

Submission **against** Digital Identity Bill 2023

I am totally against this Digital ID Bill. I do not want a Digital ID. If this legislation goes ahead, anyone who does online business (eg with the government) will end up having to get one. There won't be a choice. I like choice. I think choice is a great option – always!

I am also concerned that, yet again, there is another 'appointment' in place; so few 'elected' people. The Digital ID Data Standards Chair will be appointed, and could even be continually reappointed every 3 years. What if we have someone terrible in this position, making awful Standards? Moreover, given it is written in Part 3, Division 1, Section 97 that "The Digital ID Data Standards Chair has the power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of the Chair's functions", it is a ridiculously wide range of powers indeed. Too wide. Dangerously wide. It should not be written this way at all! It needs to be severely reined in.

I also don't want to give out my biometric data. No voice identities, no fingerprinting and no eye scanning for me, thanks! There are already enough ways people can steal your identity online. Now you're telling us that this legislation will keep us safe?! I don't believe that to be true at all. Given how many data breaches there have been in recent years from a massive range of places, I can't see how having MORE data will keep it safer. It won't. And this time, people will be able to steal not just basic data, but biometric data. It'll be almost impossible to save yourself online if your identity has been stolen. They'll have your voice, your fingerprints, and who knows what else!

Companies will also easily be able to keep your biometric data. Sure, there's a 300 penalty point fine for doing so, but it's only CIVIL penalty units, not Criminal penalty units. Big companies that make billions in profit can afford to pay. Well worth it to them if they can get lots of personal biometric data - and best of all they won't walk away with a criminal charge.

I don't see why the government is forging ahead with things like Digital ID Legislation instead of trying to recover our economy. We are heading into a deep recession, and people are already struggling to pay bills, keep food on the table and a roof over their heads. Surely Digital ID legislation can take a back seat to more pressing matters? The problem is, the government KEEPS making legislation like this! Yet there is seemingly little or no legislation being enacted that might actually help struggling people in their day-to-day lives. Just more red tape!

I would be pleased to see this Digital ID Legislation thrown out.

Regards,

Dr Robyn Stephenson