation.

Attachment C: Responses to the key questions posed in the consultation process.

Summary of key concerns regarding the draft Bill and Rules

Scope of the legislation: Clarity on when the legislation will and will not apply to accredited entities is critical to the operation and success of the Digital ID System. For the reasons outlined above, AP+ has focused our recommendations on clarifying the definition of "accredited service", however we recognise that other additional or consequential amendments may also be necessary.

Definition of accredited service: AP+ strongly recommends that critical amendments be made to the legislation and supporting explanatory materials, to provide the necessary clarity around the definition of "accredited service" and how obligations in the Bill, ID Rules and Accreditation Rules will apply for accredited entities who provide services both inside and outside the proposed Digital ID System.

It is currently unclear what obligations apply:

- 1. to accredited entities when they are only providing accredited services inside the Digital ID System.
- 2. to accredited entities when they are providing services (which are accredited services) outside the Digital ID System e.g., through non-accredited channels.
- 3. to accredited entities at all times, including when providing non-accredited services.

Proposed phased expansion

AP+ is a committed supporter of the work of the Digital ID Taskforce and an advocate for the Digital ID System. AP+ does not however support the proposed phased approach to the sequential expansion of the AGDIS. Particularly as ConnectID is now live and purposely designed to help transform the way Australians manage and protect their identity by being part of a national Digital ID ecosystem to help address the growing issue of identity theft and data breaches. Strengthening Australia's resilience to cyber threats and identity fraud at an ecosystem level will only be achieved once there is full interoperability within the Digital ID System, including AGDIS. Data minimisation is also a key objective of ConnectID and also the Digital ID System and this benefit for Australians will only be achieved when there is ubiquity in the use of Digital IDs, strengthening the resilience of identities and the digital economy.

Overseas experience shows a successful national digital identity ecosystem relies on interoperability and mutual recognition of digital credentials between the public and private sectors, which in the case of the AGDIS is the proposed phase 4. The proposed phasing also removes the ability for consumers to use their preferred identity provider from day one. Australians should have the choice to leverage their existing trusted relationship with their preferred eligible Identity Provider so they can securely interact with all eligible relying parties across the public and private sector.

The proposed phasing also causes uncertainty for businesses who may wish to become accredited. Undefined timelines will likely discourage entities from undertaking the necessary groundwork required ahead of joining the Digital Identity System. This will slow the uptake and adoption of Digital IDs and hinder the development of a vibrant Australian Digital ID System.

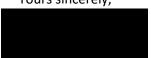
Lessons from overseas

AP+ launched ConnectID with banks and other trusted providers, as experience from overseas shows that bank participation in Digital ID is critical to establishing trust and adoption (Norway and Canada being the best examples). In Norway, 4.3 million Norwegians have chosen to use a Digital ID (BankID), representing nearly 80% of the population, of those, 99% use their Digital Identity to access a range of both government and private sector services an average of 220 times a year - this almost daily use of identity verification solutions drives adoption and builds systemic cyber resilience. ConnectID is an open marketplace for trusted and authorised identity providers including small banks, and non-bank entities who have been accredited under TDIF and also meet the necessary ConnectID security and privacy obligations.

A Digital ID System built on trust, transparency, consumer choice and privacy; and is an essential part of Australia's National Strategy for Identity and will also be a key pillar of the 2023-2030 Cybersecurity Strategy to build Australia's resilience to cyber threats and identity fraud at an ecosystem level. AP+ and particularly the team who have brought ConnectID to market are committed to assisting the Government in delivering this important reform that will benefit all Australians.

Should the Taskforce wish to discuss any of our feedback, we are available to answer any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Aidan O'Shaughnessy.

Public Policy, Government & Regulatory Affairs, AP+

Encl.

Attachment A: AP+ recommendations for amendments to the draft bill and rules

Additional clarity around the scope of legislation and the definition of accredited service

It is currently unclear how obligations in the draft Bill, ID Rules and Accreditation Rules will apply to accredited entities who provide services both inside and outside the proposed Digital ID System.

AP+ recommends:

Amendments to the legislation and supporting clarity in the explanatory materials to address the need for greater certainty around the definition of "accredited service" and how the Bill, Rules and Accreditation Rules are intended to operate for accredited entities who provide services both inside and outside the Digital ID System.

Particular focus should be on:

- a) where the accredited entity provides services (which are Accredited Services) outside the Digital ID System or AGDIS, and
- b) where the drafting restricts other legitimate (and in the case of banks, highly regulated) interactions with their customers beyond the scope of their Digital ID service (please see Attachment B: Detailed comments on the draft legislation).

Proposed phased expansion.

AP+ is a committed supporter of the work of the Digital ID Taskforce and an advocate for the Digital ID System. AP+ does not however support the proposed phased approach to the sequential expansion of the AGDIS, particularly as products like ConnectID are now available. Strengthening Australia's resilience to cyber threats and identity fraud at an ecosystem level will only be achieved once there is full interoperability within the Digital ID System, including AGDIS.

Without change to the proposed phased approach, the broader economic and productivity benefits of the Digital ID System are not likely to be realised until phase 4, which is when there is interoperability and mutual recognition of digital credentials between public and private sector.

Further, the proposed phasing removes the ability for Australians to choose their preferred identity provider from day one. The phased approach also does not take into account lessons learnt from abroad as the experience of overseas jurisdictions shows that bank participation in Digital ID is critical to establishing trust and adoption.

AP+ recommends:

that the government remove the concept of phasing from the draft Bill to promote interoperability and provide consumers with choice and control over their preferred identity provider from day one.

AP+ would welcome the opportunity to work with Government on a proof of concept to enable interoperability and mutual recognition of digital credentials between public and private sector. Initially such work can be restricted to a single use case. For example, Services Australia and the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) using both public and private sector Digital IDs to process disaster relief payments in real time whist also protecting against fraud.

Interoperability and the application of the draft legislation

Four issues arise:

- 1. The exposure draft attempts to create a nexus between many of the obligations and participation in the Digital ID System for example s31 refers to providing the accredited services or doing things incidental or ancillary to those services. AP+ believes the current drafting is too broad especially for accredited IDPs. For example, s41 prohibits an entity from collecting a range of attributes about an individual and s45 does the same regarding collection and use of biometric information. In the case of ConnectID our bank partners have existing practices and obligations (including existing identity verification processes) in the course of establishing a banking relationship (a similar issue may arise with government agencies who manage multiple touchpoints with a citizen). Subsequently, that bank or agency may also act as an IDP providing Accredited Services for that person. AP+ has a concern that the exposure draft overreaches into some of these regulated business activities. For example, the collection of certain attributes (s41) biometric information (s45) and marketing (s52).
- 2. A more general observation on future proofing of the draft legislation is for the legislation to facilitate the use case where an Identity Provider provides a government identifier to a relying party. There would be benefit in enabling the disclosure of government identifiers for the purposes of the Digital ID System (with appropriate controls), noting that under APP 9 of the Privacy Act (Cth), government identifiers can only be disclosed for the purpose of identity verification for that entity and not for identity verification for a third-party entity.
- 3. The Bill and Rules require participating accredited entities and participating relying parties not to refuse to provide or accept services to/from other participating accredited entities or participating relying parties. An entity can apply to the Minister for an exemption to the interoperability obligation. AP+ believes that the circumstances under which the Minister can grant an exemption are too broad and lack the necessary clarity or criteria to provide some certainty for industry to plan and invest and grow in the Digital ID System with confidence.
- 4. The other powers granted to the Minister to make various rules and impose obligations impacting IDPs is also broad. Each of these powers should have clear criteria which the Minister must give consideration to when making a decision. AP+ raises this issue as we seek to adopt the lessons learnt from the rollout of the Consumer Data Right (CDR), which has not seen the success it deserves.

AP+ recommends:

Issue 1: that the legislation is amended to ensure participants who offer more than just Identity Verification services to a customer continue to have the ability to retain information in support of other legal or permitted purposes. For example, retention of proof of identity verification for mortgage applications and other processes including fraud prevention and AML obligations.

Issue 2: consideration should be given to the question whether the legislation foresees a future where private entities can rely on a MyGov ID for use outside of the government identity ecosystem for processes such as onboarding new customers.

Issue 3: that an amendment is made to remove the power for the Minister to grant exemptions from interoperability. In the alternative, clear criteria should be established on which the Minister must base their decision to grant an exemption to the interoperability obligation. We seek this reform as a successful national digital identity ecosystem relies on interoperability and the mutual recognition of digital credentials across and between the public and private sector.

Issue 4: The other powers granted to the Minister and the Digital ID Regulator to make various rules and impose obligations impacting IDPs should also require clear criteria which the Minister and/or Digital ID Regulator must give consideration to when making a decision.

Proposed Data Standards Chair

The legislation adopts the concept of a Data Standards Chair, this concept is taken from the rollout of the Consumer Data Right (**CDR**). As with any new economy wide innovation there were challenges with CDR and industry having to navigate the competing demands of Treasury, the CDR Data Standards Body (DSB) and the ACCC during the pandemic.

AP+ considers the proposed governance model is too complex and does not adopt the lessons learnt in the CDR rollout. The 2022 independent review¹ of the Consumer Data Right by Elizabeth Kelly PSM is a useful starting point. While that review stopped short of recommending immediate changes to CDR's complex mix of regulators, it nonetheless identified a number of challenges including insufficient coordination and delineation of roles.

'Finding 2.3: The Review heard from participants that their experience in the CDR has been compliance focussed to date. Concerns were raised by participants about complex and overly prescriptive rules and standards that have prevented them from focusing on developing new products and services. As the system develops and matures, including through the introduction of action initiation, consideration should be given to ways that implementation can reduce the complexity associated with rules and standards for participants.'

AP+ considers that the method for setting standards in the Digital ID System should be designed to avoid the issues of 'overly prescriptive rules and standards' that have impeded the development of CDR. Importantly, the development of standards should be demand driven, i.e., driven by the Digital ID Taskforce and/or participants and not driven by the availability of resources within the data standards body to initiate constant change and iteration for change's sake. The CDR has not seen the success it deserves, and AP+ would welcome the Digital ID Taskforce applying the governance and oversight lessons learnt from CDR.

AP+ recommends:

That the Digital ID Taskforce do not adopt the CDR approach to data standards. That the Digital ID Taskforce takes the lessons learnt from CDR and design from first principles: the role, function, authority, oversight, audit and control of the Digital ID Data Standards Chair and their work.

The Data Standards Chair should be required to engage in genuine co-design on standards with participants in the AGDIS (and subject matter experts), including a focus on the adopting of international standards, rather than bespoke design.

Further, the Data Standards Chair should report to the head of the Digital ID Taskforce.

The Digital Identity and Authentication Council of Canada (DIACC) is one model that has seen success.

¹ Federal Treasury Report, Statutory Review of the Consumer Data Right, Report, 2022. Available at: https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-09/p2022-314513-report.pdf

Cyber Resilience

The definition of cyber security incident in the exposure draft is very broad, as the draft definition includes 'attempts' to gain access to systems, even if these attempts are blocked and unsuccessful.

AP+ supports all efforts to ensure greater cyber resilience in the Digital ID system and elsewhere across the economy. However, we consider that further analysis is needed to ensure the obligations for ensuring cyber resilience (including reporting) are appropriate and aligned with other significant pieces of legislation (and also APRA Standards, CPS 234) which are also tasked with ensuring information security and cyber resilience.

Large organisations such as banks, are subject to and successfully repel, hundreds of thousands of cyberattacks daily. The reporting of these failed attempts serves no purpose and may overwhelm the regulator with unusable information.

AP+ recommends:

that the obligations in the exposure draft be amended to remove the reporting of "attempts". Further, AP+ considers that the obligations and reporting timeframes proposed in the exposure draft should be aligned with those in other significant pieces of legislation (covering cyber and data breaches) such as the Privacy Act (Cth) and the Security of Critical Infrastructure Act (Cth) and APRA Standard (e.g. Prudential Standard CPS 234 Information Security).

Interaction of the Digital ID System with other legislation.

Privacy Act: AP+ note that on 28 September 2023, the Government responded to the Attorney-General's report on the review of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) by indicating that, of the 116 proposals made, it agreed with 38 of them and a further 68 in principle. Where the Government agreed in principle, it indicated that further engagement with organisations and a comprehensive impact analysis is required before it makes a final decision on the proposal.

AML/CTF Act: AP+ supports the Government's commitment to simplify and modernise Australia's antimoney laundering and counter-terrorism financing (**AML/CTF**) regime. The AP+ view is that an interoperable national digital identity ecosystem is a critical component of a resilient economy. It follows that a successful national digital identity ecosystem relies on a robust and modern AML/CTF regime and also has the potential to be an effective additional measure to identify, mitigate and manage money-laundering and terrorism financing risks and alignment will also protect Australian identities.

Privacy Act - AP+ recommendation: The proposed changes to the Privacy Act are individually and collectively likely to have a significant positive impact. AP+ is concerned however, that the changes will negatively alter the balance in the relationship between an accredited IDP and relying parties and that the proposed changes to the Privacy Act will conflict with obligations in the Digital ID legislation. AP+ would welcome the Digital ID Taskforce taking a greater role in the Privacy Act Review such that conflicts with the Digital ID laws and rules are avoided and the views of participants in the Digital ID System are duly considered as reforms to the Privacy Act are progressed.

AML/CTF Act - AP+ recommendation: AP+ has two recommended changes to the AML/CTF Act and Rules to facilitate the widespread adoption of a digital identity capability across the economy by ensuring alignment between AML/CTF requirements and the Digital ID System.

Recommendation 1: That the AML/CTF Act and Rules be amended such that data or a verified identity provided by an accredited IDP is considered 'reliable and independent electronic data or a reliable and independent digital identity' for a reporting entity to satisfy the electronic safe harbour provisions.

Recommendation 2: That the AML/CTF Act and Rules be amended to align with the Digital ID legislation; in particular, to enable digital identities which meet a particular level of assurance under the Digital ID Bill and Accreditation Rules (e.g., Identity Proofing Level of 2+ and above), be deemed to satisfy the safe harbour provisions of the AML/CTF Act.

There are also other sector-specific regulations which the Government could consider modernising - notably the "100 point check" in the regulations for the telecommunications sector. Reforms to these regulations to enable the use of Digital ID for identity verification would improve identity resilience and also remove regulatory costs. Other examples include the Australian Registrars' National Electronic Conveyancing Council (ARNECC) regulations.

Attachment B: Detailed comments on the exposure draft of the Digital ID Bill 2023 (Exposure Draft)

Reference	Wording	AP+ recommendations
Section 3:	verifying their identity in online	AP+ recommends that the wording of contained in
	transactions with government	Objects(1)(a) be amended to reflect the reality that
Objects (1)(a)	and businesses	Digital IDs are also used in face-to-face situations,
		and not just online.
Section 9:	accredited service, of an	AP+ strongly recommends critical amendments to
	accredited entity, means the	address the need for certainty around the
Definitions	services provided, or proposed to	definition of "accredited service" and how the
	be provided, by the entity in the	obligations in the Bill, Rules and Accreditation
	entity's capacity as a particular	Rules will apply for accredited entities who provide
	kind of accredited entity	services both inside and outside the Digital ID
		System.
		It is currently unclear what obligations apply:
		to accredited entities only when they are
		providing accredited services inside the
		Digital ID System.
		2. to accredited entities when they are
		providing services (which are accredited
		services) outside the Digital ID System –
		e.g. through non-accredited channels.
		3. to accredited entities at all times, including
		when providing non-accredited services.
Section 9:	identity exchange provider	The word 'conveys' assumes certain types of data
	means an entity that provides, or	flow which may not be applicable in all cases.
Definitions	proposes to provide, a service	Therefore, we query whether the definition of
	that conveys, manages and	identity exchange provider is broad enough to
identity	coordinates the flow of data or	capture ConnectID as ConnectID does not 'convey'
exchange	other information between	data.
provider	participants in a digital ID system.	
		This minor ambiguity could be resolved by
		amending the drafting to read:
		"conveys, manages and or coordinates the flow
		of data or other information between
		participants in a digital ID system.
Section 9:	identity service provider	AP+ raises the question whether the definition of
Definitions		"identity service provider", should be amended to
ident's		ideally exclude identity exchange providers?
identity service		
provider		We raised this question as an identity exchange
,		provider that, as part of that exchange,

		"distributes" authenticators may inadvertently be caught by the definition of identity service
		provider.
Section 9: Definitions	cyber security incident means one or more acts, events or circumstances that involve: (a) unauthorised access to, modification of or interference with a system, service or network;	The definition of cyber security incident is very broad, as the proposed definition includes "attempts" to gain access to systems, even if these attempts are blocked and unsuccessful.
	or (b) an unauthorised attempt to gain access to, modify or interfere with a system, service or network; or (c) unauthorised impairment of the availability, reliability, security or operation of a system, service or network;	AP+ supports efforts to ensure cyber resilience in the Digital ID System, however considers that further analysis is needed to ensure the obligations for ensuring cyber resilience (including reporting) are appropriate and aligned with other significant pieces of legislation (and APRA Standards) which are tasked with ensuring cyber resilience.
	or (d) an unauthorised attempt to impair the availability, reliability, security or operation of a system, service or network.	Large organisations such as government agencies and banks, are subject to and repel hundreds of thousands attempted attacks daily. The reporting of these failed attempts serves no purpose and will overwhelm the regulator with unusable information.
		AP+ considers that the reporting timeframes in the Bill should be aligned with those in other significant pieces of legislation (covering cyber and data breaches) such as the Privacy Act (Cth) and the Security of Critical Infrastructure Act (Cth).
Section 11: Meaning of restricted attribute of an individual		AP+ recommends greater clarity in the legislation and supporting explanatory materials such that there is certainty in the obligations for entities who are accredited providers operating both inside and outside the Digital ID System.
inuiviuual		With particular reference to s11, AP+ would welcome greater clarity in the legislation and supporting explanatory materials as to whether an accredited provider can pass a restricted attribute outside the Digital ID System?
		Further, AP+ would also welcome greater clarity in the legislation and supporting explanatory materials on whether the attribute remains restricted outside the Digital ID System?
Section 11:	A restricted attribute of an individual means: (d) information or an opinion	One of the many future use cases for Digital ID is the onboarding of new employees by an employer,

Meaning of about the individual's part of that process typically requires the employer restricted membership of a professional or (or their agent) to check qualifications. attribute of an trade association; individual 11 Professional memberships are a valuable personal (1) (d) and employment attribute – e.g. confirming an individual is a Registered Nurse or Chartered Accountant. Information about memberships is a statement of fact which an individual should be able to share (with consent) wherever they choose. Further many of these qualifications are already published and available on registers which are accessible by the public. A Digital ID System that facilitates and reflects the multiple uses of Digital ID is critical to driving uptake of Digital ID in the broader economy. Flexibility in the legislation is directly linked to the ability of the Digital ID System to deliver the economic and productivity benefits of Australian's being able to transact and verify ourselves using secure and trusted digital identity provider of their choice. Therefore, AP+ recommends the removal of memberships from definition of restricted attributes. AP+ recommends that the section could be Section 19: (2) In deciding whether to make amended to include an additional consideration of the rules, the Minister must have Requirements whether the disclosure is actually required to regard to the following matters: before achieve the purpose, or whether an attestation as Accreditation to validity (e.g. passport, driver licence details) is sufficient. Rules impose conditions relating to restricted attributes or biometric information of individuals Section 28(2): The accredited identity service AP+ considers the drafting of this section too rigid provider must, if requested to do to reflect all the permutations of a Digital IDs so by the individual, deactivate business/customer relationship and the requests must be the digital ID of the individual as an individual customer may possibly make. deactivated soon as practicable after receiving on request the request In practice it will be difficult for many IDPs to "deactivate" a Digital ID; particularly where that IDP provides other (non-ID) services to an individual. More typically, an ID service will be

enabled for the customer (e.g., as a service inside their banking app or state government services app) and it is always within the individual's control whether to use the Digital ID (or re-enable use in the future) or not. It is likely that further controls could be implemented by the IDP at a customer's request and s28(2) should be amended to provide that flexibility. AP+ recommends the removal of S82(2) in its entirety or that the drafting be amended to read 'deactivate, disable, block or hold'. Further, consideration should be given to whether law enforcement agencies may have existing powers to direct IDPs to take certain actions which may conflict with the customer's request, in particular the deactivation obligation currently expressed in s28(2). Chapter 3— As above, AP+ recommends amendments to Chapter applies to accredited **Privacy** address the lack of certainty around the definition entities only to the extent the of "accredited service" and how obligations in the entity 6 is providing accredited Section 31: Bill, Rules and Accreditation Rules will apply for services etc. Chapter accredited entities who provide services both applies to inside and outside the Digital ID System. accredited entities only It is currently unclear what obligations apply: to the extent the entity 6 is 4. to accredited entities only when they are providing providing accredited services inside the accredited Digital ID System services etc. 5. to accredited entities when they are providing services (which are accredited services) outside the Digital ID System e.g. through non-accredited channels. 6. to accredited entities at all times, including when providing non-accredited services. Division 2— The legislation should not restrict the ability to information or an opinion about Additional collect, use or disclose the attributes of an an individual's racial or ethnic privacy individual who identifies as Aboriginal or Torres origin; safeguards Strait Islander.

Section 41:

Collection etc. of certain attributes of individuals is prohibited Further, the legislation should not restrict the ability to entities to offer the ability for individuals to be able to reflect their cultural identity in certain digital representations.

AP+ draws attention to the work of Hold Access, an indigenous Not For Profit which is supported by the Red Cross. Hold Access, via their Digital ID product (Wuna) is closing the gap on First Nations Australians digital identity.

Indigenous Australians and their access to conventional forms of identification or other documentation to access mainstream public and private services is an ongoing challenge in Australia which Hold Access seek to solve via their ID product Wuna.

ConnectID is also exploring how we could support the ability for Indigenous Australians (if they so choose) to have a Digital ID that also preserves the indigenous cultural identity of the individual in the digital world.

Some links to the work underway by Hold Access in 2023:

https://news.nab.com.au/news/nab-digital-next-how-hold-access-is-bridging-the-gap-for-first-nations-australians-in-a-digitalised-economy/

https://www.humanitech.org.au/resources/hold-access/

Further, the restriction in s41 on disclosure of restricted attributes, should ideally be qualified so that it does not capture necessary incidental disclosure, noting that the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) has previously commented on incidental disclosure in photos (e.g. of people wearing turbans) or names (e.g. Mohammad) can convey race or religion.

Section 43(2):

Disclosure of restricted attributes of individuals An accredited entity must not disclose a restricted attribute of an individual to a relying party that is not a participating relying party if the accredited entity's conditions on accreditation do not include an authorisation to

AP+ strongly recommends critical amendments to address the need for certainty around the definition of "accredited service" and how the obligations in the Bill, Rules and Accreditation Rules will apply for accredited entities who provide services both inside and outside the AGDIS.

disclose the restricted attribute S43(2) places restrictions on disclosure of to the relying party. restricted attributes where the accredited entity and the participating relying party are both inside AGDIS; but not clear on the application where a relying party is outside AGDIS. We recognise that many accredited entities will operate inside and outside AGDIS; and would seek to avoid a scenario where non-accredited entities may be at an advantage by not having restrictions on them. AP+ would welcome clarification in the legislation and explanatory materials that an accredited entity (IDP) can disclose a restricted attribute to a (non-AGDIS) relying party. (2) The assigning entity must not AP+ has two concerns with the current drafting of Section 44: disclose the unique identifier to s44. Restricting other entity other than: the 1) Disclosure of the unique identifier to third party (a) if the unique identifier was disclosure of sub-contractor or service provider (Salesforce, disclosed to another accredited unique CRM, HR Systems, etc) may be necessary in certain entity—the other accredited identifiers legitimate situations, and the current drafting entity; or prohibits that necessary action. (b) if the unique identifier was disclosed to a relying party—the relying party. AP+ recommends that disclosures of unique identifiers should be permitted in certain circumstances and in addition to clarifying amendments to the legislation, inclusion of these permitted circumstances in the explanatory materials will assist industry and government agencies meet their obligations. 2) AP+ queries whether this section also needs to be also expanded to enable disclosure (and on disclosure) of unique identifiers to enable interoperability between Digital ID systems (e.g. Services Australia & ConnectID), not just "within a digital ID system" which is the current drafting. An accredited entity is AP+ queries whether the addition of an 'and' or an Section 46: authorised to collect, use or 'or' is perhaps necessary in s46? As currently the disclose biometric information of obligations in s46(1) and s46(2) are separate and Authorised an individual if: collection, distinct. (a) the entity is an accredited use and identity service provider; and disclosure of AP+ would welcome further clarity in legislation biometric (b) the entity's conditions on and the explanatory materials that will accompany accreditation authorise the information the Bill and Rules such that it is clear that these collection, use or disclosure of of the biometric information; and restrictions only apply to an accredited entity in individuals general rules

(c) the biometric information of the individual is collected, used or disclosed for the purposes of the accredited entity doing either or both of the following:

- (i) verifying the identity of the individual;
- (ii) authenticating the individual to their digital ID.
- (2) An accredited entity is authorised to collect, use or disclose biometric information of an individual if:
- (a) the biometric information is contained in a verifiable credential that is in control of the individual; and
- (b) the collection, use or disclosure complies with any requirements prescribed by the Accreditation Rules.

the course of providing an accredited service; e.g., where the collection or use of this information would be permitted in the course of providing other unrelated business services.

AP+ notes that s46(2) is the only reference to verifiable credentials in the draft Bill. AP+ considers that this drafting may not be necessary; i.e. that the passing of biometric information under s46(1) should be technology-agnostic and apply to verifiable credentials.

In the alternative, if verifiable credentials are to be excluded from s46(1), then s46(2) this setting would need to be reflected throughout the legislation).

Section 46(8):

Authorised collection, use and disclosure of biometric information of individuals—general rules

(8) An accredited entity is authorised to retain, use or disclose biometric information of an individual if:

(c) the information is retained, used or disclosed for the purposes of preventing or investigating a digital ID fraud incident; and

AP+ would welcome a clarification on the intended operation of s46(8). Our concern arises given the fact that fraud can happen anytime, but s48(1) requires the provider to destroy the information immediately after the verification is complete.

Section 48(1):

Destruction of biometric information of individuals 48(1) the provider must destroy the information immediately after the verification is complete.

(4) If an accredited entity retains biometric information of an individual in accordance with subsection 46(8) (about preventing investigating digital ID fraud incidents), the entity must destroy the information at the earlier of:

AP+ would welcome a clarification on the intended operation of s48(1).

An accredited entity in compliance with s48(1) would not have the data to rely on s48(4) or disclose under s46(8).

	(a) immediately after the completion of activities relating to the prevention or investigation of the digital ID fraud incident (as the case may be); and (b) 14 days after the entity collects the information	
Section 49:		As currently drafted, s49 does not appear to clearly permit retention of source records of biometric information against which an individual requesting verification will have their biometrics assessed. AP+ notes this may be intent of s48(2), but it is not clear. AP+ would welcome a clarification on the intended operation of this section.
Personal information must not be used or disclosed for prohibited enforcement	(1) An accredited entity must not use or disclose personal information that is in the entity's possession or control for the purposes of enforcement related activities conducted	AP+ would welcome a clarification on the intended operation of s51. Does the personal information included in s51 also include the profiling information mentioned in s50(1)(b), noting that s50(1)(b) does not have a carve out for enforcement activity?
purposes Section 52: Personal information must not be used or disclosed for prohibited marketing purposes	 (1) An accredited entity must not use or disclose personal information about an individual that is in the entity's possession or control for any of the following purposes: (a) offering to supply goods or services; (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to the disclosure of personal information about an individual if: (a) the information is disclosed to an individual for the purposes of: (ii) advertising or promoting the entity's accredited services; and 	s52(1)(a) includes a broad prohibition on use or disclosure of information that is in the possession or control of an entity for the purposes of supply of goods or services. This arguably prohibits accredited entities who are also relying parties from actually using the data for provision of goods and services in their core business. AP+ agrees that where a customer has opted out of marketing and/or communication, that choice should be respected and personal information should not be used for marketing purposes. If the intention of this clause is to prohibit the use of personal information for marketing, where a customer has explicitly opted in for this marketing, then the clause does appear to be overly restrictive. s52(2)(a)(ii) may also have the effect of restricting an accredited entity's ability to market its (non-
		an accredited entity's ability to market its (non- accredited) services to customers of those non-

Section 58: Applying for approval to participate in the Australian Government Digital ID System	(1) An entity may apply to the Digital ID Regulator for approval to participate in the Australian Government Digital ID System if: (b) the entity is: (i) an accredited entity; or (ii) an entity that has applied for accreditation under section 14; or	accredited services. For example, a bank or state government agency may be restricted in promoting its services to its own customers, where those customers have used that bank/agency as an IDP. AP+ would welcome a clarification on the intended operation of s58. We believe that s58 allows an entity to apply for both accreditation and AGDIS participation in parallel. AP+ would be supportive of that approach.
Section 62: Conditions on approval to participate in the Australian Government Digital ID System	(c) the entity must begin to participate in the Australian Government Digital ID System on the entity's participation start day;	AP+ would suggest that the drafting of s62(c)be altered to read: (c) the entity must begin to participate in the Australian Government Digital ID System on the agreed entity's participation start day; There are a number of practical operational reasons that make it prudent for all parties agreeing on a suitable start date. For example public holidays, software freezes, other conflicting legislated start dates for other regulatory obligations.
Section 75: Notice before exemption is revoked	(3) Without limiting subsection (1), the Digital ID Rules may do any of the following: provide for the Minister, on application, to grant exemptions from the interoperability obligation;	A successful national digital identity ecosystem relies on interoperability and mutual recognition of digital credentials between the public and private sector. AP+ recommend that an amendment is made to remove the power for a Minister to grant exemptions from interoperability. In the alternative, clear criteria is established on which the Minister must base their decision to grant an exemption to the interoperability obligation.
Section 85: Digital ID Regulator	The Digital ID Regulator is the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.	A minor point, perhaps the drafting could be updated to provide flexibility to change the Digital ID Regulator (without the need for an amending Act) as the AGDIS grows in size and importance, noting that the appointment of the ACCC as the Digital ID Regulator was seen as an interim approach.
Section 86:	The sharing of these functions between the Digital ID Regulator	When considering the functions of the Digital ID Regulator and Services Australia, one regulatory efficiency would be the enablement of certain

Functions of the Digital ID Regulator	and Services Australia remains under consideration	relevant reporting directly to Services Australia instead of the Digital ID Regulator.
Division 4: Section 128: Power to require information or documents	(2) The Digital ID Regulator may, by written notice, require the entity:(a) to give to the Digital ID Regulator, within the period and in the manner and form specified in the notice, any such information	On its face, the section does not obviously exclude transaction information or personal information. AP+ queries whether this is an intentional exclusion.
Section 130: Destruction or de-identification of certain information	(c) the entity is not required or authorised to retain the information by or under: (i) this Act; or (ii) another law of the Commonwealth; or (iii) a law of a State or Territory; or (iv) a court/tribunal order (within the meaning of the Privacy Act 1988);	s130 requires the destruction of information obtained through the Digital ID system that an entity is not required or authorised at law to retain. Many legal purposes for use of information are not "authorised" per se by law, so it is not clear when retention is actually permitted. AP+ would welcome a clarification in the legislation and explanatory materials on the intended operation of s130.
Section 142: Charging of fees by accredited entities in relation to the Australian Government Digital ID System	(1) An accredited entity that charges fees in relation to its accredited services that it provides in relation to the Australian Government Digital ID System must do so in accordance with the Digital ID Rules (if any) made for the purposes of subsection (2).	s142 includes an ability for the regulator to control fees. AP+ would welcome clarity in both the legislation and explanatory material regarding how these fee controls will relate to interoperable systems, e.g. ConnectID interfacing with the AGDIS. The Bill is currently drafted to cover services provided "in relation to the Australian Government Digital ID System", and AP+ recommends the drafting be amended to cover fees related to services provided within that system. This will avoid any price decisions established within AGDIS also inadvertently impacting services of an accredited entity outside AGDIS.

Draft Digital ID Rules 2024 (Digital ID Rules)

Reference	Wording	AP+ recommendations
Section 11:	On application by a	AP+ considers the drafting perhaps too broad. A
	participating entity, the	successful national digital identity ecosystem relies
Interoperability	Minister may grant, in writing,	on interoperability and mutual recognition of
obligation	the entity an exemption from	digital credentials between the public and private
	the interoperability obligation if	sector.

	the Minister considers it	AP+ recommends that an amendment is made to
	appropriate to do so.	remove the power for a Minister to grant
		exemptions from interoperability. In the
		alternative, clear criteria is established on which
		the Minister must base their decision to grant an
		exemption to the interoperability obligation.
Sections 12:	The entity must notify the	The draft Rules specify incident reporting
	Digital ID Regulator, in	obligations (fraud, cyber breach etc) are to be sent
Cyber security	accordance with this rule, of	to the Digital ID Regulator and not to Services
incidents	any cyber security incidents	Australia.
	that occur in relation to:	
	(a) the entity's accredited	Allowing reporting to Services Australia instead of
	services provided within the	the Digital ID Regular (where relevant) may assist
	Australian Government Digital	in a smoother operation of the Digital ID System.
	ID System; or	
	(b) for a participating relying	
	party—services received by the	
	entity within that System	
Section 13:	The entity must notify the	As above.
	Digital ID Regulator, in	
Digital ID fraud	accordance with this section,	
incidents	of the following kinds of	
	incidents digital ID fraud	
	incidents in relation to:	
	(a) for an accredited	
	entity (when the	
	incident occurred)—its	
	accredited services; or	
	(b) for a participating	
	relying party (when the	
	incident occurred)—	
	services received by the	
	entity within that System.	

Attachment C: AP+ responses to key questions on the Digital ID legislation and Digital ID Rules consultations

Question	AP+ responses
What other types of Digital ID service should be included in the legislation, either now or in future?	AP+ considers that the final legislation and rules need to retain flexibility to ensure
	 a) that as identity standards, and technology standards evolve the legislation should not unduly restrict innovation, consumer adoption and market acceptance.
	b) that the Digital ID System recognises that many participants in the Digital ID System will be large institutions (public and private sector) where the provision of Digital ID services is just one of many service offerings. The Digital ID System must not unduly hinder the relationship, that institution had with their customers outside the Digital ID service.
	c) AP+ notes that the draft legislation refers to verifiable credentials but does not contemplate the role of wallets in an identity ecosystem. Digital Wallets are likely to become a common method of holding (and facilitating the transfer of) verifiable credentials.
Does the Minister's rule-making power to include new services over time provide appropriate flexibility to add new types of Digital ID services? If not, why not?	AP+ is a committed supporter of the work of the Digital ID Taskforce and an advocate for this Digital ID System. AP+ does not support the proposed phased approach to the expansion of the AGDIS. Strengthening Australia's resilience to cyber threats and identity fraud at an ecosystem level will only be achieved once there is full interoperability within the Digital ID System, including AGDIS.
	Without change to the proposed phased approach, the broader economic and productivity benefits of the Digital ID system are not likely to be realised until phase 4, when there is interoperability and mutual recognition of digital credentials between public and private sector.
	Further, the proposed phasing removes the ability for Australians to choose their preferred identity provider from day one. The phased approach also does not take into account the lessons learnt from overseas as the experience of overseas markets

Question	AP+ responses
	shows that bank participation in Digital ID is critical to establishing trust and adoption.
	AP+ recommends:
	that the government remove the concept of phasing from the draft Bill to promote interoperability and provide consumers with choice and control over their preferred identity provider from day one.
	AP+ would also welcome the opportunity to work with Government on a proof of concept to enable interoperability and mutual recognition of digital credentials between public and private sector. Initially such work can be restricted to a single use case. For example, Services Australia and the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) using both public and private sector Digital IDs to quickly process disaster relief payments in real time whist also protecting against fraud.
Is the Regulator's power to impose conditions on accreditation an appropriate mechanism to balance the need to provide for unique characteristics of accredited entities with the need for a consistent set of Rules for the Accreditation Scheme? If not, how can the Regulator's power to impose conditions on accreditation be improved?	AP+ recognises the need for flexibility in the accreditation process to recognise that participants bring different characteristics. There are many lessons to be learnt from the rollout of the CDR which has not seen the success it deserves. The 2022 independent review ² of the Consumer Data Right by Elizabeth Kelly PSM is a useful starting point on the appropriate functions of the Digital ID Regulator (and the Data Standards Chair). We urge the Digital ID taskforce to consider all feedback received in regards to the best design for the Data Standards Chair, such that the lessons of the CDR rollout are adopted.
Is the application for accreditation process appropriate, or should other matters be included or some excluded?	As per our main submission, subject to further clarity on the application of the legislation and rules on the other activities of participating entites (including Digital ID services in non-accredited environments, and non-digital ID services) and the critical need to ensure that these entities and their other functions are not unduly restricted - AP+ would then consider the accreditation process to be appropriate,

 $^{^2 \,} Statutory \, Review \, of the \, Consumer \, Data \, Right, \, Report, \, 2022 \, \underline{https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-09/p2022-314513-report.pdf}$

Question	AP+ responses
Are the maximum penalties for failure to meet accreditation requirements sufficient to deter accredited entities from not meeting their obligations? If not, what maximum penalties would be an appropriate deterrent?	
Are the additional privacy safeguards sufficiently robust, clear and practical?	We note that on 28 September 2023, the Commonwealth Government responded to the Attorney-General's report on the review of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) by indicating that, of the 116 proposals made, it agreed with 38 of them and a further 68 in principle. Where the Government agreed in principle, it indicated that further engagement with organisations and a comprehensive impact analysis is required before it makes a final decision on the proposal.
	The proposed changes to the Privacy Act are individually and collectively likely to have a significant impact. AP+ is concerned that the changes will negatively alter the balance in the relationship between an accredited IDP and relying parties and that the proposed changes to the Privacy Act will conflict with the Digital ID legislation. AP+ would welcome the Digital ID Taskforce taking a greater role in the Privacy Act review such that conflicts with the Digital ID laws are avoided and the views of participants in the Digital ID System are duly considered.
Is the rule making power to allow disclosure of biometric information to enable sharing of verifiable credentials (under specified circumstances) an appropriate exception to the restriction on disclosure of biometric information?	AP+ recognises the need for the Bill and Rules to remain flexible to accommodate future requirements, and also supports the ability for such attributes to be contained within verifiable credentials. AP+ is aligned with the Government on the principle of data minimisation and therefore sees an ongoing need for accreditation of those entities which are permitted to collect, use or disclose biometric information. It should not be sufficient for biometric information to be shared simply because it is held in verifiable credential form.
Is the maximum penalty for a breach of a privacy safeguard sufficient to deter accredited entities from interfering with a person's privacy? If not, what maximum penalty would be an appropriate deterrent?	AP+ considers that the Government has achieved the right balance.

Question	AP+ responses
What is the appropriate age at which a young person should be able to create their Digital ID? What factors should be considered?	Overseas, many jurisdictions allow for the creation of a Digital ID at birth (which remains voluntary and inactive until the individual chooses to activate the Digital ID).
	AP+ commends the approach of the Scandinavian and Estonian jurisdictions, where their citizens can avail of an extraordinary level of secure and consumer friendly services via their Digital ID solutions. Young Australians will spend their entire lives as digital natives and we should be aiming for a Digital ID system that provides them (or their parents/guardians) with the ability to avail of Digital ID and take advantage of the security and privacy benefits it can provide. Given the Digital ID scheme is voluntary – consumer choice should be reflected throughout the system, including permitted age.
What other steps could the Government consider taking to ensure the AGDIS is ready for use by private sector relying parties and accredited entities?	AP+ would welcome the opportunity to work with Government on a proof of concept to enable interoperability and mutual recognition of digital credentials between public and private sector. Initially such work can be restricted to a use case. For example, Services Australia and the RBA using both public and private sector Digital IDs to provide and process disaster relief payments in real time whist also utilising Digital IDs to protect against fraud.
What factors should the responsible Minister consider prior to deciding to approve the AGDIS expanding into another phase?	Consumers: The Minister should have consideration to the fact that strengthening Australia's resilience to cyber threats and identity fraud at an ecosystem level will only be achieved once there is full interoperability within the Digital ID System. Data minimisation is also a key objective of the Digital ID System and this benefit for Australians will only be achieved when there is ubiquity in the use of Digital ID, thereby making Australian identities harder to steal.
	Consumer choice: Australians should have the ability to use their preferred identity provider from day one. Australians should have the choice to leverage their existing trusted relationship with their preferred eligible Identity Provider to interact with all eligible relying parties across the public and private sector.

Question	AP+ responses
	Economic Growth: Based on the experience of Norway. The broader economic and productivity benefits of the Digital ID system are not likely to be realised until the proposed phase 4, which is when there is interoperability and mutual recognition of digital credentials between public and private sector.
How would phasing the rollout of the ADGIS affect the wider Digital ID services market in Australia?	Strengthening Australia's resilience to cyber threats and identity fraud at an ecosystem level will only be achieved once there is full interoperability within the Digital ID System, including AGDIS. Data minimisation is also a key objective of the Digital ID System and this benefit for Australians will only be achieved when there is ubiquity in the use of Digital IDs, strengthening the resilience of identities and the digital economy.
	Overseas experience shows a successful national digital identity ecosystem relies on interoperability and mutual recognition of digital credentials between the public and private sectors, which in the case of the AGDIS is the proposed phase 4. The proposed phasing also removes the ability for consumers to choose their preferred identity provider from day one. Australians should have the choice to leverage their existing relationship with their preferred eligible Identity Provider to interact with all eligible relying parties across the public and private sector.
	The proposed phasing also causes uncertainty for businesses who may wish to become accredited. Undefined timelines may discourage entities from undertaking then necessary groundwork required ahead of then joining the Digital Identity System. This will slow uptake and development of a vibrant Australian Digital Identity System.
	Lessons from overseas
	AP+ launched ConnectID with banks & other trusted providers, as experience from overseas markets shows that bank participation in Digital ID is critical to establishing trust and adoption (Norway and Canada being the best examples). In Norway, 4.3 million Norwegians have chosen to use a Digital ID (BankID), representing nearly 80% of the population, of those, 99% use their Digital Identity

Question	AP+ responses
	to access a range of both government and private sector services an average of 220 times a year - this almost daily use of identity verification solutions drives adoption and builds systemic cyber resilience. ConnectID is an open marketplace for trusted and authorised identity providers including small banks, and non-bank entities who have been accredited under TDIF and meet the necessary ConnectID security and privacy obligations.
Is the balance between voluntary use and the exceptions to voluntary use right? Are any additional exceptions appropriate?	AP+ considers that the Government has achieved the right balance.
Are the exemptions to the interoperability principle appropriate? Are any additional exemptions appropriate?	As discussed in our submission. AP+ believes that the circumstances under which the Minister can grant an exemption are too broad and lack the necessary clarity or criteria to provide some certainty for industry to plan and invest in the Digital ID System with confidence.
Are the protections for the Australian community within AGDIS appropriate, or are additional protections needed?	AP+ considers that the Government has achieved the right balance.
Are the protections for participants in the AGDIS appropriate, or are any additional protections needed?	AP+ is not yet in a position to answer this question as further detail on the proposed statutory contract is necessary. AP+ would be happy to provide additional feedback once the detail is available.
Noting the pace of technological change and the need for Digital IDs to stay protected by the latest developments, how can Data Standards provide an appropriate balance between certainty for accredited entities while maintaining currency?	The 2022 independent review of the Consumer Data Right by Elizabeth Kelly PSM is a useful starting point. (https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-09/p2022-314513-report.pdf)
	AP+ consider that the method for setting standards in the Digital ID System should be designed to avoid the issues of 'overly prescriptive rules and standards' that have impeded the development of CDR.
	Development of standards should be demand driven, i.e. driven by demand from the industry, not simply driven by the availability of resources in the Data Standards body to initiate change.
	AP+ recommends: That the Digital ID Taskforce do not adopt the CDR approach to data standards. That the Digital ID Taskforce takes the lessons

Question	AP+ responses
	learnt from CDR and design from first principles: the role, function, authority, oversight, audit and control of the Digital ID Data Standards Chair and their work.
	The Data Standards Chair should be required to engage in genuine co-design on standards with participants in the AGDIS and subject matter experts, including a focus on the adopting of international standards, rather than bespoke design. Further, the Data Standards Chair should
	report to the head of the Digital ID Taskforce.
	The Digital Identity and Authentication Council of Canada (DIACC) is one model that has seen success.
What would be an appropriate model for the Australian Digital ID Standards Chair and are there lessons that can be learned from the Consumer Data Right model?	As above.