# Third Party Identity Services Assurance Framework

This Framework provides a piece of the policy environment required to allow the development by the private sector and other government entities of the enabling ICT infrastructure of the digital economy.

The Assurance Framework is a whole-of-government approach for the accreditation of ‘identity services’ offered by commercial service providers to government agencies. The range of accredited services include:

* verification service providers, who enable people to have claims regarding their identity or other attributes verified online;
* authentication service providers, who provide people with credentials (e.g. a username and password) to enable access to a variety of digital services;
* digital mailboxes, which enable people to receive correspondence from participating agencies in a single digital ‘in box’; and,
* personal data vaults, which enable people to store and retrieve their personal data electronically, including the storage of electronic copies of personal records such as birth certificates.

The underlying premise of the framework is that based on an understanding of agency requirements, individuals will be able to choose to use the services offered by accredited service providers in order to access digital government services. Equally, a key premise is that individuals should not be forced to hold multiple credentials to access the range of government services they require.

**Print formatted version of the Assurance Framework – PDF (811 kb)**

## Why is this important?

The Assurance Framework is underpinned by existing Australian Government security frameworks:

* the [Protective Security Policy Framework](https://www.protectivesecurity.gov.au/ExecutiveGuidance/Documents/ProtectiveSecurityPolicyFrameworkSecuringGovernmentBusiness.pdf)
* the [Australian Government Information Security Manual](http://www.asd.gov.au/infosec/ism/) and
* the [Australian Privacy Principles](http://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy-law/privacy-act/australian-privacy-principles) and

Informed by existing policy frameworks such as:

* the National e-Authentication Framework
* the Gatekeeper Public Key Infrastructure Framework
* the [National Identity Security Strategy](http://www.ag.gov.au/RightsAndProtections/IdentitySecurity/Documents/National%20Identity%20Security%20Strategy%202012.PDF)
* the [National Identity Proofing Guidelines](https://www.ag.gov.au/RightsAndProtections/IdentitySecurity/Documents/NationalIdentityProofingGuidelines.pdf)

## How do I?

* Apply for Accreditation
* See who is Accredited
* See who is undergoing accreditation