

There are 2 strong reasons for keeping the cheque system: options and security.

It is infinitely better to have options. Sometimes it is simply not possible to withdraw cash, and digital transactions are at the mercy of the internet and its vulnerable connections and often limited access. When you must make a large payment to a business, that is not practical to do with cash, without cheques as an alternative, you are left with nothing other than a digital transaction, which may not be available at the moment you need it. Writing a cheque is a perfect solution.

A friend of mine has had some experience in the disability sector, and suggested that having cheques available is very good, because some people with disabilities can't use digital technology at all, and carrying too much cash on their person was hazardous. Keeping the cheque system is warranted if only to make life easier for some people with disabilities.

Keeping cheques also helps curb tax avoidance by some businesses. If a customer doesn't utilise digital transactions, and many still don't, and cheques are removed, those customers will be paying their service providers in cash, which allows the providers to avoid disclosing the payment to the ATO.

Digital scammers are only increasing in their scope and cunningness. Again, in the example of needing to make a payment to a business, where cash is impractical either because of the amount or because you cannot pay the business in person, posting a cheque is also the perfect solution to avoid the risk of digital theft. As scams become more widespread and sophisticated, I would have thought that that only strengthens the case for us to keep the alternatives, which includes keeping the cheque system.