

Australia's interim response on safe AI weighs mandatory rules for high-risk uses

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The Australian Government has published its interim response to the safe and responsible AI consultation held in 2023.

The interim response outlines what the Australian public, academia and businesses told us about safe and responsible AI. It also details how the government is and will take action now and in the longer term.

The consultation received over 500 submissions. Over 20% of submissions were from individuals, showing that citizens care about safe and responsible AI. We also heard from 345 virtual town hall attendees and over 200 roundtable attendees.

The consultation made it clear that AI systems and applications are helping to improve wellbeing and quality of life, as well as growing our economy. However, current regulatory frameworks do not fully address the risks of AI.

Submissions called for further guardrails on legitimate but high-risk uses of AI, as well as unforeseen risks from powerful 'frontier' models.

The government wants the design, development and deployment of AI in legitimate high-risk settings to be safe and reliable. However, it aims to ensure that AI can continue being used in low-risk settings largely unimpeded.

The government will do this by:

* using testing, transparency and accountability measures to prevent harms from occurring in high-risk settings * clarifying and strengthening laws to safeguard citizens * working internationally to support the safe development and deployment of AI * maximising the benefits of AI.

* ### Read the interim response on our consultation hub

More information

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The minister announced the interim response on 17 January 2024 (external link)

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Our department recognises the First Peoples of this Nation and their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to the lands, waters, seas, skies, and communities.

We Acknowledge First Nations Peoples as the Traditional Custodians and Lore Keepers of the oldest living culture and pay respects to their Elders past and present. We extend that respect to all First Nations Peoples.

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