



Government Digital Services aide memoire

Hon Kris Faafoi
Minister for Government Digital Services

Title: Meeting with the Australian Minister for Government Services - COVID-19 Contact Tracing Approaches

Date: 24/06/2020

Key issues

You are meeting with the Australian Minister for Government Services, the Hon Stuart Robert, (via teleconference) on Friday 26 June 2020.

This meeting follows on from the *Global meeting of Digital Ministers to discuss COVID-19 digital contact tracing and exposure notification* meeting, which officials attended last Thursday 18 June 2020 at 8.00pm.

Out of scope

Action sought

Note the contents of this briefing;

9(2)(g)(i)

Note that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade are supportive of a free and frank conversation between Australia and New Zealand.

Timeframe

26 June 2020

Contact for telephone discussions (if required)

Name	Position	Direct phone line	After hours phone	Suggested 1 st contact
Sela Finau	Policy Manager, Policy Group	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	✓
Alan Bell	Director Digital Identity Transition	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	

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Purpose

1. This aide memoire provides discussion points and background information ahead of your meeting with the Australian Minister for Government Services, the Hon Stuart Robert on Friday 26 June 2020.

Background

2. You have been invited to attend a bilateral Ministerial call with Minister Robert.
3. This meeting follows on from the *Global meeting of Digital Ministers to discuss COVID-19 digital contact tracing and exposure notification* meeting, which officials attended last Thursday 18 June 2020 at 8.00pm.

Out of scope



COVID-19 Contact Tracing in New Zealand

Digital tools are starting to be used to support the COVID-19

9. New Zealand is starting to use a range of digital tools to manage COVID-19 in addition to the National Contact Tracing Solution. This includes using official Quick Response (QR) codes, and integrated data sources as digital infrastructure to help manage COVID-19.
10. On 20 May 2020, the Government launched the NZ COVID Tracer smartphone application (the app). As at 8 June 2020, approximately 522,000 people had registered to use the app, providing up to date contact information to aid in tracing if required. The app enables people to maintain an electronic diary to track their movements, with people manually scanning QR codes of localities they attend.
11. Further planned releases of the app will include enhancements to functionality such as the app enabling people to record individual interactions like visiting a friend. Creating standards and interoperability with accredited apps will further support the contract tracing process.

Bluetooth technology could enhance contact tracing but it also has challenges

12. New Zealand is currently investigating options for Bluetooth solutions to support the manual contact tracing process. This includes Bluetooth applications and a Bluetooth-enabled CovidCard.
13. The Ministry of Health views Bluetooth as one of a number of technologies that we are using to respond to the COVID 19 pandemic. We see these as support for the process of contact tracing rather than replacing it.
14. The Ministry of Health's view is that at this stage we continue to observe other countries' implementation of Bluetooth solutions to support contact tracing. As New Zealand develops and improves our approach to contract tracing, we believe there is considerable value in being kept up-to-date on contact tracing developments in other countries. We are keen to ensure that we keep up-to-date on the uptake of any apps developed in other countries, including information about the percentage of users who refuse to share access.
15. We will make a decision on the use of this technology in the best interests of New Zealand when we are satisfied that the technology is proven to be of benefit or otherwise.

Out of scope



Out of scope



Out of scope



Contact tracing

22. As New Zealand develops and improves our approach to contact tracing we would find considerable value in being kept up-to-date on contact tracing developments in your respective countries.
23. New Zealand is also interested in being kept up-to-date on the uptake of any apps your countries develop. Information about the percentage of users who refuse to share access would also provide valuable insights for us.

24. Bluetooth as one of a number of technologies that we are using to respond to the COVID 19 pandemic. We see these as support for the process of contact tracing rather than replacing it.
25. *Note: You may want to share your perspective on the contact tracing approach being developed by New Zealand.*

Out of scope



