

Senate Economics legislation Committee

Inquiry into Digital ID Bill 2023 and the Digital ID (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Bill 2023

Business Council of Australia

Response to Question on Notice

Hearing 9 February 2024

Question on Notice - Proof Hansard p.28

Senator BRAGG: Thank you, Ms Black. I might just get you to take on notice to provide examples of how some of your members might go about ensuring that it is a voluntary system in their own businesses. I think that could be quite helpful.

Response:

The Business Council supports individuals being provided with both additional choice and more secure and efficient ways of accessing the services they want.

The Bill includes provisions requiring participating relying parties to not make a condition of providing a service or access to a service contingent on creating or using a digital ID (section 74(1) of the Bill).

This means that businesses who participate accept the voluntary nature and ethos of the scheme set out in legislation.

For businesses who may offer digital ID for customers to undertake a transaction or apply for access to a service, the alternative could be for people to visit the business in person, over the phone, or via other digital services (such as via video link).

For Australians using digital ID to verify a particular attribute about themselves, such as purchasing age-restricted goods like liquor, digital ID will be a complement to existing means. In-stores, for example, digital ID will not replace the option for Australians to use alternative identity documents, such as licenses or passports.

Alternative approaches to digital ID are already in place for some online purchases. When purchasing liquor online for example, for businesses to comply with state-based laws (such as laws enacted in New South Wales and under consideration in other states), they are required to verify the customer's age for same-day online purchases and delivery of alcohol. Digital ID will provide a more efficient, safer and more privacy supplement to existing approaches, which rely on the Document Verification Service (DVS) set up by the Commonwealth.