

My submissions relate to The Identity Verification Services Bill 2023:

1. **Instead of a Bill of Rights, Australians rely for Human Rights protections in the Constitution and in legislation passed by the Commonwealth Parliament.**

The Identity Verification Services Bill 2023 15 seeks human rights protections by stating:

This Bill is compatible with the human rights and freedoms recognised or declared in the international instruments listed in section 3 of the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011 – this section 3 states the following:

human rights means the rights and freedoms recognised or declared by the following international instruments: (a) the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination done at New York on 21 December 1965 ([1975] ATS 40); (b) the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights done at New York on 16 December 1966 ([1976] ATS 5); (c) the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights done at New York on 16 December 1966 ([1980] ATS 23); (d) the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women done at New York on 18 December 1979 ([1983] ATS 9); (e) the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment done at New York on 10 December 1984 ([1989] ATS 21); (f) the Convention on the Rights of the Child done at New York on 20 November 1989 ([1991] ATS 4); (g) the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities done at New York on 13 December 2006 ([2008] ATS 12).

I submit that the human rights detailed in section 3 above are limited and do not cover protections required for Australians who engage with the digital economy and access critical services without exposing them to identity fraud and theft.

2. Section 18 of the proposed legislation states:

The Identity Verification Services Bill 2023 provides a legislative framework to support the continued operation of these services and ensures they are subject to robust safeguards and security measures.

I submit, further, that the robust safeguards and security measures need to be fully disclosed as the risks of identity theft could lead to hacking and subsequent fraudulent ransom demands like recent cases involving high profile public companies and institutions.

I would propose that.

1. the Human Rights protections are reviewed and strengthened, and my personal details are not stored on a central database
2. safeguards and security measures are disclosed to the extent that they would give Australians assurance that their access to digital platforms was secure.