Participant Interview - ShareRing

27/05/2025

Tony Allen

Work Package: WP4 - Evaluation Activity
Task Reference: Participant Interviews

Funded by

Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Project by

Age Check Certification Scheme

Document Control Information

Settings	Value
Document Title:	Participant Interview - ShareRing
Work Package:	**WP4 - Evaluation Activity**
Tasking Reference:	AATT/WP
Document Author:	Tony Allen
Work Package Lead:	Mark Pedersen
Task Leader:	Tony Allen
Doc. Version:	1
Sensitivity:	Public
Date:	27/05/2025

Document Approver(s) and Reviewer(s):

All Approvers are required. Records of each approver must be maintained.
All reviewers in the list are considered required unless explicitly listed as Optional.

Name	Role	Action	Date
Tony Allen	Task Leader (always required)	Approved	27-05-2025
Mark Pedersen	Work Package Leader (always required)	<Approved/Reviewed>	<DD-MM-YYYY>
Keith Robinson	Finance Director (only required if allocation of funding or expenditure is required)	N/A	<DD-MM-YYYY>
Danielle Bradbury	Risk Management (only required if new risks identified)	N/A	<DD-MM-YYYY>
Andrew Hammond	Deputy Project Director (optional)	Reviewed	<DD-MM-YYYY>
Tony Allen	Project Director (optional)	N/A	<DD-MM-YYYY>

Configuration Management: <Document Location>

The latest version of this controlled document is stored in <location>.

Document history:

The Document Author is authorized to make the following types of changes to the document without requiring that the document be re-approved:

- Editorial, formatting, and spelling
- Clarification

To request a change to this document, contact the Document Author or Project Owner. Changes to this document are summarized in the following table in reverse chronological order (latest version first).

Revision	Date	Revision by	Short Description of Changes
0.1	27/05/2025	Tony Allen	Document Created, Transcript Analysed, Shared with Participant for Review

Table of Contents

This document forms part of the Age Assurance Technology Trial (AATT) and provides a consolidated summary of the interview conducted with an age assurance technology provider participating in the trial. The interview was conducted via a Microsoft Teams meeting and represents the agreed summary of the discussion with the vendor.

The questions for this interview were shared with the vendor in advance, ensuring a structured and transparent approach. However, the interview also flowed dynamically, allowing for exploration of specific aspects of the vendor's technology that were directly relevant to the Australian context. The primary purpose of this interview was to engage with the vendor on their submitted practice statement, delving deeper into their technology, policies and deployment approach, particularly in relation to the Australian regulatory, cultural and operational environment.

This document is intended to support transparency and consistency in the evaluation process by providing a structured record of the discussion. It helps ensure that insights gathered through this interview are available to policymakers, industry stakeholders and researchers as part of the AATT's broader methodology. This interview complements the vendor's practice statement, technical demonstration and structured system testing undertaken during the trial, providing a richer, multi-dimensional perspective on the readiness, privacy compliance and operational effectiveness of the age assurance system.

Disclaimer

The inclusion of this interview summary does not constitute endorsement, certification or approval of any product, service, or provider. The interview captures the perspectives and claims of the vendor as discussed with the trial team, but they have not been independently verified in full. While the discussion has informed the trial's evaluation activities, it remains the responsibility of the provider who participated in the discussion.

No guarantee is given as to the completeness, accuracy or ongoing applicability of the information provided in this interview. The trial team has assessed this discussion within the scope of the AATT only and its inclusion here should not be interpreted as regulatory acceptance, market readiness or policy endorsement.

Summary of ShareRing Participant Interview Responses

Executive Summary

ShareRing delivers secure, privacy-first, blockchain-based age and identity verification using government-issued IDs and biometric checks. Its decentralized system ensures data minimization, high accuracy, broad accessibility, and regulatory compliance across diverse industries, supporting both individual autonomy and robust safeguards for children.

Interview Responses

Section 1 - Background and Overview

Q1: Overview of the system and its primary functionality

ShareRing is a blockchain-based digital identity verification platform offering decentralized, secure, and privacy-preserving services. Its core functionality includes verifying, managing, and sharing identity credentials using the ShareRing Me app, with integration capabilities for businesses through ShareRing Link APIs.

Q2: What is done to ensure age assurance?

ShareRing ensures age assurance through age verification using government-issued ID documents and biometric face matching. It avoids facial estimation or behavioral inference and supports zero-knowledge proofs, allowing users to prove they are over a certain age without revealing full personal data.

Q3: Inspiration for development and key problems it aims to solve

The system was developed to combat identity fraud and eliminate centralized data storage vulnerabilities. It gives users control over their data through self-sovereign identity (SSI), enabling secure access to services like KYC, AML, and age-restricted content while preserving privacy.

Q4: Industries or use cases currently utilizing the system

- Finance (e.g., Various UK banks through Select ID partnership, Bank of Anguilla, FundedHere crowdfunding in Singapore)
- Employment (e.g., Right to Work checks)
- Nightlife (e.g., trials in Florida)

- Online retail & e-commerce (e.g., Shopify)
- Education (e.g., schools verifying students, student IDs)
- Regulated digital services

ShareRing's services are global with integrations in Australia, USA, Japan, Singapore, Vietnam, the UK, Caribbean, and more.

Q5: Assessments of impact on fundamental rights, including children's rights

ShareRing has considered the impact on rights, particularly for children, and designed its systems to comply with GDPR, Australian Privacy Act, and UKDIATF, ensuring data minimization and user autonomy.

Section 2 - Privacy and Data Protection

Q6: Types of data collected, processed, and stored

- Processed: ID documents, liveness detection, biometric verification, passive & active checks
- Stored (only on device): Credentials in self-sovereign wallet
- On ShareRing servers: Only email addresses; all other data is encrypted and transient

Q7: How is data collection determined?

ShareRing uses purpose limitation and data minimization. Only data necessary for specific verifications (e.g., age, identity) is processed.

Q8: Specific purposes of data collection

- To create verifiable credentials
- To support identity and age verification for accessing services
- To fulfill merchant compliance like AML or PEP checks

Q9: Can ShareRing track users' activities?

The platform is fully compliant with Australian Privacy Act, Children’s Privacy Guidelines, GDPR, DIATF, and ISO 27001. Privacy by design is a foundational principle.

Q10: Data encryption and security measures

Users can:

- Delete the app to remove local data
- Request deletion of any held data (e.g., email) via customer support

Q11: Can ShareRing be hacked?

ShareRing uses:

- Cryptographic hashing

- Merkle trees
- Salting
- Blockchain anchoring to ensure tamper-proof, anonymous records

Section 3 - System Security and Fraud Prevention

Q12: How does the system prevent fraud?

The system minimizes digital footprint by:

- Not storing PII at rest
- Using zero-knowledge proofs
- Avoiding data collection beyond necessary attributes

Q13: Can users share their keys?

Security protocols include:

- TLS 1.2+ for data in transit
- AES-256 for email at rest
- SHA-256 encryption for vault data on user devices
- Secure by design and end-to-end encryption

Q14: What measures prevent unauthorized key use?

Protection against misuse/spoofing

- Liveness detection
- Biometric verification
- OCR, font, layout checks
- Passive and active checks on NFC-enabled IDs
- Integration with third-party fraud and AML tools (e.g., Onfido)

Q15: Has the system undergone external validation?

ShareRing:

- Is ISO 27001 certified
- Undergoes regular penetration testing
- Follows OWASP best practices
- Undergoes audits as part of DIATF certification

Section 4 - Accessibility and Inclusivity

Q16: How does ShareRing accommodate users with disabilities or low digital literacy?

- Compliant with WCAG 2.1
- Supports native screen readers, large fonts
- Future features include voice/video guidance
- Simple language
- Clear iconography
- Tooltips and contextual prompts

Q17: Considerations for First Nations and Indigenous communities

- Consulted First Nations groups and schools
- Adapted workflows and design based on feedback

Q18: How does the system support children in government care?

- No parent linkage required for verification
- Third-party (e.g., caseworker) validation is possible
- Working on optional parent controls

Section 5 - User Support and Adoption Challenges

Q19: How does ShareRing handle user feedback and complaints?

- In-app chatbot and live support
- Website chatbot
- Email support
- User feedback is taken seriously

Q20: Key strengths of ShareRing compared to competitors

- Certainty over estimation
- Decentralized, privacy-first design
- Interoperability and easy integration

Q21: Biggest challenge in adoption

- Initial friction (user must download app)
- Limited access to official IDs, especially for youth
- Lack of open access to some state digital ID systems

Final Notes

ShareRing believes in user control, privacy, and flexible age assurance. The company views the Australian Age Assurance Technology Trial as a vital step in setting global best practices.