

Dear Select Committee on Adopting Artificial Intelligence,

As an employee of Humanitix, a ticketing platform that has donated over \$10 million to charitable initiatives both locally and globally, I have a vested interest in the future of technology and its ethical implications. I write to you today to express my concerns and provide suggestions regarding the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Australia.

Firstly, I strongly believe that Australia should promptly follow in the steps of countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Japan in establishing a National AI Safety Institute. While the Government has shown interest in regulating AI, it's clear that we cannot wait for new legislation given the rapid pace of AI development. Below I've included an example of the rapid progress of an image generation tool like Midjourney in under 2 years.

**Midjourney generations over time:
"a hyper-realistic image of Harry Potter"**

Source: [Midjourney, 2023](#)



Creating a National AI Safety Institute in Australia would allow us to work towards safe AI without legislative delay, and it could immediately undertake valuable work. We could learn from the UK model and focus on three core priorities: evaluating advanced AI systems, driving foundational AI safety research, and partnering nationally and internationally on AI safety.

Evaluating AI systems would allow us to review new systems, understand their safeguards, and consider any potential impacts. This includes "red-teaming", where trusted experts attempt to bypass safeguards or find potential dangers.

An AI Safety Institute would also drive safety research, ensuring that public interest is protected as AI capabilities rapidly advance.

Finally, partnering on AI safety would enable Australia to participate in international collaborations, information-sharing, and standards development.

Such an institute could also serve as preparation for any future regulatory regime, allowing us to develop the technical capacity and capability to administer legislation. This would provide us

with more information and options when implementing regulations. Considering the rapid and unpredictable nature of AI, an AI Safety Institute is the best way to protect our national interest.

Moreover, I believe the Australian Government's top priority should be preventing potentially dangerous or catastrophic outcomes from AI. Research by Ready Research and The University of Queensland indicates that most Australians share these concerns. The top response when asked what people worry about from AI was safety, trustworthiness, and alignment with human values.

I can vouch for this sentiment from my personal discussions with friends and family. Concerns include AI being used for cyber-attacks, the creation of novel biological weapons, and the loss of control over advanced AI systems that do not align with human values. There is a valid concern that AI could pose catastrophic risks if governments do not take safety seriously.

While I commend the Government's focus on driving AI adoption through initiatives like CSIRO's National AI Centre, I believe more emphasis should be placed on managing the larger risks of AI. It is the proper function of governments to address large-scale risks that are beyond the individual's capacity.

In conclusion, I urge this Committee to recommend that the Government prioritize AI safety issues alongside its current focus on AI adoption and addressing immediate problems posed by AI.

Regards, Sam Grew