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**Australian Government
Digital Transformation Agency**

**Ministerial Brief
For Information**

MB20-000013

To: Minister for Government Services

Subject: Implementation of the Apple and Google Exposure Notification Framework (ENF)

Critical Date and Reason:	N/A
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Recommendation/s for Minister Robert: That you:

1. Note the Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) is working with Apple and Google to explore the applicability of the Exposure Notification Framework (ENF).	Noted / Please discuss
2. s 47E(d) [Redacted] This would require significant changes to COVIDSafe and state and territory contract tracing processes.	Noted / Please discuss
3. s 47E(d) [Redacted]	s 47E(d) [Redacted]

Minister's Comments	
Minister's signature:	Date: / / 2020

Key Points:

1. There have been media reports about the Bluetooth performance of the COVIDSafe App (the App) since launch. The Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) made changes to the App on 14 May 2020, which have significantly improved Bluetooth performance on both Android and iOS devices.
2. In parallel, the DTA has been working with Apple and Google to understand the Exposure Notification Framework (ENF), within the Australian COVID-19 response and contact tracing context. s 47E(d) [Redacted]

3. Apple and Google announced the initial release of the ENF on 20 May 2020. Although the full feature set will become incrementally available over several months.

4. s 47E(d)

Operating model and Bluetooth performance

5. s 47E(d)

The Apple and Google ENF is a community tracing program. This works for communicable diseases like sexually transmitted diseases. This is not the approach used for virulent diseases like Smallpox where public health contact tracing is used.

6. Adopting the ENF would mean revisiting decisions that have underpinned our current model supporting public health outcomes. The decentralised model that Apple and Google are proposing would reduce our control over health policy and limit access to the information required to allow States and Territories to effectively manage the pandemic and recovery.

7. s 47E(d)

This limits a public health official's ability to undertake contact tracing.

8. Push notifications are the primary mechanism to notify close contacts under ENF. Notifying close contacts through an app-based notification may cause alarm, particularly if state and territory health officials are not involved. Third party verification of a positive diagnosis is also not part of the ENF. This varies significantly from the COVIDSafe framework, s 47E(d)

9. s 47E(d)

It would also require significant changes to the App to enable integration. Elements of the ENF may enable further performance improvements to the App s 47E(d)

10. s 47E(d)

11. Apple have advised the business point of contact for ENF is s 47E(d)

. Apple has offered arrange a meeting if required.

Benefits of ENF

12. The major benefit of ENF is the promised Bluetooth connectivity improvements. s 47E(d)

13. s 47E(d)

14. Certain users who have avoided the App may perceive that the ENF provides stronger privacy protections though this largely decentralised, non-government-controlled model.

Cons of ENF

15. Our initial investigation has revealed that adopting the ENF will require significant technical changes including:

- The App would need to be significantly redesigned and rebuilt. The ENF cannot simply be embedded into the current App.
- The Health Portal would also need to be redesigned and rebuilt.
- A new Privacy Impact Assessment would need to be conducted and legislative amendments may be needed.
- All current users would need to transition to the new App (download and re-register) and contact data collected to date would not be transferred.

16. The ENF offers less device compatibility compared to our current system for Apple users. The ENF is only compatible with iPhone 6 or later that are running iOS version 13.5 or above (iOS 13.5 was released 20 May 2020). Android users running version 6.0 or later will be able to access the ENF, aligning with COVIDSafe operating system compatibility.

Sensitivities:


s 47E(d)



Financial Impacts: N/A

Regulatory Impacts: N/A

Consultation: s 47E(d)



Cleared: 22 / 05 / 2020

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Australian Government
Digital Transformation Agency

Ministerial Brief
For Information

MB20-000010

To: Minister for Government Services

Subject: Release of the COVIDSafe Application Source Code

Critical Date and Reason:	Friday, 8 May 2020 On Friday, 8 May 2020 the Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) is scheduled to release the COVIDSafe application source code to the public.
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Recommendation/s for Minister Robert: That you:

1. Note the information for the upcoming public release of the COVIDSafe source code.	Noted / Please discuss
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Minister's Comments

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Minister's signature: **Date:** / / 2020

Key Points:


1. The Australian Government developed the contact tracing app 'COVIDSafe' to assist with the management of the coronavirus pandemic.
2. To assist the public in building confidence in the app and for transparency, the Government agreed to publicly release the source code.
3. The code that will be publicly released is the front-end app code only and does not include the back-end code that relates to the Health Admin Portal or national data storage system.
4. s 7(2A)(b) [REDACTED]
5. As of Friday, 8 May 2020, individuals will be able to access the source code for COVIDSafe. **Attachment A** provides talking points for the release.
6. The source code will be accessible via the DTA's GitHub profile to ensure the DTA remains the authoritative source for COVIDSafe source code. For the purpose of public messaging, people who wish to access the source code will be directed to covidsafe.gov.au which will provide a direct link to the DTA's GitHub repository. This is consistent with the approach Singapore has taken with the release of their code.

s 7(2A)(b)



8. The DTA will ask those who wish to access the code to acknowledge a set of terms and conditions prior to access. These terms and conditions will govern their use of the code. These terms and conditions:
 - a. clearly describe the restrictions the DTA imposes on use of the code;
 - b. include reporting obligations that users must comply with (e.g. to confirm compliance or to provide information on how the code is being used); and
 - c. include a disclaimer that the code is provided on an 'as is where is' basis, and the DTA accepts no liability for any component of the code.
9. The DTA will release the source code for both COVIDSafe iOS and android application.
10. To maintain rigorous privacy protection and the integrity of the overall system, the DTA will not release source code related to the National Data Store or the security of the application.

s 7(2A)(b)


11. The DTA will update the source code within GitHub as it rolls out future releases.

s 7(2A)(b)



Financial Impacts: N/A

Regulatory Impacts: N/A

Consultation:

s 7(2A)(b)

Attachments:

Attachment A: DTA prepared talking points for the public release of the COVIDSafe application source code

Attachment B: DTA GitHub registration process

Cleared: 07 / 05 / 2020

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s 47E(d)

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Talking Points

Public release of the COVIDSafe application source code

- Today we are releasing to the public the COVIDSafe application source code for both the iOS and android applications, which is being managed by the Digital Transformation Agency.
- Releasing the source code is in line with our commitment to be transparent about the design and functionality of the COVIDSafe application.
- You can access the source code by completing an online application form on www.covidsafe.gov.au.
- In addition to the release of the source code, we welcome feedback from anyone on the COVIDSafe application, which can be received via the app's 'Report an Issue' functionality or by emailing support@covidsafe.gov.au.

If asked – who can access the code?

- Any member of the public can access the source code.

If asked – why is there terms and conditions to review the code?

- Anyone seeking to access the code is asked to agree to a simple set of terms and conditions.
- These terms and conditions have been designed to outline how the source code can be used, including:
 - a disclaimer that the code is provided on an as is basis, and DTA accepts no liability for any component of the code.
 - any restrictions the DTA wishes to impose on use of the code to protect the integrity of the application; and
 - acknowledgment on the way DTA collects and uses personal information

If asked – why did it take so long to release the source code?

- The development of mobile applications is a complex process.
- The delay reflects the balance between ensuring the app is performing as intended upon public release, undertaking security assessments, protecting the privacy of individuals and the need for transparency.

If asked - has all the source code been released?

- All the mobile application source code for both iOS and android applications has been released.

If asked - have any independent parties already reviewed the source code?

- The source code has been reviewed by the ACSC and the Cyber Security Collaborative Research Centre (CSCRC).

If asked – will you release the backend code?

- To ensure the privacy of individuals and integrity of the overall system, the code that relates to the COVIDSafe National Data Store will not be released.

If asked – how can issues in the source code be reported?

- We welcome feedback from the community about the source code.
- You can provide feedback by emailing support@covidsafe.gov.au.
- This will enable us to track and manage each request.
- Where there are a number of similar feedback responses, we will regularly update our FAQs to provide a single easy to read entry to inform the broader community.
- Where feedback is more technical in nature, we will add it to our back log so we can triage, find the root cause and then at the appropriate time mitigate the issue.

If asked – can the source code be used for application development?

- No, in line with the terms and conditions, the source code cannot be used for product development.
- This condition has been put in place to protect users from unofficial apps that may pose a security concern.

Terms and Conditions for access to COVIDSafe App code

By accessing the App Code I accept and agree to the following terms:

1. If I distribute the App Code to anyone else, I will ensure these terms are provided to them and are not deleted.
2. I agree to access the App Code for the purpose of obtaining information about the COVIDSafe App only.
3. I understand and agree that the App Code is provided on an as is where is basis, that the App Code may be updated over time, and that the DTA and the Commonwealth have no liability whatsoever in connection with my access to or use of the App Code.
4. I agree to stop all access and use of the App Code if requested by the DTA.
5. I will not use the App Code for any product development purposes.
6. I will promptly report to the DTA on any actual or potential security vulnerabilities I become aware of in respect of the COVIDSafe App.
7. I am responsible for any costs of third party claims associated with my access to the App Code, and must pay those claims on request.
8. I understand and agree that:
 - a. the DTA will collect information about me and my access to the App Code, and any feedback, comments, or other information that I post on GitHub in connection with the App Code (and I understand that this information may also be seen or accessed by other users of GitHub who have been given access to the App Code);
 - b. the DTA may use that information for the purposes of managing my access to the App Code, and to consider any feedback, comments or other information that I provide in relation to the App Code or the COVIDSafe App;
 - c. the DTA may disclose that information to other Commonwealth agencies and their contractors for the purposes of improving the App Code or the COVIDSafe App, or as required for public accountability and reporting purposes, but DTA will de-identify personal information before disclosure wherever reasonable and practicable (GitHub, a company based in the US, may also handle your personal information in accordance with the GitHub Terms and Conditions); and
 - d. further information about how DTA will handle personal information, and my rights to complain or access or correct my personal information, is available at DTA's Privacy Policy.

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**Australian Government
Digital Transformation Agency**

**Ministerial Brief
For Information**

MB20-000012

To: Minister for Government Services
Subject: COVIDSafe Data Hosting Arrangements

Critical Date and Reason:	N/A
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Recommendation/s for Minister Robert: That you:

1. Note the hosting arrangements for the COVIDSafe National Data Storage System	Noted / Please discuss
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Minister's Comments

Minister's signature: **Date:** / / 2020

Key Points:

1. The Amazon Web Services (AWS) Whole of Government (WofG) Arrangement commenced in May 2019. The AWS WofG Arrangement allows agencies access to all services offered by AWS, including hosting and professional services.

s 47E(d)



3. The Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) and AWS entered into a professional services arrangement to support the development of the COVIDSafe App on 24 April 2020.
4. The contract was made as a Statement of Work (SoW) under the AWS WofG Arrangement – Standing Offer. The Standing Offer is recorded as Austender contract notice number CN3601345. s 45



s 45



s 47E(d)



7. s 47E(d)

Any decision would comply with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs).

s 47E(d)

9. s 45

The DTA has specified that all data must be stored within Australia.

10. s 45

The requirements of the Information Security Manual (ISM) stipulate that only those with a valid and appropriate level security clearance are provided access to classified environments. s 47E(d)

s 47E(d)

Financial Impacts: N/A

Regulatory Impacts: N/A

Consultation: N/A

Cleared: 22 / 05 / 2020

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BACKGROUND

- To develop a contact tracing app for the Australian Government, the Department of Home Affairs engaged Amazon Web Services to provide software development and hosting services.

s 47E(d)



- The engagement of AWS was conducted in accordance with the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act) and the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs).
- The request to AWS was made via the AWS Whole-of-Government Arrangement.

s 47E(d)



- This procurement provided the DTA with the right mix of specialisation, expertise and flexibility to develop and deploy the COVIDSafe application in a short timeframe.