

MEDIA RELEASE

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AIIA Applauds the Passing of the Digital ID Bill in Parliament

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) welcomes the passing of the Digital ID Bill in Parliament last night and the \$288m allocated in the Budget on Tuesday making its implementation assured. This significant milestone heralds a new era of enhanced cyber security, economic growth, and innovation across Australia.

The AIIA has long championed the national adoption of a digital ID scheme since it was first proposed in 2021 due to its potential to significantly reduce personal data collection, thus strengthening cyber security. This legislation opens up vast growth opportunities for service providers in cloud computing, data security, biometrics, encryption, identity management, and Internet of Things (IoT) security. Furthermore, it promises to create substantial economic and employment opportunities for Australians, fostering a vibrant and dynamic digital economy.

The AIIA also commends the Australian Government's substantial investment in the myGov platform, which is integral to ensuring an efficient, end-to-end citizen experience with government services. The Government's commitment of \$918.4 million over four years to Digital ID and the enhancement of the myGov platform underscores its dedication to modernising Australia's digital infrastructure.

A critical aspect of the Digital ID scheme is its voluntary nature. For the scheme to succeed and achieve widespread adoption, it must:

1. Maintain the trust of citizens;
2. Have strong privacy protections;
3. Have robust cyber security measures;
4. Provide clear benefits to users by enhancing efficiency, ease of use, and access to innovative services.

Simon Bush, CEO of AIIA, emphasised the importance of citizen trust in the scheme, 'Citizen trust is absolutely critical to the success of the Digital ID system. We must ensure strong privacy and security protections to maintain and build this trust. This scheme is not a law enforcement tool, and any access to citizen-provided personal information by law enforcement must meet a very high bar.'

He also highlighted the transformative potential of the Digital ID system, 'The AIIA views the Digital ID system as a secure and trusted framework that will spark innovation and entrepreneurialism, resulting in a wave of new services and offerings. We have seen similar outcomes in other economies, such as India, where the establishment of digital ID and payments systems led to a 1.2% boost in GDP due to the efficiencies and innovations enabled by their scheme.'

The AIIA during its submissions on the legislation made it clear that the phased approach to introduction was too long and is pleased the government amended the legislation and the full benefits of the digital ID scheme will be realised earlier.

The AIIA is confident that the implementation of the Digital ID system will not only enhance cyber security and privacy for Australians but also drive significant economic growth and innovation. We look forward to continuing our support and advocacy for this pivotal initiative.

For more information, please contact:

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About AIIA

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) is the peak ICT body, representing approximately 90 per cent of Australians employed in the tech industry across a diverse group of members. Since 1978, AIIA has pursued strategic policies and activities to stimulate and grow Australia's digital ecosystem to create a favourable business environment and contribute to Australia's economic prosperity. We do this by providing a strong voice for the industry; building a sense of community through events and education; enabling a network for collaboration and inspiration; and developing compelling content from the industry's expertise.