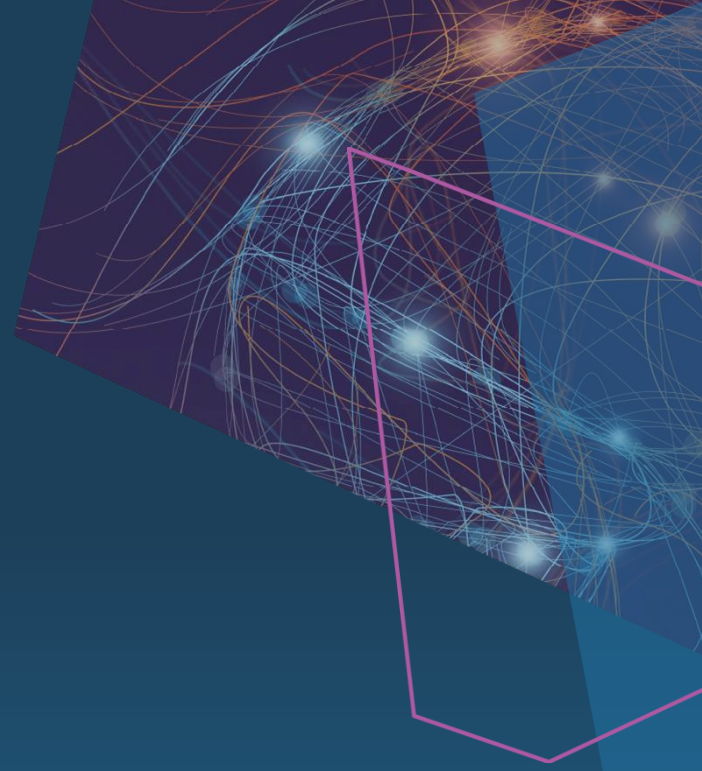
Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science and Resources

National Artificial Intelligence Centre



National AI Centre

June 2025

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industry.gov.au/NAIC

What I'll cover today

- Introduction to the National AI Centre
- AI use in Australia
- Key role of AI trust – our foundation for AI Adoption
- Resources for AI trust – AI Ethics Principles and Voluntary AI Safety Standard
- Your involvement
- Resources and next steps

National AI Centre mission

Accelerate positive AI adoption and innovation that benefits Australia's business and community.

Adoption

Enable responsible AI adoption across industry

+

Creation

Grow a responsible, AI Industry in Australia

Defining AI

- AI systems are **computer programs** that use computing power and algorithms to learn patterns from data. They use these patterns to make decisions or generate outputs.
- AI is currently mostly task/domain specific technology, though researchers are working towards more general-purpose systems.
- AI is increasingly part of our daily lives and will transform every sector of the Australian economy and society.

What is unique about AI?

AI systems can **adapt and learn** continuously.

AI systems can authentically imitate aspects of **human perception, reasoning and language.**

AI can **generate new content and ideas** by recombining learned patterns. Distinguishing between human and AI-generated content is increasingly difficult.

AI operates at a **scale and speed** that humans cannot match.

Unlike other technologies, AI is not just a tool. It is increasingly an agent, **capable of acting with little to no human oversight.**

We know how to build AI, but experts **can't explain exactly how general-purpose AI works.**

We're moving from *tasks* to *agents*.

Right now, AI is automating repetitive & time-consuming tasks

- Reconciliations and invoice data extraction
- Conducting legislative research and technical interpretation
- Retrieving and analysing company data
- Generating insights for advisory services

AI agents are being designed to take initiative

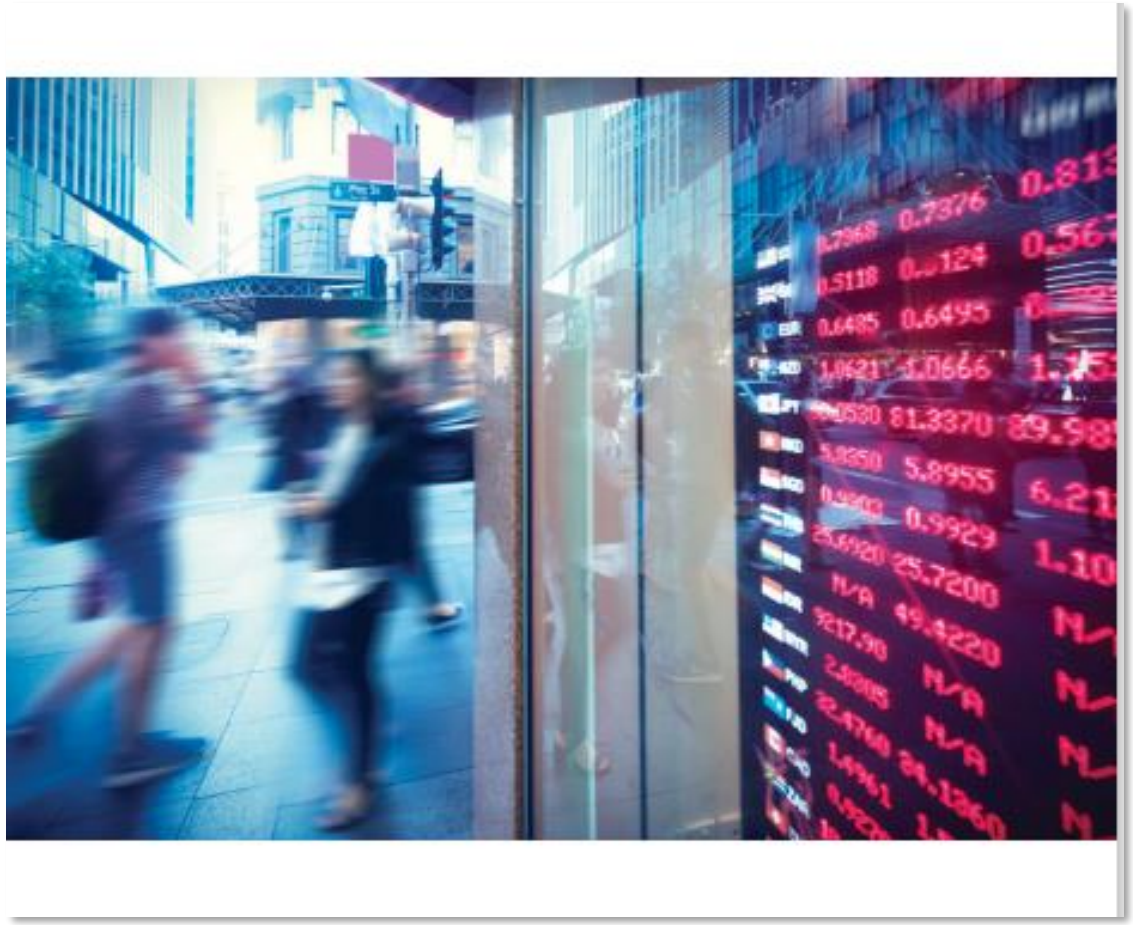
- Handling tasks end-to-end
- Retrieving data from systems
- Triggering workflows automatically

We are at the beginning of agentic AI : a future where knowledge workers collaborate with autonomous AI agents to deliver work faster, with higher quality & less friction.

AI use in Australia

erative AI Summit 2024

AI represents huge economic potential for Australia



- Greater utilisation of AI in key Australian industries (technology, finance, healthcare, education, and government) will lead to a short-term boost in GDP of more than $200 billion per annum (2023 – 2030)
- AI could also create an additional 150,000 jobs from 2023-2030.
- **Not introducing** AI systems could cost Australia $35.7 billion GDP per year.

https://kingstonaigroup.org.au/news-and-publications/f/australias-ai-imperative

Defining Australia's AI context

The BCA positions AI in the context of productivity

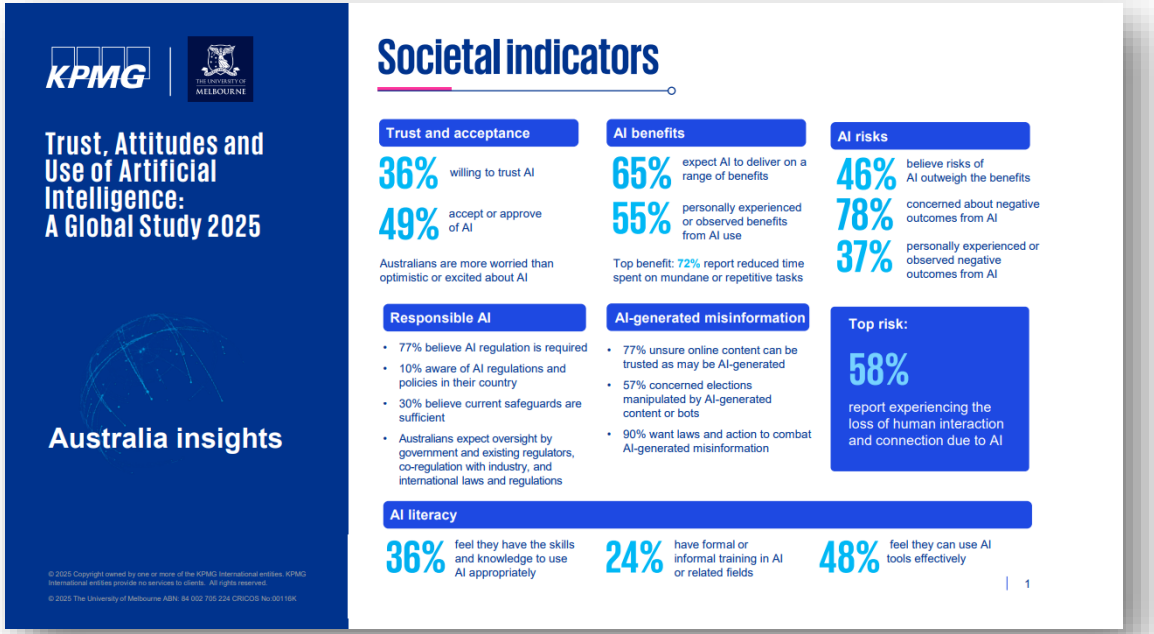
Australia's future economic prosperity depends heavily on our ability to lift productivity.

AI represents the single greatest opportunity to do this in a generation, addressing some of our most prominent and enduring productivity challenges.

https://aiagenda.bca.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/238_AI-Report_FINAL_WEB.pdf

Trust in AI is critical to deployment

AI trust is key



Australia ranks among the lowest globally on acceptance, excitement and optimism about AI – believing that the risks outweigh the benefits.

However!

83% of Australians say they would be more willing to trust AI systems when assurances are in place, such as adherence to international AI standards, responsible AI governance practices, and monitoring system accuracy.

https://assets.kpmg.com/content/dam/kpmg/au/pdf/2025/trust-in-ai-global-insights-2025-australia-snapshot.pdf

’s

Australia's response

- Ongoing, extensive consultation
- AI Ethics Principles - 2019
- National AI Centre - 2022
- Voluntary AI Safety Standard - 2024

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AI Ethics – Process and Principles

Voluntary AI Safety Standard

Aligns to international standards and frameworks.

Helping organisations develop and deploy AI systems in Australia safely and reliably.

This publication includes:

- The 10 voluntary AI guardrails and how to use them
- Examples of when to apply the guardrails
- How we developed the standard
- The standard's foundational concepts and legal context

It also includes definitions, links to tools and resources, and information on how AI interacts with other business guidance and regulations.

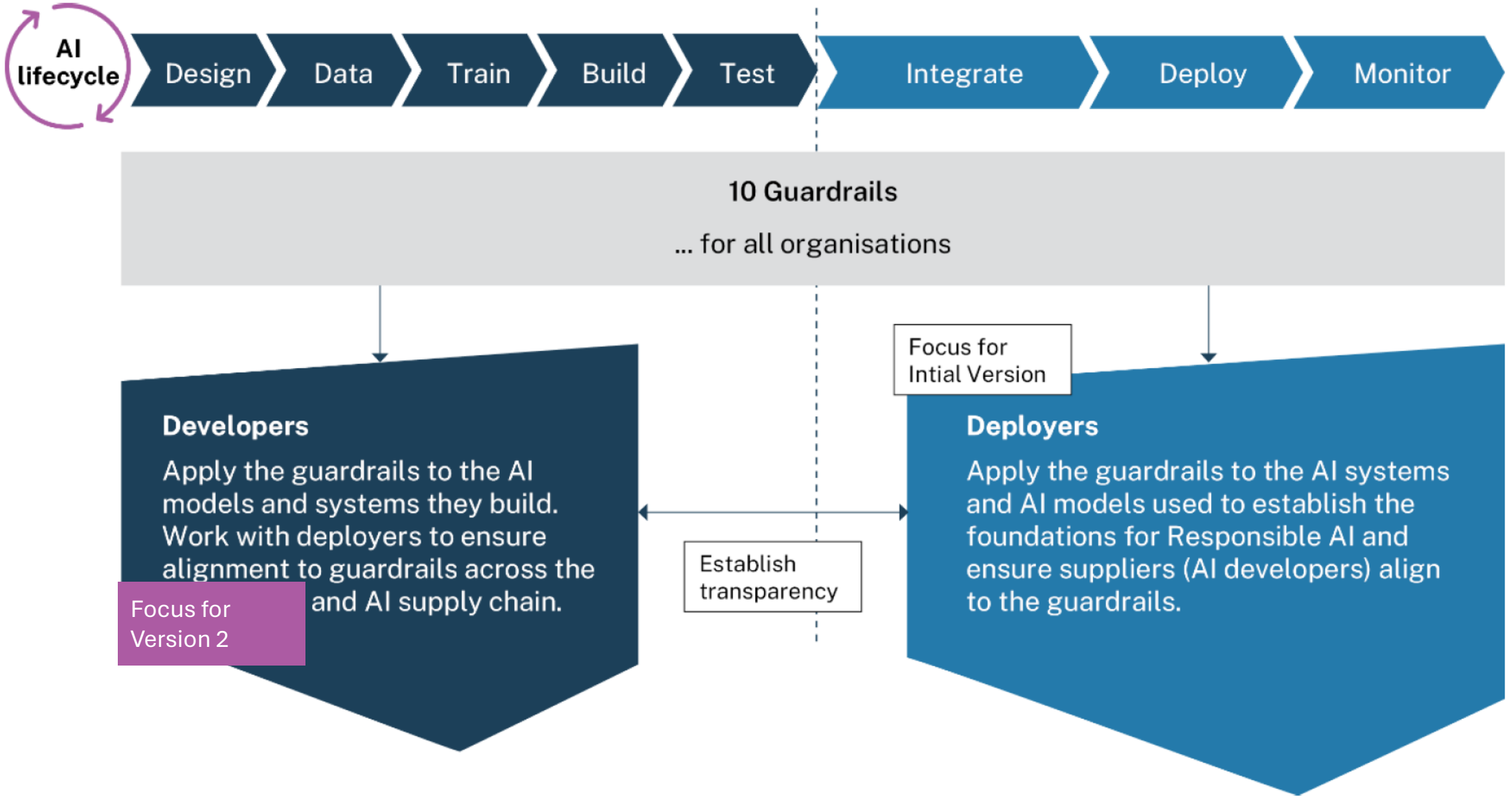
The 10 guardrails

1. Establish, implement, and publish an accountability process including governance, internal capability and a strategy for regulatory compliance.
2. Establish and implement a risk management process to identify and mitigate risks.
3. Protect AI systems, and implement data governance measures to manage data quality and provenance.
4. Test AI models and systems to evaluate model performance and monitor the system once deployed.
5. Enable human control or intervention in an AI system to achieve meaningful human oversight.
6. Inform end-users regarding AI-enabled decisions, interactions with AI and AI-generated content.
7. Establish processes for people impacted by AI systems to challenge use or outcomes.
8. Be transparent with other organisations across the AI supply chain about data, models and systems to help them effectively address risks.
9. Keep and maintain records to allow third parties to assess compliance with guardrails.
10. Engage your stakeholders and evaluate their needs and circumstances, with a focus on safety, diversity, inclusion and fairness.

What this might mean for?

- Communications professionals – how to communicate alignment with VAISS to stakeholder groups?
- Legal professionals – how does AI use align with existing laws and obligations?
- Risk and Compliance professionals – how does AI risk get implemented into existing risk frameworks?
- Procurement managers – how to assess and monitor suppliers against AI safety and ethical standards?
- HR professionals – what are higher risk use cases for our use of AI?
- Domain experts – how does AI change the nature of our role or business?

A resource that will continually evolve



How are we tracking on implementation

[Responsible AI Index 2024 by Fifth Quadrant and National AI Centre]

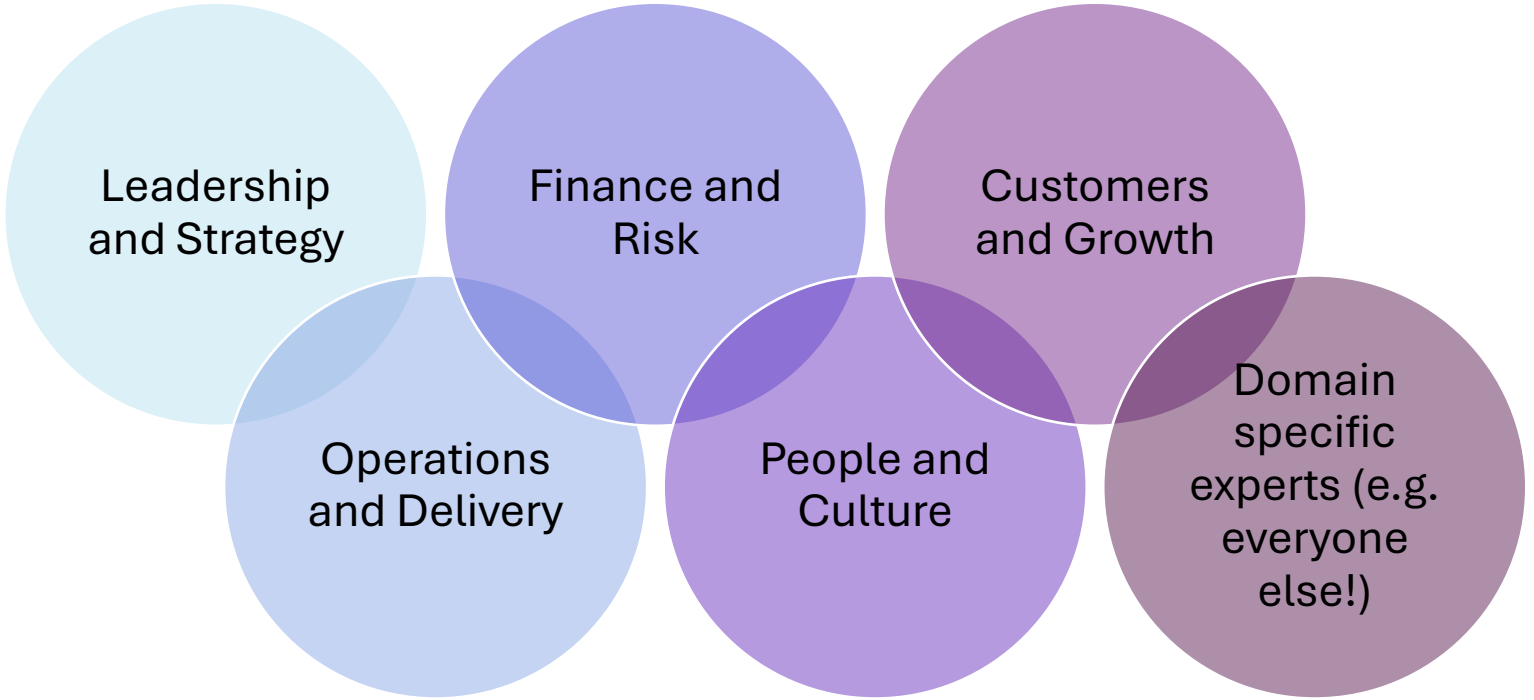
AGREEMENT WITH STATEMENTS 78%

49 POINT GAP

29% HAVE IMPLEMENTED PRACTICES

Your involvement in embedding AI trust

Building trust in AI use is everyone's job

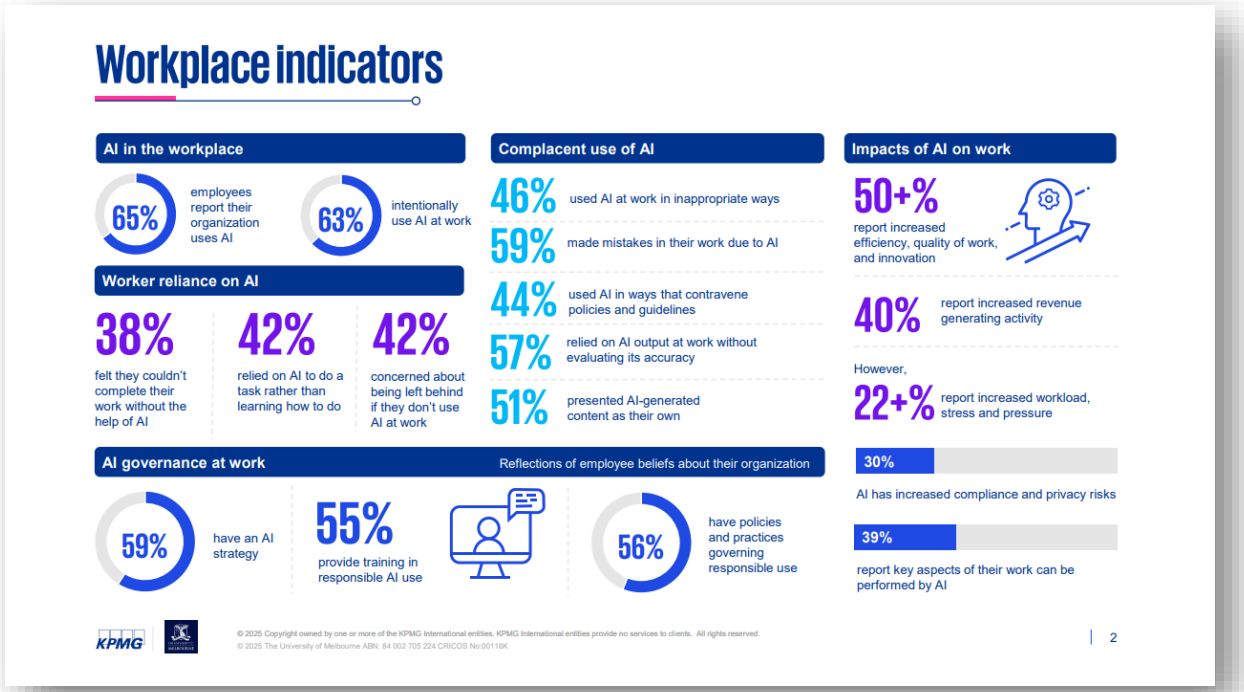


Like cyber security, using AI safely and responsibly is not an IT job – it's everyone's job!

In addition to understanding how to use AI, we all need to understand how to use it safely and responsibly.

This requires new organisational capabilities and professional skills.

We need to accelerate our capability uplift



Workplace indicators

AI in the workplace

65% employees report their organization uses AI

63% intentionally use AI at work

Worker reliance on AI

38% felt they couldn't complete their work without the help of AI

42% relied on AI to do a task rather than learning how to do

42% concerned about being left behind if they don't use AI at work

Complacent use of AI

46% used AI at work in inappropriate ways

59% made mistakes in their work due to AI

44% used AI in ways that contravene policies and guidelines

57% relied on AI output at work without evaluating its accuracy

51% presented AI-generated content as their own

Impacts of AI on work

50+% report increased efficiency, quality of work, and innovation

40% report increased revenue generating activity

However,

22+% report increased workload, stress and pressure

AI governance at work

Reflections of employee beliefs about their organization

59% have an AI strategy

55% provide training in responsible AI use

56% have policies and practices governing responsible use

30% AI has increased compliance and privacy risks

39% report key aspects of their work can be performed by AI

KPMG

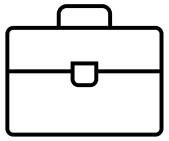
Australians have amongst the lowest levels of AI training and education, with just 24% having undertaken AI-related training or education compared to 39% globally.

https://assets.kpmg.com/content/dam/kpmg/au/pdf/2025/trust-in-ai-global-insights-2025-australia-snapshot.pdf

How might we collectively support Australians to understand AI and their role in the safe use of AI?

How are learning programs setting students up for success / employment in their chosen field

What responsibility will they have in managing and overseeing AI systems or impacts?



How are we supporting professionals to understand and acquire the AI and RAI skills they need in this new world of work?

What responsibility will they have in managing and overseeing AI systems or impacts?

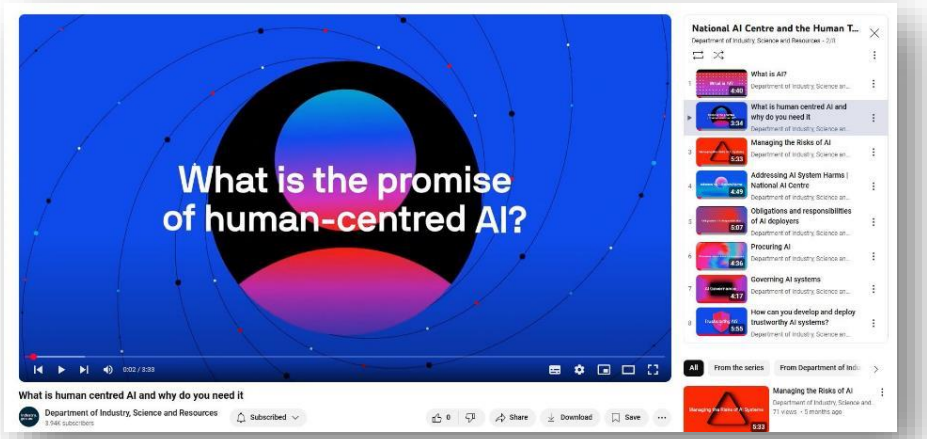
What are the evolving responsibilities for Australia's organisational leaders?

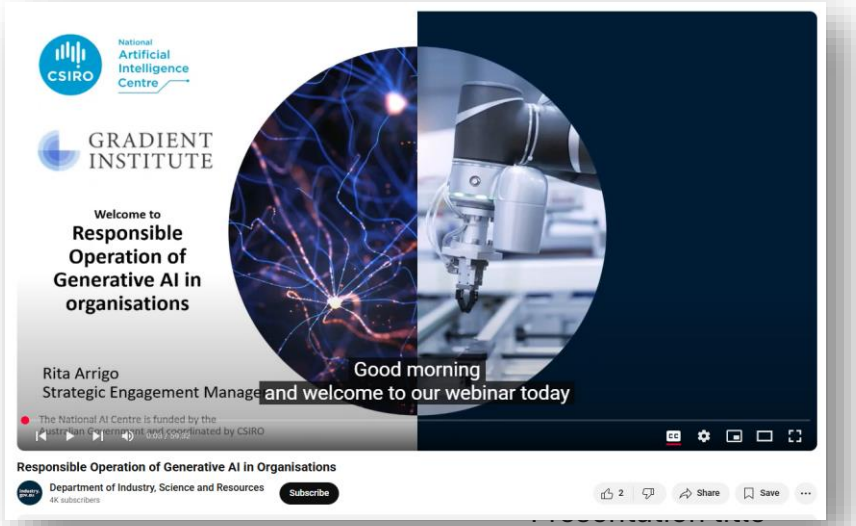
How do we support them to acquire a "minimum viable understanding" of AI?

As employees / leaders, how are we driving this change within our own organisation?

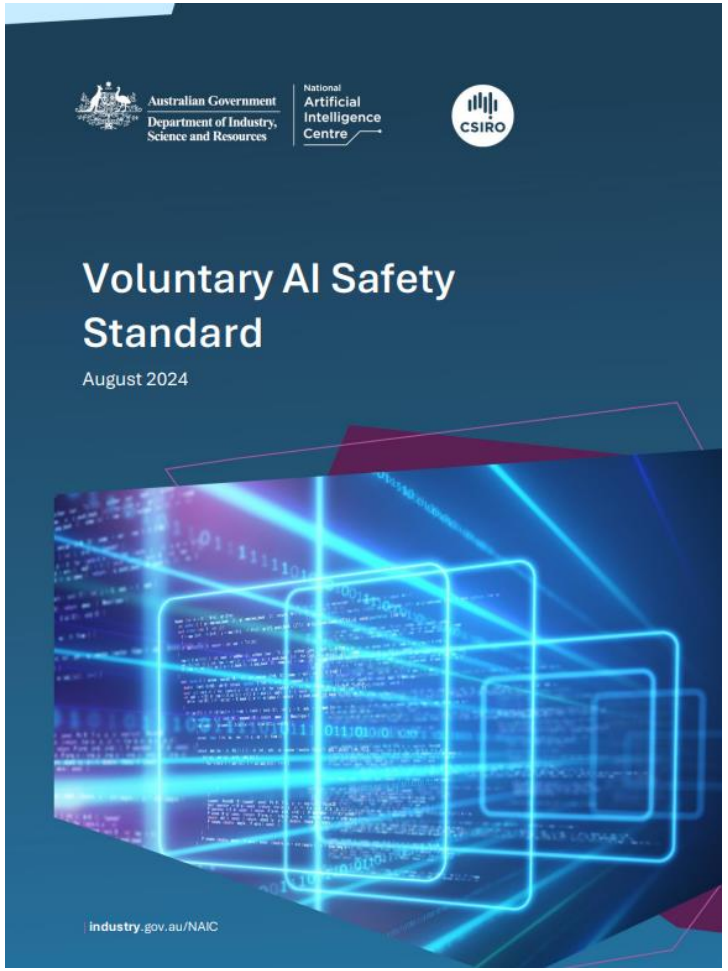
What are our own obligations to reskill / upskill in AI and responsible AI?

Access free training and resources





Key asks



Awareness

- Can you help us raise awareness of this and other AI safety resource? Can AI safety be included in articles, profiled at events and incorporated into thought leadership articles?

Learning and professional development

- Can AI safety frameworks, VAISS guardrails and business practices be mapped to the professional competencies for your profession?
- Might it link to your learning products, events and CPD programs?
- Is there an opportunity to share resources across this community to reduce duplication?

Feedback to support ongoing evolution

- Are there business practices that we have missed?
- Can you share good practices with us?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National Artificial Intelligence Centre
AI LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2025
SAVE THE DATE
21-22 October | Royal International Convention Centre | Brisbane

Let’s work together to support Australians to move from fear, to opportunity

The BCA calls for a national mindset shift

Like any new technology, there are risks which we must address head-on. But we have been balancing risks with opportunity since the discovery of fire. What matters are the choices we make – ***how we develop our AI capabilities, how we deploy them, and how we ensure they serve our national interests and reflect our values.*** *We could choose to do this with a fear-first mindset, but a brighter future will come from being focused first on opportunity.*

https://aiagenda.bca.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/238_AI-Report_FINAL_WEB.pdf

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Thank you!

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