

# **Digital ID Bill 2023 and Digital ID (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Bill 2023**

## **Submission**

### **Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

Introduced on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the Digital ID Bill 2023, we are told, will create a single platform that unites a person's identification documents, and connects it with government services such as MyGov, Centrelink, and the Australian Tax Office.

The legislation would create a national Digital ID for Australians that is accessible to both the public and private sectors. The Minister in charge, Ms Katy Gallagher, said the Government is committed "to legislate a digital ID system that is secure, convenient, voluntary and inclusive.

### **Voluntary or Mandatory?**

The Bills indicate the Federal Government is barred from making Digital ID compulsory for its services but since it says nothing about State and Territory Governments and private corporations, we could be forced to use Digital ID to obtain car registration, power connected to properties or businesses, or even to set up a new phone plan.

### **Security or inviting data breaches?**

The legislation centralizes our digital IDs. In the last few months, we have seen centralized systems subjected to hacking and data breaches. **How can we be sure that our personal data will be secure, when it is not currently?**

Facial recognition and biometrics are being proposed as means of checking identity. Mentioned in the Bills are use of our fingerprint, retina and our voice. This sounds remarkably like the Chinese Social Credit system, which is used to restrict the activities of Chinese citizens and force them to conform to Government edicts. **If introduced in Australia will these Bills also cause denial of services and unjust discrimination against citizens?**

Having access to all our details and means of proving our identity would prove a field day for hackers. The personal information of all of a country's citizens will be gathered into one source. The firm Resecurity (<https://www.resecurity.com/blog/article/cybercriminals-launched-leaksmas-event-in-the-dark-web>) issued a Report which showed that 50 million records containing personally identifiable information have surfaced on the dark web, after hacker attacks happening around the Christmas holiday period – hence the name "Leaksmas."

### **Overseas Experiences**

Mandatory Digital Identity is being promoted globally as a solution to a variety of problems.

Terrorism? Digital identity will keep you safe.

Illegal immigration? Digital identity will secure the border.

Pandemic? Digital identity will keep track of who is vaccinated and who is not.

AI? Digital identity will prove who's human.

Poverty? Digital identity will "promote financial inclusion".

**Is it really a solution to these problems or will each of these solutions cause more problems?**

In October 2023 the United Nations Development Program published their "guidelines" for the design and use of digital identities.

The World Economic Forum issued, in 2016, a 108-page report entitled, "Blueprint for Digital Identity". It states under *Project Context*, "This document is intended as a guide for Chief Strategy Officers as well as policy makers who are interested in the topic of identity and want to understand the digital identity and their own potential role in the creation of robust digital identity systems."

**Since these measures are being instigated at an international level, will Australia be forced to comply? Will our sovereignty as a nation be annihilated?**

A thorough investigation of all the consequences and implications of these two Bills is absolutely required.

Please vote against these two Bills.

