

# COVIDSafe App

## GET THE FACTS



### COVIDSafe APP – WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

#### INTRODUCTION

The COVIDSafe app is a federal government initiative to speed up contacting people exposed to coronavirus (COVID-19) offering a community tracking service to manage infection points.

The new COVIDSafe app is completely voluntary. Downloading the app is something the government is recommending individuals do to protect each other and save the lives of other Australians. The government has advised that the more Australians connect to the COVIDSafe app, the quicker Government Health Departments can find the virus and reduce further transmission.

The COVIDSafe app has had a lot of commentary in the media and businesses are querying their role in this process. **It should be noted this is an individual choice and not one for companies to intervene or mandate, it is voluntary to download for all citizens.**

The government has indicated that if enough Australians download and use the app, it will make a difference in tracing possible cases of COVID-19. To date, over 2 million Australians have already downloaded the app since last Sunday. Below is an overview for you to read through and consider should you have concerns or your teams seek queries in this regard.

#### WHAT DO WE KNOW?

- Downloading the app is voluntary and a personal decision.
- People who decide to download the app will be asked to supply a name (which can be a pseudonym), their age range, a mobile number and post code.
- The app will have two stages of consent that users will have to agree to - initially when they download the app so data can be collected, and secondly to release that data on their phone if they are diagnosed with the virus.
- Using Bluetooth technology, the app "pings" or exchanges a "digital handshake" with another user when they come within 1.5 metres of each other, and then logs this contact and encrypts it.
- The data remains encrypted on a user's phone for 21 days, after which it is deleted if they have not been in contact with a confirmed case.
- If a person with the app tests positive to COVID-19, and provided they consent to sharing the information, it will be sent to a central server (in Australia) for health authorities to contact other people who have been in their proximity.

#### THE REAL MEDIA COLLECTIVE

Suite 6, 151 Barkly Avenue, Richmond VIC 3121

ABN: 13 540 235 566 T: 03 9421 2206 W: [therealmediacollective.com.au](http://therealmediacollective.com.au)

# COVIDSafe App

## GET THE FACTS



- A user of the app will be unable to access the data on their phone and Commonwealth officials and law enforcement will be unable to access the central server.
- The federal government has said it will regulate to prevent data from the app being moved offshore.
- The federal Health Minister has stated that for transparency he will release the source code of the app in the coming weeks.
- Like any digital application there is no absolute guarantee of it being impenetrable, however the data being collected is all but anonymised, and will not be used for commercial purposes.
- Users of the app can delete the app at any time and the information will be deleted.
- There have been privacy related concerns raised, however unlike other countries the Australian app does not use satellite location tracking.
- The Australian app uses Bluetooth technology, and users can limit Bluetooth access in their phone's privacy settings

Although this initiative is a personal and voluntary choice, legitimate steps that assist the easing of personal restrictions and help to rebuild our livelihood and in turn our economy should be strongly considered and is supported by industry groups.

If your employees raise concerns over the issue feel free to contact Charles Watson, our GM – IR, Policy and Governance, to discuss – [charles@thermc.com.au](mailto:charles@thermc.com.au) .