

Vendor Working Group on Verifiable Credentials for People of New Zealand.

Trusted Ecosystems – Scope & Approach

At the Digital Trust Hui in August 2025, Minister Collins asked vendors to come together to define their role in supporting the verifiable credentials ecosystem for New Zealand. Digital Identity New Zealand (DINZ), as an agnostic industry body, will host and mediate this working group to ensure outcomes are trusted, collaborative, and aligned to national goals.

With the DISTF Act enabling issuing parties and wallet holders to be accredited, there is no focus on the role of the Relying Party.

The immediate focus of this working group is to ensure that vendors are aligned in the delivery of solutions for Relying Parties in accordance with the Purpose below.

Purpose:

To convene invited vendors to provide a common aligned approach for holders of digital identity and verifiable credentials (VC's) that delivers:

- Trust and confidence for the holder when using their VC's
- Simplicity in the UX/UI for the holder
- Commonality in approach to ensure ease of adoption
- A safeguard for VC holders to provide confidence that their data is being used as requested and approved by the VC holder
- Ensure that a holder of VC's has confidence in the Relying Party through the presence of an agreed approach to market conduct
- Identify gaps that platform technology cannot solve alone, such as privacy assurance, transparency, and citizen trust.
- Develop a coordinated market message that builds adoption and confidence among agencies, organisations and the public.
- Ensure VC's are delivered in a way that is safe, interoperable and trusted by all New Zealanders.

Timeframe:

The first deliverables, including communications strategy, are to be completed within 3 months, i.e. mid-December 2025

Principles:

- Human-centred: The group will operate with the principle that trust, safety, and usability for New Zealanders comes before commercial advantage.
- Decentralisation is collaborative: The VC ecosystem must be interoperable by design, requiring open and agile engagement.
- Play-well-with-others stratagem: All invited parties to come into the group with the understanding that not one vendor can or will do it all in relation to the technology/solution for a VC Ecosystem.

- Change Management above all else: without a clearly aligned message, support models and adoption plan, issuers and end users will not be forthcoming to use the solution.
- Transparency builds trust: Clear rules for privacy, data handling, and accountability are needed to overcome the “trust gap” (e.g. risks of back-door access, unclear monetisation of data).
- The group’s outputs will feed into DINZ’s Trusted Ecosystem Programme, extending trust in verifiable credentials with a focus on relying parties, privacy assurance, and common user experience.

Key Deliverables

- Terms of Reference & Code of Conduct (DINZ mediated).
- Common UX/UI (patterns)
- An agreed approach (Circle of Trust) ensuring::
 - The VC holders data is being used as requested and approved by the VC holder
 - The data is not being used for purposes outside of the requested intent
 - That the Relying Party is audited every 12 months to ensure conformity of agreed standards
 - Establishing a consensus around a shared UX/UI across the ecosystem
 - A workable model for governance
- Oversight Mechanism of the Relying Parties
- Common language and messaging to all parties

Scope of the Working Group

- 1. UX/UI**
 - Use Cases - Start by mapping use cases and user journeys - B2C
 - Agree preferred approach for Relying Party transactions - UX, technology flow.
- 2. Trust, Privacy Requirements**
 - What are the key principles that we all agree should be in place to ensure Trust, Security and Privacy
- 3. Relying Party Obligations**
 - What obligations should the Relying Party have to the VC Holder and broader ecosystem
 - How are these to be enforced
 - What if they are not enforced
 - What of bad actors
- 4. Circle of Trust, Code of Conduct & Terms of Reference**
 - Vendors agree to a DINZ-mediated Code of Conduct, committing to transparent, collaborative behaviour.
 - Shared adherence to the Circle of Trust as a benchmark for participation.
 - Consideration of a commercial model(s) for a DINZ-governed model
- 5. Messaging**
 - Establish a shared narrative for the Relying Party messaging, consistent with the broader DINZ ecosystem

- How to ensure public understanding and trust is built and maintained

Vendor Participation – Initial Workshop

To ensure the first big room workshop is effective and manageable, we will limit participation to 8-10 vendors. The objective is to bring together a balanced mix of contributors who represent the core building blocks of the verifiable credential ecosystem:

- Consulting and architecture specialists to guide agencies in adoption.
- Wallet and application developers to shape user-facing experiences.
- Platform providers and integrators to enable issuance and verification at scale.
- Trust, security, and payments vendors to anchor confidence and extend interoperability.

This small, diverse group provides a strong foundation for collaboration and avoids diluting early sessions. Additional vendors and sector specialists can be added as the working group matures.

The first workshop will establish scope, shared principles, and initial deliverables. Subsequent sessions can expand participation and deep-dive into priorities like use cases and market communication.

Proposed Initial Vendor List

- UNIFY Solutions: Brings consulting, architecture and user journey expertise; experience with digital identity, credential issuance management and alignment with government frameworks.
- SUSH Labs: Specialists in wallet design and mobile user experiences; critical to ensure that credentials are usable and intuitive for New Zealanders.
- Datacom: Major government systems integrator with capacity to deliver VC solutions at scale across multiple agencies.
- NEC: Strong in biometrics, high-assurance identity verification, and integration into security and access management solutions.
- Microsoft: Provider of Entra Verified ID, the global VC platform being adopted across the world for digital credentials. Essential for technology alignment and roadmap clarity.
- MATTR: Specialists in decentralised identity; brings credibility, local innovation, and international interoperability expertise.
- Entrust: Global leader in PKI, certificate lifecycle management, and trust infrastructure; strengthens the assurance and security layer of the ecosystem.
- Spark: National cloud and managed services provider, ensuring scalability, hosting, and support for government workloads.
- Worldline: Payment and transaction services provider, representing the financial services sector and demonstrating how VCs can extend into everyday transactions and consumer trust.

- IBM - Prann Rawal
- AWS Digital Public Infrastructure - Pete Herlihy
- Middleware - David Mabon
- Google Cloud - Hillary O'Connor - Public Sector GM
- One NZ -

Next Steps

To progress the Vendor Working Group, the following actions will need to be discussed.

- 1. Agree the above**
- 2. Confirm Initial Vendor List**
 - Finalise the first 8–10 vendors to participate, ensuring balance across consulting, wallets, platforms, integrators, and trust/security providers.
 - DINZ to mediate and validate selection to ensure neutrality and transparency.
- 3. Set Workshop Date & Location**
 - Propose holding the first big room engagement in Wellington or Auckland neutral venue.
 - Target date: early October 2025 to allow time for preparation and invitations.
- 4. Issue Invitations**
 - DINZ, with the Chair, to send invitations to confirmed vendors outlining:
 - Purpose of the workshop
 - Draft agenda (scope, principles, vendor roles, communication alignment).
 - Expectations for participation and Code of Conduct.
- 5. Prepare Workshop Materials**
 - Chair Andrew and Craig (with DINZ support) to prepare:
 - Draft Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct.
 - Market Offering Catalogue template for vendors to complete.
 - Initial “Shared Vendor Library” structure (patterns, comms, UX).
- 6. Define Deliverables for Workshop 1**
 - Agreement on group purpose, scope and operating principles.
 - Validation of vendor contributions and role mapping.
 - Alignment on communication to market (initial joint message).
- 7. Plan Ongoing Engagement**
 - Agree cadence of meetings (e.g. monthly virtual, quarterly in-person).
 - Identify priority use cases (education, health, financial services) for follow-on workshops.