Thursday, June 24, 2021

Report on goPassport Covid Safe International and Domestic Travel Seminar and Business and Government Meetings - Canberra 16-17 June 2021.

Introduction

On 16th June in Canberra goPassport organised and conducted a seminar with 150 in-person and online attendees to present and discuss the key issues associated with opening up borders to Covid Safe international, domestic and 'bubble' travel.

Panel of Presenters

> **Lessons from the UK Traffic Light system** – Purple Umbrella UK (Charlie Bateson)

> **Green Certification Europe Challenges** – Good Health Pass (Rebecca Distler and Ethan Veneklasen)

> **The Role for Traveller Digital Credential Management** – CredShare (Grame Barty)

> **Trusting Testing Frameworks** – ThermoFisher (Richard Harrison)

> **Managed Travel in Dynamic Circumstances** – ATEC (Peter Shelley)

> **Know Not No – A Domestic Perspective** – goPassport (Matt McKinley)

> **Guiding, Monitoring, Alerting and Visibility** – goPassport (Klaus Felsche)

> **Future-Proofing Society Through Travel Data Modelling** – JCU (Dr Emma McBryde)

Key Findings

Travel across borders – and domestically – is a highly complex, confusing and ever-changing, 'no notice' environment.

Digital technology can provide significant risk mitigation to traveller journey pre-travel, at the border and in destination.

Solutions like goPassport move the burden of clearance for travel to before journey commencement, and then continuously update the traveller throughout their journey - including any return home requirements.

Good Health Pass is an independent, international organisation providing global collaboration on the path forward for Covid safe travel.

Good Health Pass, goPassport and CredShare all emphasised the importance of an individual having the ability to capture and manage all of the credentials required for travel at the border and in destination – not just Covid testing and Immunisation Certificates. A tool set that enables 'selective disclosure' by travelers and 'verified credentials' is key. Privacy issues around individual health data will require Government policy introduction.

Digital Solutions like goPassport can provide a valuable tool to assist the Government and industry to encourage the uptake of business, and international travel as well as the immediate return of international students and overseas skilled labour. Without such a capability opening up of Australian borders will continue to be challenging and uptake is unlikely to accelerate in 2021 or 2022.

The requirement for Covid safe travel technology solutions is less than a year old.

Different technology options each with their own solution focus are emerging. The travelling public seeks clarity on which solutions are viable - and for what purpose they will require them. Apple for example will not permit applications in its store that have not been recognised by an appropriate authority. In Australia then the Federal government is encouraged to:

- Create an accreditation framework, not unlike the myGovID Trusted Digital Identity Framework, but where different technology solutions can be categorised and endorsed by an independent authority as being secure and trustworthy, for the purpose they claim.

- Extend the Australian Immunisation Record (AIR), My Health Record Covid 19 Immunisation Certificate by allowing individuals to consent and share immunisation records from the AIR to third party digital wallets in order that a traveller can have faster access to the certificate for reuse, in any number of requirements, that they may have. This approach seems analogous to accounting system software having access to the Australian Taxation Office systems for client purposes.

Australia's current internal border, domestic and bubble travel management framework represents in microcosm the variations in approaches to travel management.

Many Australians are very familiar with the challenges associated with domestic, interstate travel. The risk of being subject to no-notice isolation is a major – and unnecessary - barrier to Australian tourism, international student, family-related and business travel.

The goPassport response has been to develop a cut-down version of its international product for use in Australia and New Zealand. The product, Know Not No, will be released in July 2021.

End of Report

Attachment A:

Key Findings: goPassport Seminar - Requirements for International and Domestic Borders to Open Safely

Attachment B:

Seminar Programme

Attachment A:

goPassport Seminar - Requirements for International and Domestic Borders to Open Safely

Reference: [YouTube Video of Seminar](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1FE8AXArb0) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1FE8AXArb0)

1. Overview

There is considerable variation across the globe with economies facing different positions in dealings with the pandemic. This also reflects government and industry responses with the emergence of policies, technological options, and other responses in an endeavour to manage the pandemic and post-pandemic travel environment.

Australia is now in an ideal position to leverage the lessons learned and in developing a unique, leading-edge framework that recognises Australian circumstances.

This makes the current work by the Federal government in framing a roadmap out of the pandemic, timely.

The government is now ideally placed to develop a framework that can leverage the energy from the industry while providing regulatory guidance, including appropriate standards and specifications. A component of the framework may be an accreditation model that would ensure that solution providers can deliver expected outcomes.

Considerable global effort has already been expended on developing frameworks such as the Good Health Pass Collaborative Principles, and these can inform the Australian position.

2. Traffic Lights for Borders

The UK 'Traffic Light' border management system is now in operation, and it has become evident that Australia will benefit from that experience.

In particular, travel industry commentary indicated that while 'Green' and 'Red' are easily understood by most, the 'Amber' status needs to be clearly defined.

Predictability and a transparent, science-based process are likely to be accepted by the community.

- There are complexities associated with a traffic-light border system. The UK experience has valuable lessons for Australia.

- A clear, transparent, and risk-based classification system is needed to provide travellers and the travel industry with the capacity to plan with confidence.

- Early warning of impending changes is required.

3. Travel and Health Passes

Broad, international consultation conducted by the Good Health Pass community has identified that there is broad consensus for concepts such as interoperability, identity management, privacy and data protection, and a need for trusted source data (e.g. vaccination and test results).

Placing the control of personal data into the hands of the individual was seen as paramount - as was the finding that any framework needs to recognise that not all individuals will have access to the latest technologies but should still be entitled to travel.

- A common set of operating principles is required to ensure global interoperability between Health/Travel Pass systems to avoid confusion.

- Travel pass systems need to be able to accommodate different border policies around the world.

- Data managed by travel/health pass systems rely on verifiable, valid data capture at the start of the process to generate and maintain trust.

- The protection of privacy and empowering the traveller with control of their data to determine with whom it is shared is a key attribute.

- A Health Travel Pass system requires equity for all travellers; that is it should not exclude travellers because they do not have a smartphone or access to the internet.

4. Trusted Covid-19 Testing Networks

A cornerstone capability is a trusted testing capability that is accessible and reliable. It was acknowledged that all tests and vaccines have a margin of error.

Any successful system needs to acknowledge the characteristics of tests and testing systems and ensure that the testing outcomes are understood in the travel context.

 But the travel context presents unique challenges.

For example, a high rate of false-positive test results can confuse, cause missed flights and congestion at ports. Conducting routine testing of travellers at ports for departure or arrival will place extraordinary pressures on the port, airline, and border management.

Therefore, the traveller should clearly understand, before arriving at the departure port, if they are clear to travel. Important 'clearance' functions will include:

- Reliable source data and identity management to ensure system integrity.

- On arrival testing capabilities will still be required to deal with a small number of travellers requiring exception-management.

- The primary focus for traveller 'clearance' must be on pre-travel testing networks to avoid on arrival bottlenecks and chokepoints (and perhaps poor decisions made under the pressure of time).

- Managing the identity of travellers throughout the process is as important as ensuring the reliability of the test results and ensuring that the test appropriate to the situation is used.

- Knowing the status of a traveller before that person arrives at the port enables safe and efficient, risk-based channelling of travellers through ports and avoids cross-infection.

5. Empowering Pandemic Research with Travel Data

The immense value of de-personalised data was highlighted by infectious diseases specialists.

- In the hands of skilled public research groups de-personalised travel data that is linked to testing, vaccination, and health event data can support the rapid analysis of virus characteristics, the effectiveness of tests and vaccines, identification of infection sources, and attack vectors.

- Predictive analytics may be able to identify early signs of an emerging epidemic/pandemic and lead to a fast response to minimise the spread.

6. Responding to Changed Circumstances while Travelling

The Australian travel industry was strongly represented and noted their continuing efforts to find solutions.

Industry stressed the need to re-establish predictability for international travel as a key requirement for sustainable tourism and business travel.

A major feature of future international travel will be digital platforms that inform and guide travellers through a potentially confusing and frequently changing regulatory landscape.

The travel industry can manage the traveller when circumstances force itinerary changes.

- Timely advice is a key enabler for managing changed circumstances.

- Digital platforms, powered by real-time analytics can connect the traveller to travel managers. An itinerary is no longer static but can be changed to reflect changes in risk or the regulatory environment.

- Early-stage travel, utilising a 'managed travel' process, can be enabled using digital platforms. A tightly controlled itinerary can be closely monitored and, when necessary, changed.

7. Guiding the traveller: real-time digital solutions will remove the complexity

The future of international travel provides a range of challenges for governments, the travel industry, and travellers.

There is a need to recognise that rules across the world will differ depending on national policies and prevailing circumstances. For travellers, this is likely to be confusing and is likely to lead to large-scale, if unintentional, non-compliance.

Modern digital solutions can provide step-by-step guidance, monitor compliance, and provide alerts if a traveller veers off track.

8. Domestic and 'Bubble' Travel: Creating Traveller Hesitancy

Australia's current internal border management framework represents in microcosm the variations in approaches to travel management.
Many Australians are very familiar with the challenges associated with domestic, interstate travel. Very short notice State border closures provide travellers with few options to mitigate or adapt their travel plans. Closing a border mid-flight; or considering a Victorian regional holiday traveller to Cairns, moving from the Tullamarine long-term car park to the terminal, as having been in a Greater Melbourne red zone Covid hotspot and subject to 14 days isolation on arrival in Cairns as a result; are two of the more extreme examples.

The risk of being subject to no-notice isolation is a major – an unnecessary - barrier to Australian tourism.

9. goPassport Provides a Solution for Domestic and Bubble Travel

The goPassport response has been to develop a cut-down version of its international product for use in Australia and New Zealand. The product, *Know not No* will be released in July 2021.

- Rapid changes in circumstances and the travel regulatory environment deter people from travelling while those who travel may inadvertently become non-compliant. This even applies to domestic travel in Australia and to and from New Zealand.

- Planning a journey requires a traveller to invest considerable time and effort in researching the plethora of official and unofficial sources.

- The situation can change rapidly and travellers may not be up-to-date.

- While this exists in the international travel environment, even travel across State and Territory boundaries in Australia represents a major information challenge.

Attachment B: Seminar Programme

Date	Time	Content	Attendees
Wed, 16 Jun	07:30 – 10:00	**Lessons from the UK Traffic Light system** – Purple Umbrella UK (Charlie Bateson) **Green Certification Europe Challenges** **–** Good Health Pass (Rebecca Distler and Ethan Veneklasen) **The Role for Traveller Digital Credential Management** – CredShare (Grame Barty) **Trusting Testing Frameworks** – ThermoFisher (Richard Harrison) **Managed Travel in Dynamic Circumstances** – ATEC (Peter Shelley) **Know no – A Domestic Perspective** – goPassport (Matt McKinley) **Guiding, Monitoring, Alerting and Visibility** – goPassport (Klaus Felsche) **Future-Proofing Society Through Travel Data Modelling** – JCU (Dr Emma McBryde)	Invited agencies & partners **Opened by:** Warren Entsch, MP Member for Leichhardt
	10:15 – 10:45	**5. Presenting** the goPassport concepts: **a.** Identify and quantify risk of locations, people and routes, **b.** Manage risk through risk-mitigation controls, **c.** manage as much risk offshore as possible, **d.** focus on the traveller: guide, monitor, alert, escalate, **e.** connectivity and interoperability, **f.** support international standards, **g.** generate trust in the data, and **h.** data protection, privacy and security. **i.** Credential management.	**Led by: Matt McKinley**

Yours sincerely,

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