

DGCDO Meeting brief

To	Ann-Marie Cavanagh, Deputy Government Chief Digital Officer
Cc	Guy Beatson, Chief of Staff
From	<i>Helen Jamison, Director Planning, Performance, and Support</i>
Date	22 May 2020
Subject	Meeting with Senior Officials – Australian Digital and Data Council (22 May 2020)
Phone	To dial-in: 6(b)(i)

Purpose of the meeting

This memo provides discussion points and background information for your meeting with Senior Officials from the Australian Data and Digital Council (ADDC) on 22 May 2020 at 1pm (NZT). The purpose of the meeting is to prepare for the Ministers' discussion on challenges arising from our separate responses to COVID-19, at the ADDC meeting on 29 May 2020.

Background

Agenda

The Senior Officials Group (SOG) meetings are scheduled a week before the ADDC. The SOG have an ongoing agenda composed of:

1. reporting on progress against actions items,
2. [discussing cross-cutting issues](#),
3. [flagging issues that are likely to be raised](#) by ADDC Ministers (including nominating items to be discussed under Other Business); and
4. [discussing the draft communiqué](#).

Attendees

- Commonwealth - Randall Brugeaud, Tanja Cvijanovic (Co-Chairs)
- NSW - Ian Oppermann, Greg Wells
- VIC - Lisa Tepper, Jeremi Moule
- QLD - Chris Fechner
- WA - Greg Italiano, Jonas Petersen
- SA - Peter Worthington-Eyre, Eva Balan-Vnuk

- **TAS** - Glenn Lewis, Ruth McArdle
- **ACT** - Bettina Konti
- **NT** - Kathleen Robinson, Maria Mohr

Discussion points

Discussing cross-cutting issues

COVID-19 contact tracing

- The New Zealand government commissioned a rapid audit on our contact tracing in April 2020, with a follow-up to the report delivered in May. The report (by Dr Ayesha Verrall) concluded contact tracing is central to eliminating COVID-19 in New Zealand. The report also said that "rapid case detection and contact tracing, combined with other measures has over 90% efficacy against COVID-19 at the population level, making it as effective as many vaccines."
- This Wednesday, we released 'a digital diary' helping users when they are out and about to keep a log of their movements. It's for individuals and businesses, sits on their device, and it remains their data.
- This is designed to aid and support physical contact tracing efforts, not to replace them.
- New Zealand is paying close attention to the uptake of COVIDsafe in Australia, and whether or not it is meeting public expectations.
- We are also currently assessing the feasibility of using Bluetooth-enabled cards to assist with manual contact tracing. A decision on whether to progress this option is currently expected to be taken by Ministers in June 2020.

'COVID-card' details

9(2)(g)(i)

- The proposed COVID-cards would not collect the personal information of New Zealanders. 9(2)(g)(i). Each card would only record the ID numbers of other cards that it comes into close contact with. The key benefit would be that an individual's card would hold an accurate record of close contacts while not relying on members of our population to be digitally-included.
- It is envisaged that use of the cards would be voluntary. Information about a cardholder's close contacts would be stored on the card, and Health officials could only access this information with the consent of the cardholder. Health officials would only request this data if a person tests positive for COVID-19 and if the information is specifically required for contact tracing. Information could not be used for other purposes, e.g., law enforcement.
- We are still assessing these cards to ensure whether they would be effective and safe to use if Ministers confirmed that they wanted to implement this approach.

