

OFFICIAL



**Australian Government
Digital Transformation Agency**

**Ministerial Submission
For Information**

MS20-000022

To: Minister for Government Services

Subject: Apple and Google Exposure Notification Framework – update

Critical Date and Reason:	Friday 12 June 2020 To allow materials to be provided to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to confirm the International Ministerial meeting for Thursday 18 June 2020.
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Recommendation/s for Minister Robert: That you:

1. Sign the letter to the Prime Minister outlining Australia’s approach to the Apple/Google Exposure Notification Framework (ENF) (<u>Attachment A</u>)	Signed / Not signed
2. Sign the letter to your international counterparts requesting a Ministerial meeting to discuss the Apple/Google ENF (<u>Attachment B</u>)	Signed / Not signed
3. Note the Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) has commenced testing the ENF as well as the impact of iOS 13.5 on the current COVIDSafe app	Noted / Please discuss
4. Note that coordination is underway for the arrangement of the Ministerial meeting of identified countries in implementing digital responses to COVID-19	Noted / Please discuss

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

Key Points:

1. On Thursday 4 June 2020, you met with Randall Brugeaud, Peter Alexander and Anthony Warnock to discuss the DTA’s approach to the Apple and Google ENF. As a result of that meeting, three action items were agreed for the DTA. This brief is to provide you with an update on the status of these items.

Action item 1 – Prepare a letter to the Prime Minister

2. The DTA has drafted a letter from you to the Prime Minister outlining the DTA’s approach to evaluating the ENF, including testing of the ENF and international cooperation. The letter is at **Attachment A** for your review and signature.

Action item 2 - Testing of the ENF and iOS 13.5

3. The DTA has commenced testing an ENF prototype app this week, and preliminary results will be available by the end of the week. Apple and Google still do not provide data about ENF Bluetooth performance in a way that can be easily measured and validated. The DTA has built the required prototypes and testing scenarios to overcome the lack of easily accessible data on Bluetooth performance.
4. The DTA will continue to perform more rigorous testing of ENF next week. The results of this testing should confirm the performance of ENF relative to COVIDSafe.
5. The DTA will also test the performance of the current COVIDSafe app on devices running iOS 13.5 operating system for any marked Bluetooth improvements.

Action item 3 - International Cooperation

6. The DTA is working with DFAT to arrange for a Ministerial meeting of the 10 first mover countries [redacted] Section 33
7. A draft letter has been prepared for you to send to the Ministers from these countries. The letters are at **Attachment B** for your review and signature. The list of possible Ministers is at **Attachment C** and DFAT will work with each country to determine and confirm to the appropriate representative.
8. At the same time, the DTA is investigating improvements to Bluetooth performance that other countries have implemented. A meeting has been organised with officers in similar agencies in countries including the [redacted] Section 33
9. The DTA have prepared talking points to brief DFAT to assist with initiating conversations with the international Ministers and to provide briefing for the meeting (**refer Attachment D**).

Sensitivities:

10. Media attention continues to focus on Australia’s position around the adoption of the ENF. Opinions are mixed on the merits of Australia adopting the ENF.

Financial Impacts:

11. There are no financial impacts.

Regulatory Impacts:

12. There are no regulatory impacts.

Consultation:

13. DFAT COVID-19 taskforce and the Department of Health.

Attachments:

- Attachment A:** Letter the Prime Minister on Australia's approach to ENF.
- Attachment B:** Letter to International Ministers requesting a meeting
- Attachment C:** List of possible International Ministers
- Attachment D:** Talking points to assist DFAT in initiating the International meeting

Cleared: 11 / 06 / 2020

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