FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Australia's International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate

using Visible Digital Seal Technology

October 2021

Australian Passport Office's presentation to Biometrics Institute Congress

The Australian Government has introduced an International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate (ICVC) for outbound travellers.

- The certificate meets the new global standard specified by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and endorsed by the World Health Organization.
- 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 by passport control systems at borders around the world and will in due course be readable by COVID-19 travel apps such as the IATA TravelPass that many airlines are using.
- The certificate includes the holder's passport number as well as all the necessary vaccination details specified in the global standard, including the vaccine batch number.
- COVID-19 vaccination details are extracted from the Australian Immunisation Register, a national register that can only be updated by authorised health professionals.

Australian Government

International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate

Proof of Vaccination | Issued by AUS | Version 1 | UVCI VB0000000025

Protect the QR code from marks and damage

Name of the holder: **CITIZEN, JOHN**
Date of birth: **2004-03-20**
Sex: **M**
Passport number: **PA0940385**

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.

SPECIMEN

VACCINATION EVENT

Vaccine or prophylaxis:	Vaccine brand:	Disease or agent targeted:
XM68M6 (COVID-19)	**AstraZeneca Vaxzevria**	**RA01.0** (COVID-19)

Date of vaccination:	Dose number:	Country of vaccination:	Administering centre:	Vaccine batch number:
2021-04-02	**1**	**AUS**	**Community Nurse**	**317711P**

VACCINATION EVENT

Vaccine or prophylaxis:	Vaccine brand:	Disease or agent targeted:
XM68M6 (COVID-19)	**Moderna Spikevax**	**RA01.0** (COVID-19)

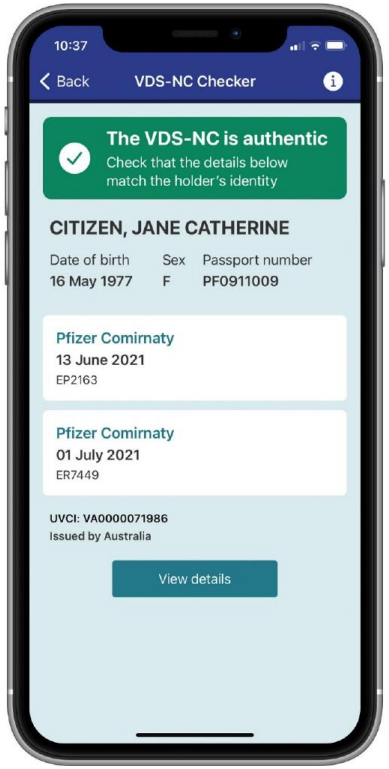
Date of vaccination:	Dose number:	Country of vaccination:	Administering centre:	Vaccine batch number:
2021-10-03	**2**	**AUS**	**Primary Health**	**Not recorded**

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.

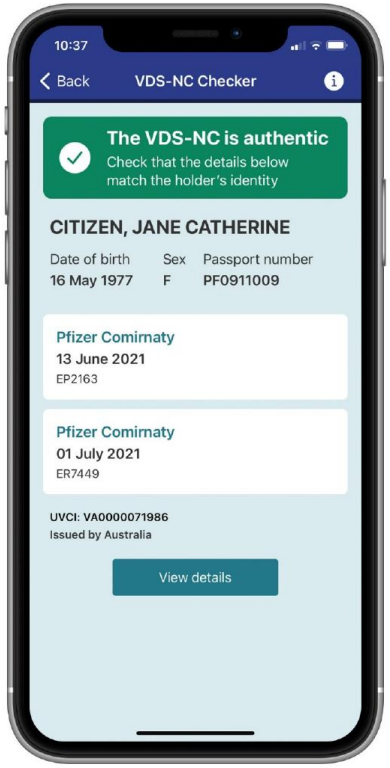
Existing passport readers can read and authenticate ICVCs with minor software updates. Australia is working with vendors to implement these updates.

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



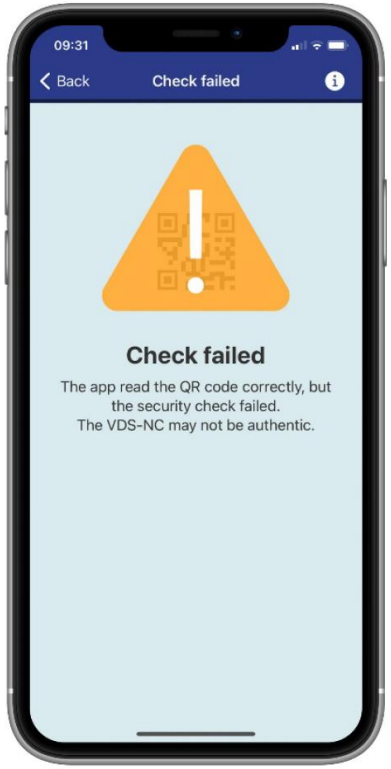
The app uses ICAO Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) to authenticate whether the QR code on the certificate is a genuine Visible Digital Seal written by Australian authorities.



If it is genuine, then the QR code is an authentic ICVC and the app displays the most important information from the certificate, including the holder's biodata and COVID-19 immunisations.

The app uses ICAO Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) to authenticate whether the QR code on the certificate is a genuine Visible Digital Seal written by Australian authorities.

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



About the app

Is the app just for Australian certificates?

While the initial release authenticates vaccination certificates issued by Australia, future updates will authenticate VDSs issued by all other VDS issuing countries.

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

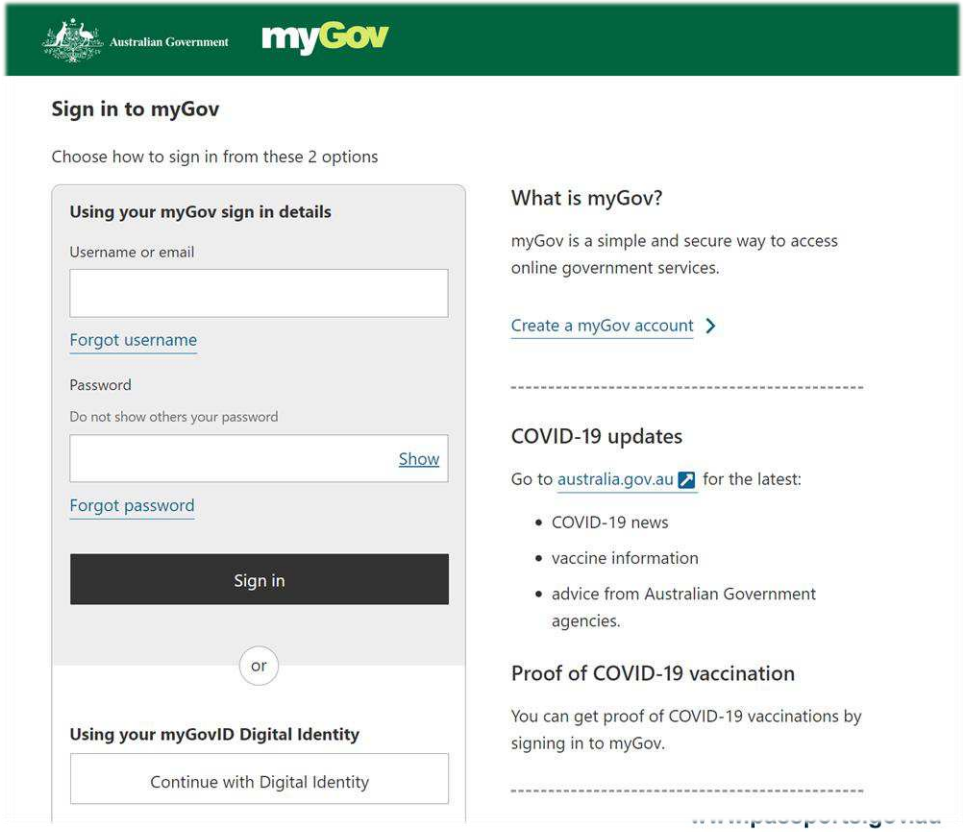
No, it shows the vaccination history. That's how the VDS standard is meant to work. It leaves decisions in the hands of inspecting authorities in the **receiving** state, not the **issuing** state.

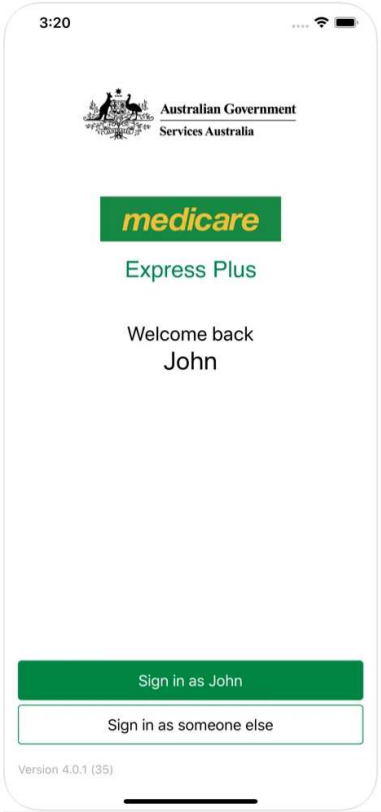
What about privacy?

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.

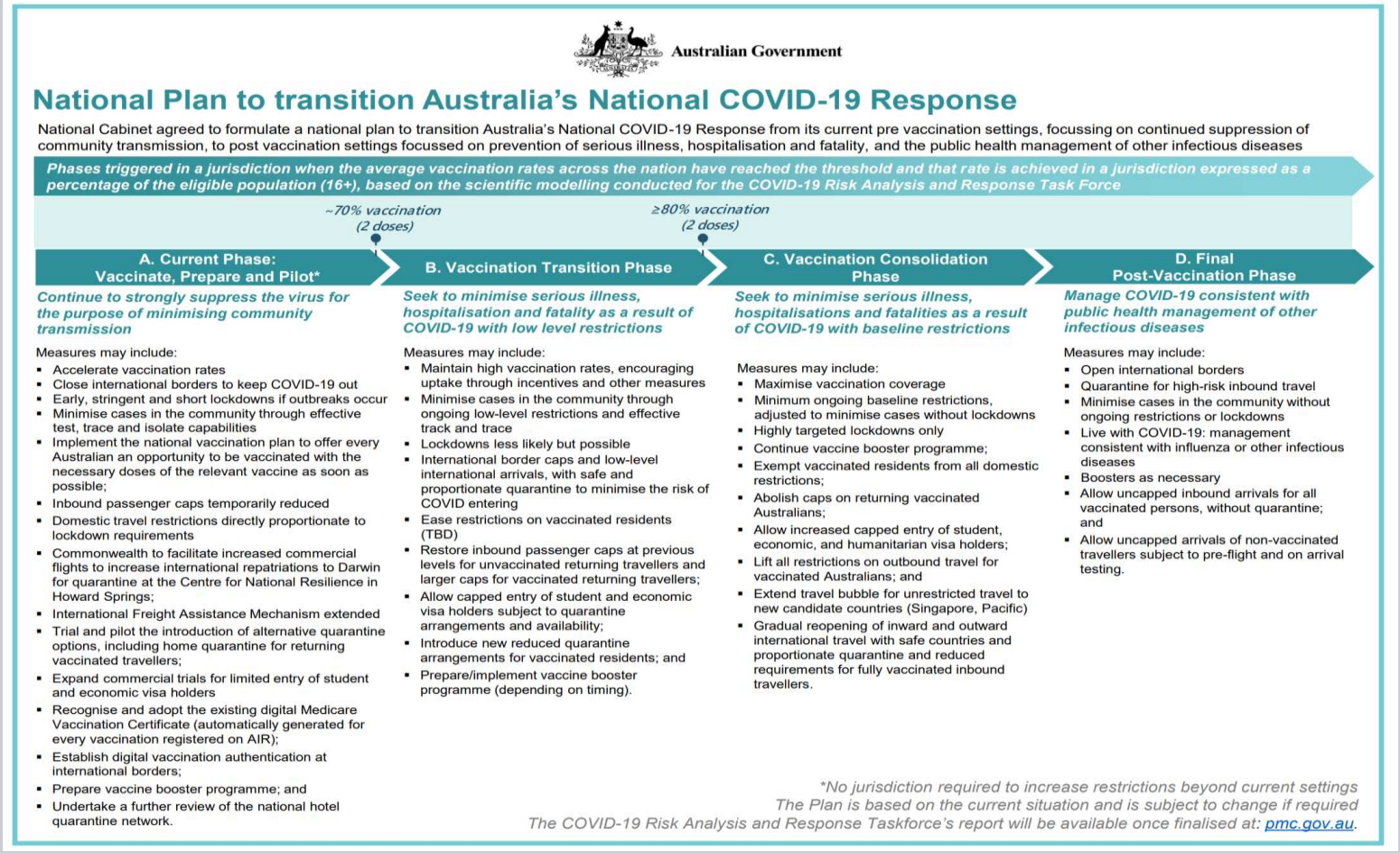
Requesting an ICVC

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





As part of Australia's National Transition Plan, Australia's international border will commence reopening in November. Inbound passenger limits will be removed for vaccinated Australians and a broader range of modified and reduced quarantine arrangements will be made available.



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

~70% vaccination (2 doses) — *≥80% vaccination (2 doses)*

A. Current Phase: Vaccinate, Prepare and Pilot*

Continue to strongly suppress the virus for the purpose of minimising community transmission

Measures may include:

- Accelerate vaccination rates
- Close international borders to keep COVID-19 out
- Early, stringent and short lockdowns if outbreaks occur
- Minimise cases in the community through effective test, trace and isolate capabilities
- Implement the national vaccination plan to offer every Australian an opportunity to be vaccinated with the necessary doses of the relevant vaccine as soon as possible;
- Inbound passenger caps temporarily reduced
- Domestic travel restrictions directly proportionate to lockdown requirements
- Commonwealth to facilitate increased commercial flights to increase international repatriations to Darwin for quarantine at the Centre for National Resilience in Howard Springs;
- International Freight Assistance Mechanism extended
- Trial and pilot the introduction of alternative quarantine options, including home quarantine for returning vaccinated travellers;
- Expand commercial trials for limited entry of student and economic visa holders
- Recognise and adopt the existing digital Medicare Vaccination Certificate (automatically generated for every vaccination registered on AIR);
- Establish digital vaccination authentication at international borders;
- Prepare vaccine booster programme; and
- Undertake a further review of the national hotel quarantine network.

B. Vaccination Transition Phase

Seek to minimise serious illness, hospitalisation and fatality as a result of COVID-19 with low level restrictions

Measures may include:

- Maintain high vaccination rates, encouraging uptake through incentives and other measures
- Minimise cases in the community through ongoing low-level restrictions and effective track and trace
- Lockdowns less likely but possible
- International border caps and low-level international arrivals, with safe and proportionate quarantine to minimise the risk of COVID entering
- Ease restrictions on vaccinated residents (TBD)
- Restore inbound passenger caps at previous levels for unvaccinated returning travellers and larger caps for vaccinated returning travellers;
- Allow capped entry of student and economic visa holders subject to quarantine arrangements and availability;
- Introduce new reduced quarantine arrangements for vaccinated residents; and
- Prepare/implement vaccine booster programme (depending on timing).

C. Vaccination Consolidation Phase

Seek to minimise serious illness, hospitalisations and fatalities as a result of COVID-19 with baseline restrictions

Measures may include:

- Maximise vaccination coverage
- Minimum ongoing baseline restrictions, adjusted to minimise cases without lockdowns
- Highly targeted lockdowns only
- Continue vaccine booster programme;
- Exempt vaccinated residents from all domestic restrictions;
- Abolish caps on returning vaccinated Australians;
- Allow increased capped entry of student, economic, and humanitarian visa holders;
- Lift all restrictions on outbound travel for vaccinated Australians; and
- Extend travel bubble for unrestricted travel to new candidate countries (Singapore, Pacific)
- Gradual reopening of inward and outward international travel with safe countries and proportionate quarantine and reduced requirements for fully vaccinated inbound travellers.

D. Final Post-Vaccination Phase

Manage COVID-19 consistent with public health management of other infectious diseases

Measures may include:

- Open international borders
- Quarantine for high-risk inbound travel
- Minimise cases in the community without ongoing restrictions or lockdowns
- Live with COVID-19: management consistent with influenza or other infectious diseases
- Boosters as necessary
- Allow uncapped inbound arrivals for all vaccinated persons, without quarantine; and
- Allow uncapped arrivals of non-vaccinated travellers subject to pre-flight and on arrival testing.

**No jurisdiction required to increase restrictions beyond current settings*
The Plan is based on the current situation and is subject to change if required
The COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response Taskforce's report will be available once finalised at: pmc.gov.au.

Passengers travelling to Australia once the border reopens will provide their International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate to prove their status as fully vaccinated.

- Travellers vaccinated overseas who travel to Australia will present a foreign-issued vaccination certificate.
- Most foreign vaccination certificate formats will be acceptable.
- Certificates will need to be in English or accompanied by a certified translation.
- Travellers will have to have received vaccines approved or recognised by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Get in touch

Visible Digital Seal Taskforce

vds.support@dfat.gov.au

Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

AUSTRALIAN PASSPORT OFFICE