



FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Australia's International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate

using Visible Digital Seal Technology

November 2021

Australian Passport Office presentation



Truly open world travel will require global interoperability of vaccination certificates rather than a complex and fragmented system of mutual recognition

- This is one of the reasons Australia adopted the Visible Digital Seal (VDS) standard specified by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) – the body responsible for setting standards for international travel documents
- Encourage other countries also to apply the ICAO-VDS standard
- And in the short term work to ensure interoperability between current formats and the ICAO-VDS standard
- Australia is happy to work with other countries in this endeavour.

The Australian International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate (ICVC)

- The certificate meets the global standard specified by the ICAO and endorsed by the WHO.
- The certificate uses Visible Digital Seal (VDS) technology in the form of a QR code that is secure as a passport chip and can be digitally authenticated in the same way as a passport.
- The QR code can be read at borders globally and by travel apps such as the IATA TravelPass that many airlines use.



Australian Government

International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate

Proof of Vaccination Issued by AUS Version 1 UVCI VB000990038



Protect the QR code from marks and damage.

Name of the holder: **CITIZEN, JANE CATHERINE**
Date of birth: **1977-05-16**
Sex: **F**
Passport number: **PF0911009**

Visible Digital Seal (VDS-NC)

Authorities can verify that this document is true and unaltered with a QR reader that checks against Australia's ePassport Country Signing Certificate Authority public key.

VACCINATION EVENT				
Vaccine or prophylaxis: XM68M6 (COVID-19)		Vaccine brand: Pfizer Comirnaty		Disease or agent targeted: RA01.0 (COVID-19)
Date of vaccination:	Dose number:	Country of vaccination:	Administering centre:	Vaccine batch number:
2021-06-13	1	AUS	Community Health	EP2163
2021-07-01	2	AUS	General Practitioner	ER7449

This document bears a Visible Digital Seal for a Non-Constrained Environment (VDS-NC), as specified by the International Civil Aviation Organization. UVCI means 'Unique Vaccination Certificate Identifier', XM68M6 and RA01.0 are World Health Organization codes for COVID-19.



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Version 1

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What's in the certificate?

- the Australian Government **crest**
- the **title**: "International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate"
- a **header row** containing:
 - the words "Proof of Vaccination"
 - the **issuing state** ("AUS")
 - the version number ("1")
- a **Unique Vaccination Certificate Identifier (UVCI)**
- the **VDS QR code**, containing all the data elements, as well as signature information for authenticating the certificate
- the holder's **name**
- **date of birth**, in the format YYYY-MM-DD
- **gender** ('Sex'), given as "M", "F" or "X"
- the holder's **passport number**
- **vaccination history**, which includes the brand, date, batch number, administering centre and country of each dose
 - the manufacturer name is included in the vaccine brand name
 - the "Dose number" is in chronological order across Vaccination events

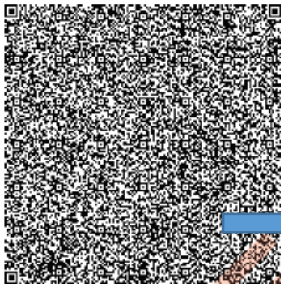
WHAT'S IN A VDS QR CODE?



Australian Government

International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate

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This is what a QR reader sees



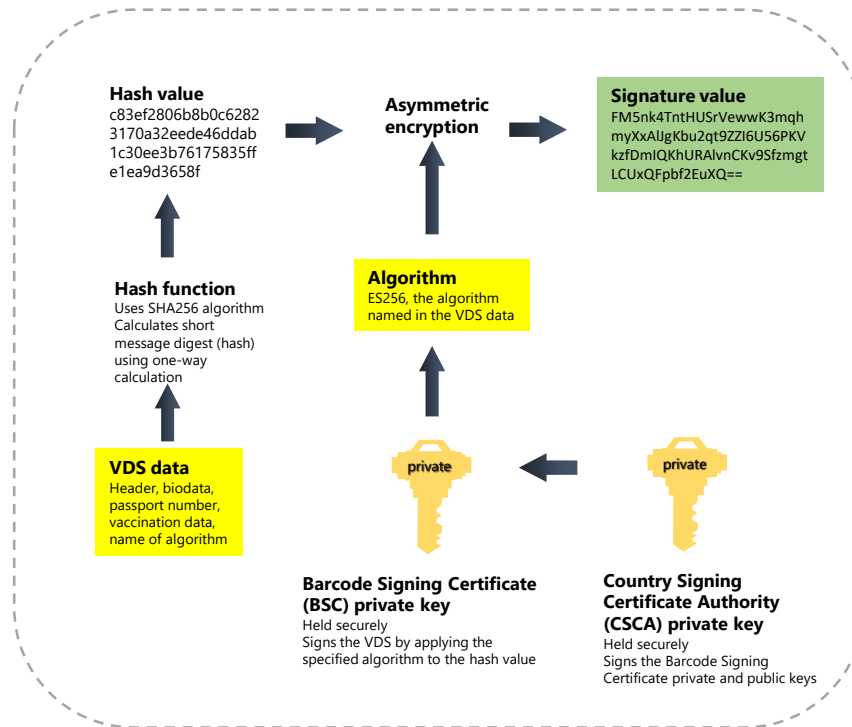
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```

VDS data
Header, biodata, passport number, vaccination data and the name of an algorithm ("sig")

Compressed Barcode Signing Certificate (BSC)
– includes public key and link to **Country Signing Certificate Authority** (CSCA) public key

Signature value

SIGNING A VDS



AUTHENTICATING A VDS

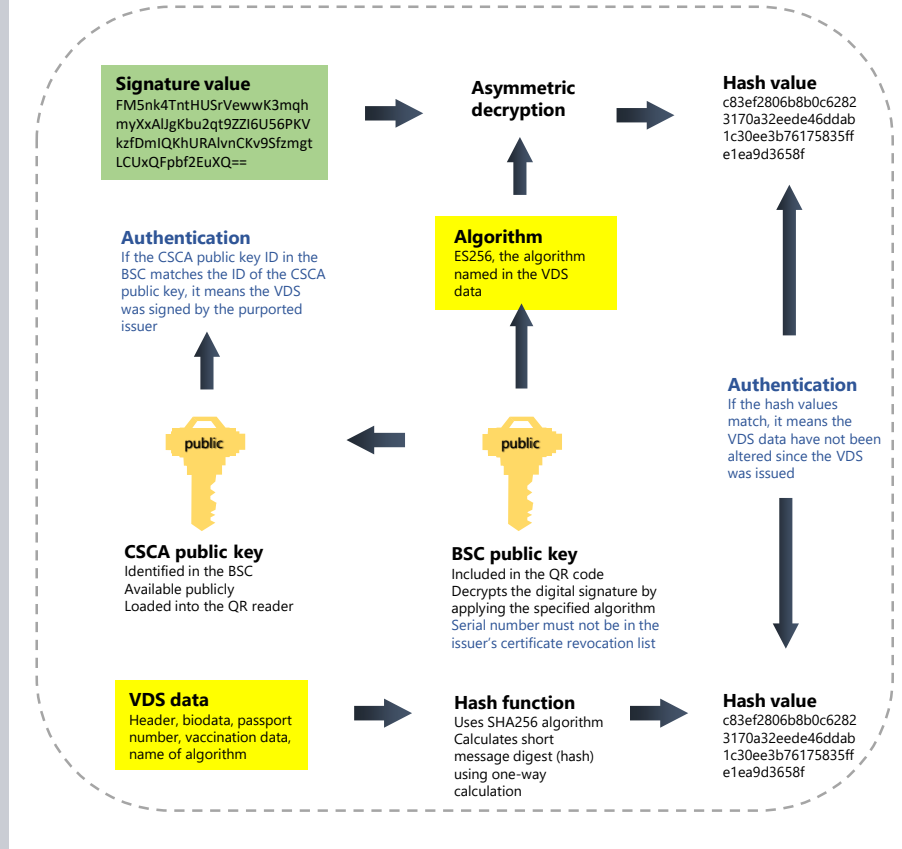
- Check data hasn't changed**

If the hash values match, it means the VDS data have not been altered since the VDS was issued

- Check the certificate was issued by the purported issuer**

If the CSCA public key ID in the BSC matches the ID of the CSCA public key, it means the VDS was signed by the purported issuer

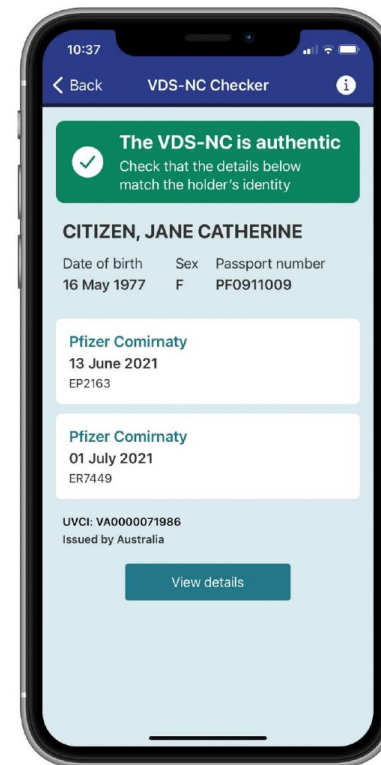
AUTHENTICATING A VDS

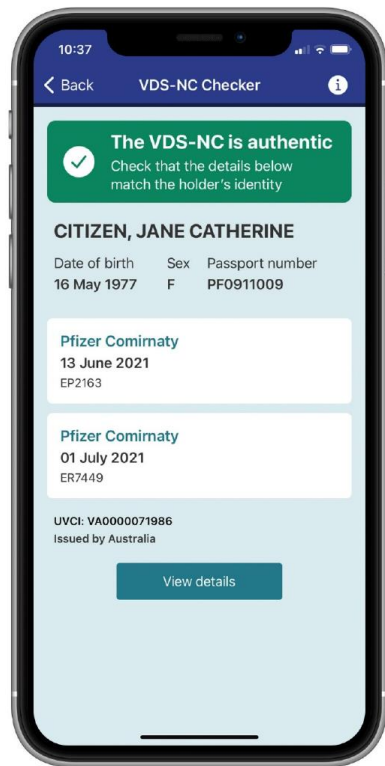


Existing passport readers can read and authenticate ICVCs with minor software updates. Australia is working with vendors to implement these updates.

For border authorities or others seeking to read ICVCs without passport readers the Australian Passport Office has developed a smartphone app.

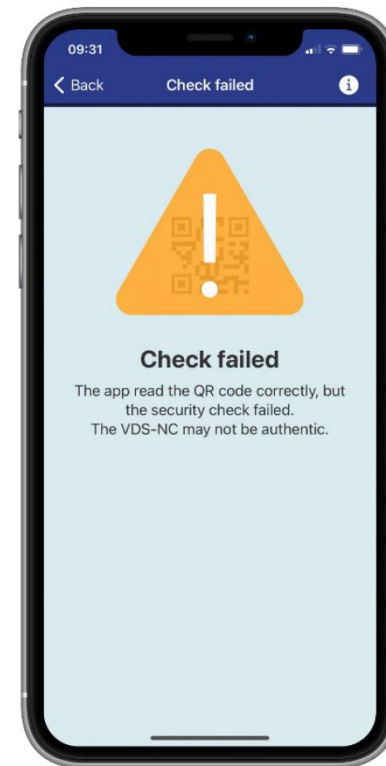
The VDS-NC Checker app is available in the Apple app store and Google Play





The app confirms that a VDS is genuine and displays the most important information from the certificate, including the holder's biodata and COVID-19 immunisations.

If the QR code is not authentic
the app displays a message to
that effect:



About the app

Does the app tell me if a person is fully vaccinated?


No, it shows the vaccination history. That's how the VDS standard is meant to work. It leaves decisions in the hands of inspecting authorities in the **receiving** state, not the **issuing** state.

What about privacy?

The app has very strong privacy restrictions. It collects no personal information – there's no login or password. And the app doesn't store or transmit any of the information it reads from ICVCs.

Requesting an ICVC

Requesting an international certificate is easy and free through [myGov](#), the [Medicare Express Plus app](#), or by contacting Services Australia.

 Australian Government **myGov**

Sign in to myGov

Choose how to sign in from these 2 options

Using your myGov sign in details

Username or email

[Forgot username](#)

Password

Do not show others your password

[Show](#)

[Forgot password](#)

Sign in

or

Using your myGovID Digital Identity

Continue with Digital Identity

What is myGov?

myGov is a simple and secure way to access online government services.

[Create a myGov account](#) >


COVID-19 updates

Go to [australia.gov.au](#) for the latest:

- COVID-19 news
- vaccine information
- advice from Australian Government agencies.

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination

You can get proof of COVID-19 vaccinations by signing in to myGov.

 Australian Government
Services Australia

medicare
Express Plus

Welcome back
John

Sign in as John

Sign in as someone else

Version 4.0.1 (35)

As part of Australia's National Transition Plan, Australia's international border commenced reopening at the start of November. Inbound passenger limits were removed for vaccinated Australians and are being progressively lifted for non-Australians.

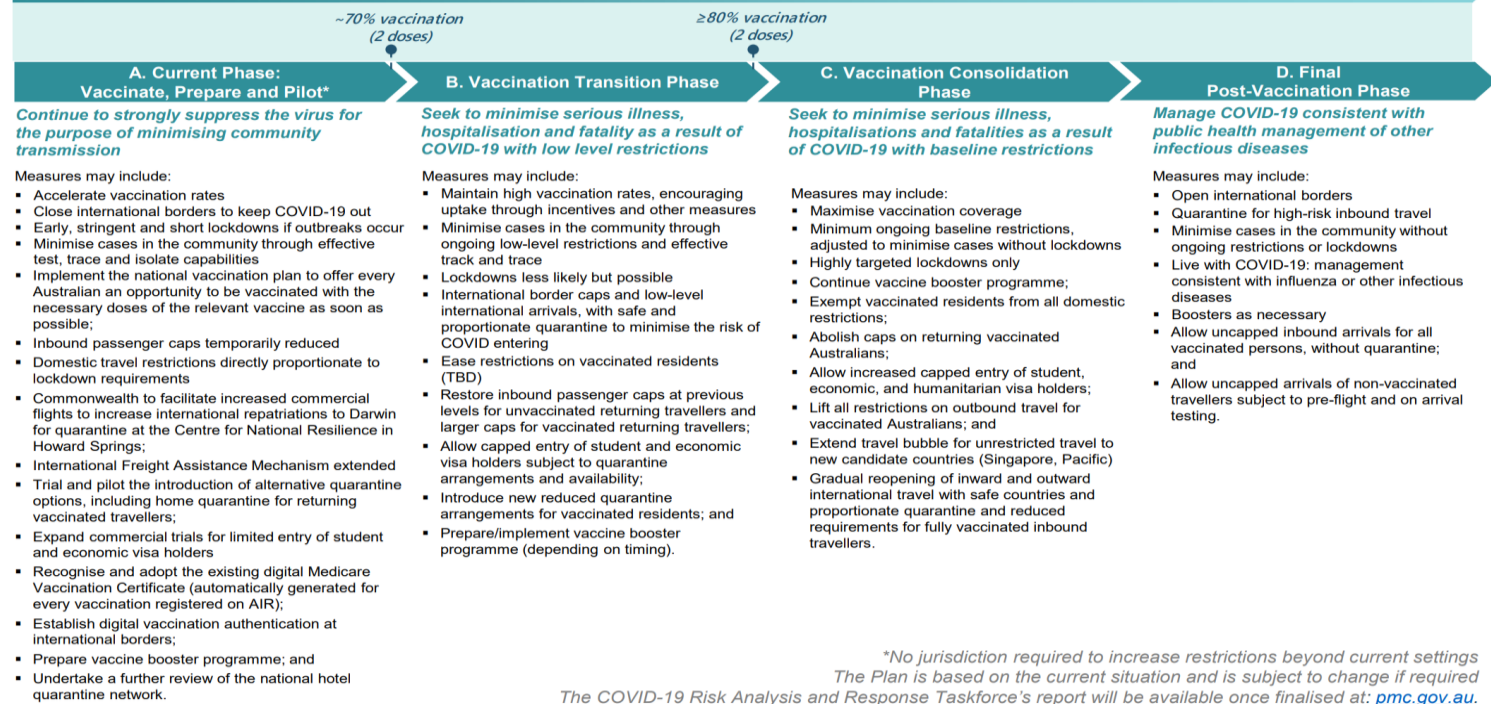


Australian Government

National Plan to transition Australia's National COVID-19 Response

National Cabinet agreed to formulate a national plan to transition Australia's National COVID-19 Response from its current pre vaccination settings, focussing on continued suppression of community transmission, to post vaccination settings focussed on prevention of serious illness, hospitalisation and fatality, and the public health management of other infectious diseases

Phases triggered in a jurisdiction when the average vaccination rates across the nation have reached the threshold and that rate is achieved in a jurisdiction expressed as a percentage of the eligible population (16+), based on the scientific modelling conducted for the COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response Task Force



Passengers travelling to Australia provide their International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate to prove their status as fully vaccinated.

- Travellers vaccinated overseas who travel to Australia present a foreign-issued vaccination certificate.
- Most foreign vaccination certificate formats are acceptable.
- Certificates need to be in English or accompanied by a certified translation.
- Travellers have to have received vaccines approved or recognised by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration.
- Paper and digital certificates are equally acceptable
- As are handwritten certificates
- This is possible due to Australia's high vaccination rate
- Australia is accepting foreign certificates unilaterally, based on criteria that are universal, not country-specific
- **Truly open world travel will require global interoperability of vaccination certificates rather than a fragmented system of mutual recognition**



Get in touch:

Ed Wilkinson

edward.wilkinson@dfat.gov.au

Director, Visible Digital Seal Taskforce
Australian Passport Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



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