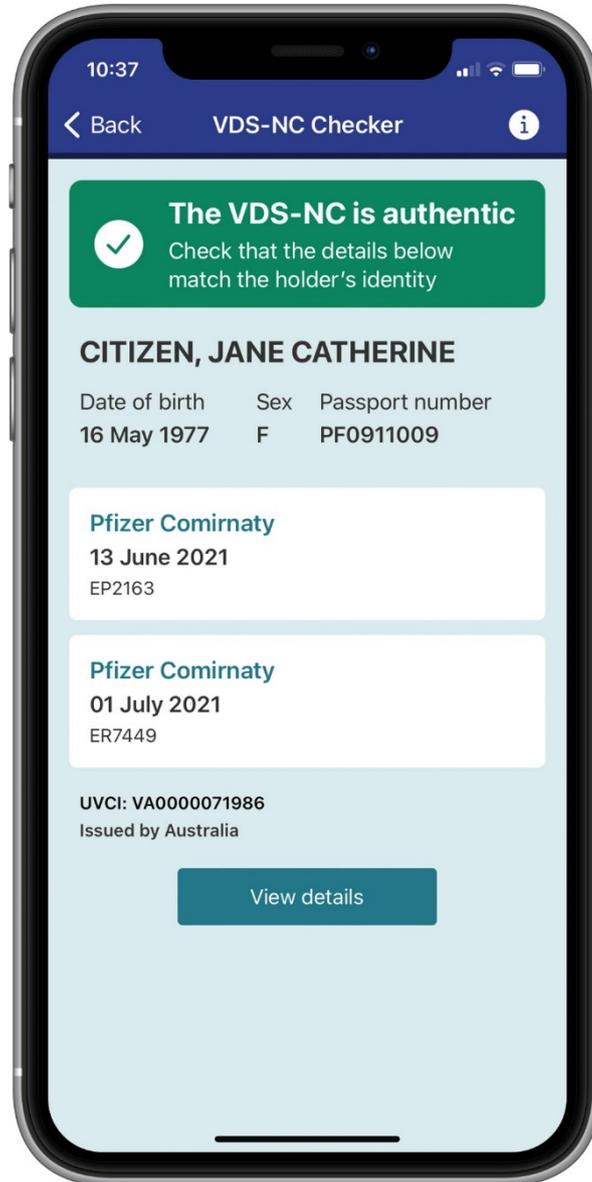




The VDS-NC Checker app



What is VDS-NC?

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has [specified](#) Visible Digital Seals as its standard for cross-border digital health certificates, including COVID-19 vaccination and testing certificates. The World Health Organization has endorsed the standard.

ICAO first developed Visible Digital Seals in 2016. The European Union has proved the technology by using it on Schengen visas. In May 2021, ICAO adapted the standard for use in health certificates. To avoid confusion between visa and health uses, the official name of the health standard is 'Visible Digital Seals for Non-Constrained Environments' or **VDS-NC**.

VDS-NC certificates are **secure** and **interoperable**. They:

- leverage the **ePassport public key infrastructure** (PKI) that ICAO member states around the world have been using since 2004
- are like a passport chip in QR format, with the same high level of **security against forgery**
- can be **authenticated offline**, using keys available from the [ICAO Public Key Directory](#) and other published Master Lists, such as the [German Master List](#)
- comply with **World Health Organization** guidance on digital secure vaccination certificates
- are compatible with digital wallets and COVID-19 travel apps such as the **IATA TravelPass**.

Because VDS-NC uses the same ICAO PKI as ePassports, it will be simple for suppliers to update passport reader software and QR apps to process VDS-NCs. But because the standard is new, not all suppliers have made these changes. To fill any gaps, and ensure that no authority is without the capacity to process VDS-NCs, the Australian Passport Office has developed the VDS-NC Checker app.

What does the app do?

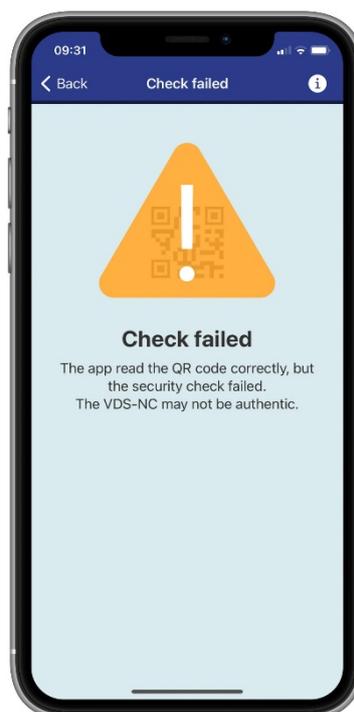
The app uses ICAO PKI to authenticate whether a 2D barcode under inspection:

- is a VDS-NC
- was written by the purported issuing authority
- is unaltered.

If the answer to all these questions is yes, then the QR code is an **authentic VDS-NC**.

If the VDS-NC is authentic, the app displays the most important information from the certificate, including the holder's biodata and COVID-19 immunisations. There's also an option to view the **full set of data** on the certificate.

If the QR code is **not a VDS-NC**, or if it's **not authentic**, the app displays a message to that effect:



Is the app just for Australian certificates?

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

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

No, it shows the **vaccination history** so that **you** can judge if the holder is fully vaccinated.

That's how the VDS-NC 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 from you – there's no login or password. You don't have to enter your email address or phone number. And the app doesn't store or transmit any of the information it reads from VDS-NCs.

More information is in our [Privacy statement](#).