What are Identity Matching Services?

Background

On 5 October 2017, the Intergovernmental Agreement on Identity Matching Services was endorsed by the Premier and other First Ministers at the Special Meeting of the Council of Australian Governments on Counter-Terrorism.

The objective of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) is to facilitate the secure, automated and accountable exchange of identity information, with robust privacy safeguards, in order to prevent identity crime and promote law enforcement, national security, road safety, community safety and service delivery outcomes.

Identity Matching Services

Identity Matching Services (IMS) include the Commonwealth Government's Document Verification Service and Face Matching Services.

Document Verification Service (DVS)

The DVS is a secure, national online system that enables approved agencies or organisations to verify biographical information on identity documents against the corresponding record held by a document issuing or authorised Entity. The DVS provides a 'yes' or 'no' response to queries as to whether certain biographical information on an identity document matches the official records held by the government authority that issued the document, and that the document has not been revoked.

The DVS has been available to Government agencies since 2009 and private sector organisations since 2014.

Face Matching Services (FMS)

FMS is a collective term for the Identity Matching Services that involve facial biometric matching, namely the Face Verification Service, Face Identification Service, Facial Recognition Analysis Utility Service and One Person One Licence Service.

Face Verification Service (FVS)

The FVS enables a facial image of an individual to be compared by an approved agency against a facial image held on a specific government record associated with that same individual. This is called a 'one-to-one' check and helps to confirm the identity of a known person. Use will be subject to strong safeguards so that information may only be disclosed with informed customer consent or when authorised at law, for example when applying for a driver's licence.

Face Identification Service (FIS)

The FIS compares a person's facial image against images in multiple government records to help establish their identity or to detect multiple fraudulent identities. This is called a 'one-to-many' check and helps to identify an unknown person.

The FIS is restricted to agencies with law enforcement or national security related functions, such as the Australian Federal Police, State and Territory Police and anti-corruption agencies for approved law enforcement purposes which are proportionate to

community harm. These harms are defined and generally cover more serious offences which carry three years or more imprisonment on conviction, or harms involving significant risks to life or public safety. These agencies will be able to conduct searches using FMS without requiring individual customer consent.

Facial Recognition Analysis Utility Service (FRAUS)

FRAUS is the service that will enable state and territory Road Agencies to conduct biometric matching using their own data holdings within the National Driver Licence Facial Recognition Solution. As DoT has its own biometric capabilities (in collaboration with WA Police) it is not anticipated that FRAUS will be used.

One Person One Licence Service (OPOLS)

OPOLS is the service that will enable a facial image to be compared, on a constrained one-to-many basis, to other images in the National Driver Licence Facial Recognition Solution to identify whether a licence holder or applicant holds multiple licences in the same or a different identity across participating jurisdictions. OPOLS will only be available to state and territory Road Agencies.

Technical Systems

Interoperability Hub (Hub)

The Hub is the technical system that provides the mechanism for the secure and auditable transmission of facial images and associated information between Agencies or Entities participating in the Face Matching Services.

The Hub operates via a 'hub and spoke' architecture. Participating entities at the 'spokes' either provide or request information on a query and response basis. The interoperability hub acts as a router to relay identification information between participating Agencies or Entities.
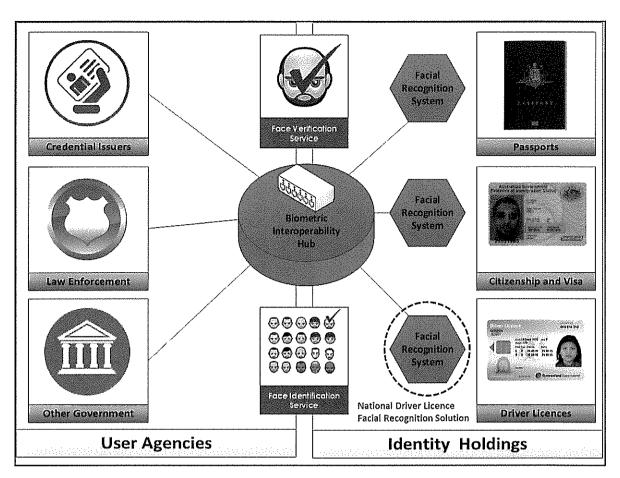
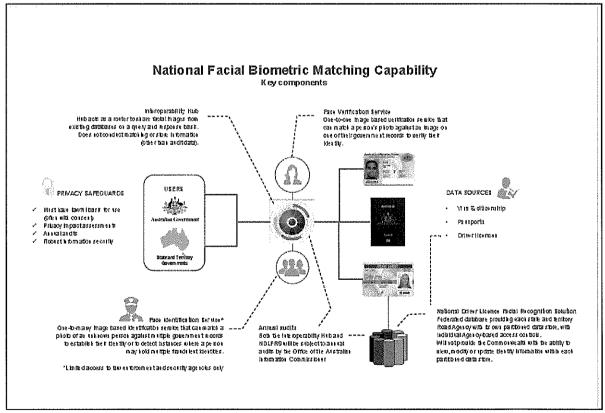Unlike the NDLFRS the Hub does not store identification information.

National Driver Licence Facial Recognition Solution (NDLFRS)

The NDLFRS is the information technology system by which facial images used on driver licences and other state and territory government issued documents (such as proof of age or photo cards) can be accessed via the Face Matching Services.

The NDLFRS is a partitioned database in which images and biographical details contained on driver's licences, learner's permits and (in the future photo cards) are stored for use in FMS. Each road agency maintains control over their partition in the NDLFRS and the Commonwealth cannot see or modify identity information data that is contained within each State or Territory's partition in the database.

National Facial Biometric Matching Capability