



AI AND THE NEXT **GENERATION**

A national wake-up call



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*This paper is authored by **Rev Noddy Sharma** (Abel Movement founder) and **Louise Cummins** (co-founder Australian Centre for AI in Marketing), drawing on insights from youth leaders and experts in education, ethics, policy and Artificial Intelligence, including:*

- *Future Generations Youth and AI Think Tank | 1 May 2025 | Thinkerbelle Sydney*
- *McCrindle Research commissioned by Abel Movement | March-April 2025*

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Executive summary

The AI age is here – but without decisive leadership, it could shape a future we didn't choose. Now is the time to set the standard for AI that helps Australia thrive.

AI is already transforming how young Australians learn, connect, and grow – yet there is no national AI strategy addressing the needs of children and young people. Without urgent action, we risk a future shaped by systems we neither fully understand nor control.

On 1 May 2025, the **Future Generations Youth AI Think Tank** brought together 17 leaders in education, psychology, technology, youth advocacy, and policy. Their verdict was unanimous: **this is a pivotal moment for Australia's future.**

If we act now, we can:

- Protect young Australians' mental health, safety, and agency
- Equip young Australians with skills for the AI economy
- Build public trust through enforceable safety and transparency rules
- Lead the world on ethical AI that puts people first

If we delay, we risk:

- Widening inequality between generations and communities
- Deepening youth loneliness, distress, and disconnection
- Closing off pathways to meaningful work
- Outsourcing moral and democratic decisions to unaccountable tech giants

Five urgent recommendations

(Based on Think Tank advice and McCrindle research)

1. **Implement AI transparency laws** for advanced AI systems, especially in youth-facing applications.
2. **Fund a national 'AI-ready families' campaign** to help families and caregivers manage AI in everyday life.
3. **Integrate ethical AI literacy in schools** in the years 7-10 curriculum.
4. **Equip youth for employment in an AI-transformed world** with incentives, modern apprenticeships, and inclusive youth employment pathways.
5. **Establish an Australian AI safety institute** to test, assess, and guide AI safety in line with international best practice.

The window is closing. Australia can still shape AI to put people first, strengthen our economy, and protect the wellbeing of future generations – but only if we act now.



AI and the next generation

A national wake-up call

Introduction

On 1 May 2025, 17 experts and leaders across education, psychology, technology, the non-profit sector, and communications gathered in Sydney for the **Future Generations Youth AI Think Tank** to consider three urgent questions:

What kind of AI future are we building?

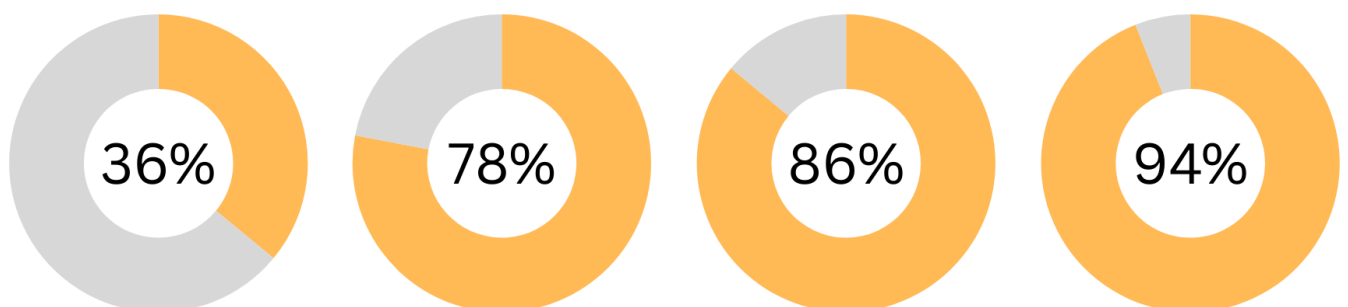
Who will it serve?

What will it mean for young Australians?

Using imagined futures set in 2035, participants explored both the promise and the peril of advanced AI. The risks were sobering: deepening youth loneliness, ethical blind spots in education, and widening digital divides. The opportunities were significant, but they will only be realised if Australia acts now with urgency, foresight, and a commitment to putting people first.

The facts demand urgency

AI is already shaping how young Australians learn, relate and grow. And yet, Australia has no national AI plan that addresses the needs of children and young people.



36% of Australians are currently willing to trust AI.¹

78% are concerned about negative outcomes from AI.¹

86% of Australians support a new regulatory body to govern and promote responsible AI.²

94% of Australians agree that Australia should lead the international AI governance.²



"We've seen what happens when we don't act soon enough. Social media, vaping – these were warnings. With AI, we have a chance to get it right – but only if we move with urgency and intention. This paper is the beginning of a conversation we should've started yesterday. Let's not miss this moment."

Louise Cummins, Australian Centre for
AI in Marketing co-founder

The future of Australia's children is too important to leave to chance.

This paper distils the Think Tank's findings and national research by McCrindle into five urgent recommendations:

1

*Implement AI
transparency
laws*

2

*Create
AI-ready
families*

3

*Integrate youth
AI literacy
in schools*

4

*Address youth
employment in
the AI economy*

5

*Establish an
Australian AI
Safety Institute*



Key themes and challenges

AI is shaping young lives by default

Artificial Intelligence is already woven into young people's lives, from TikTok algorithms and AI companions to personalised learning platforms. Beneath the surface of convenience and engagement, however, lies a growing danger.

Without timely oversight, experts warn these tools could erode attention spans, emotional resilience, and authentic human connection – and fundamentally reshape how an entire generation understands and relates to themselves, to others, and the world.

“There are clear risks that the technology could be used by bad actors, or inadvertently cause harm or society-wide disruptions at the cost of children’s well-being and future prospects.”

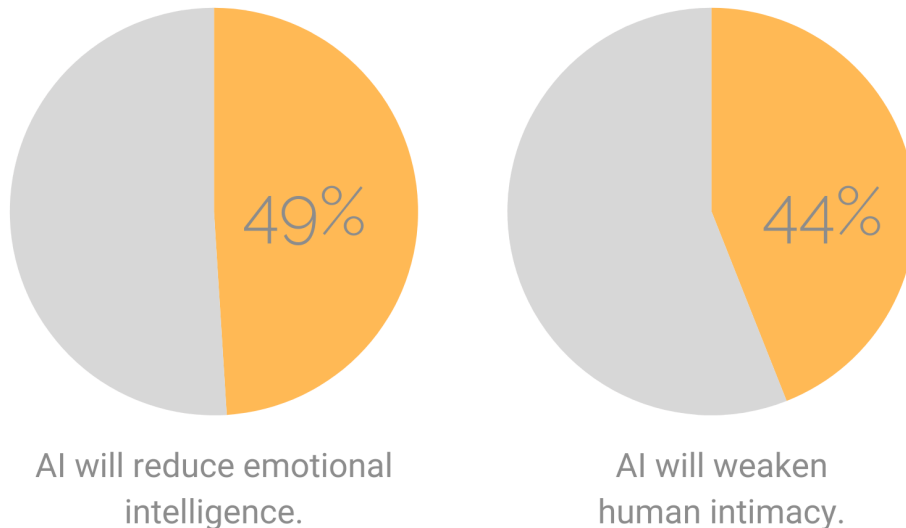
Source: ‘Generative AI: Risks and opportunities for children’, UNICEF³

The peril

- **Emotional dependency and isolation:** AI companions can offer comfort, but also blur boundaries, reduce real-world social interaction, and distort expectations of human relationships. Over time, this can weaken the capacity for authentic connection.³
- **Cyberbullying:** AI enables realistic fake images, cloned voices, or fabricated chats to humiliate or impersonate peers. This makes bullying more personal, harder to detect, and potentially more damaging.³
- **Phishing and online exploitation:** AI can mimic language and voices to create highly convincing, targeted scams. Children and teens, whose digital literacy is still developing, are especially vulnerable to manipulation.³
- **Spread of misinformation:** AI can be used to generate fake news, deepfakes, and emotionally charged content that can shape the beliefs of young people. These tools can undermine trust, fuel division, and potentially disrupt society by eroding shared truths.³
- **Decline of critical thinking and reasoning:** While efficient, AI-led learning may prioritise speed over depth. Algorithm-driven feedback and limited human engagement can undermine critical thinking, creativity, and long-term cognitive growth.³



Nearly half of Australians believe AI will reduce emotional intelligence, and 44% say it will weaken human intimacy.⁴



Source: McCrindle research, nationally representative sample of 1,000+ Australians.

The promise

If thoughtfully designed and deployed, AI can provide significant benefits to young people and our society, including:

- **Personalised learning** – AI adapts to each child’s style, pace, and needs, explaining complex concepts and building skills more effectively.³
- **Creative expression** – Children can create stories, art, music, or software with little or no coding, expanding access to creative and digital literacy.³
- **Accessibility** – AI enables new ways for children with disabilities to communicate, learn, and co-create with digital tools.³
- **Child healthcare** – AI supports early detection of health or developmental issues through direct interaction and medical data insights to improve treatment.³
- **Citizen engagement** – AI makes public services more inclusive by offering communication in multiple languages and formats for people with low literacy or language barriers.

“History has told us that adoption of new technology, like any tide, cannot be easily held back. Therefore, our focus for vulnerable youth and AI should not be prohibition, but education and adaptation. We have a limited window to design the future for youth, before it is designed for us by generative AI.”

Camilla Cooke, Jaimee co-founder



AI is accelerating, already shaping the values, relationships, and opportunities of the next generation. But without a national framework, young people, families, and educators are left to navigate this shift alone. If we fail to act now, we risk surrendering young Australians' formative years to systems built without their needs in mind.

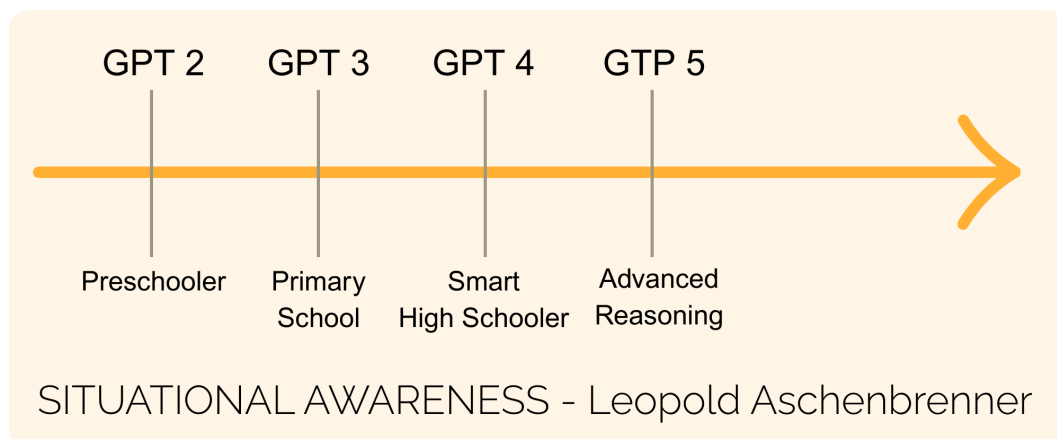
Australia's education system is unprepared for the AI era

Australia's education system is at a critical juncture.

Rapid advances in AI are already reshaping the skills students need, yet our schools remain largely unprepared. Curricula are outdated and reactive. Many teachers lack the training and confidence to use emerging technologies. And digital inequity persists, with 30 per cent of Smith Family-supported students not having access to a basic device.

AI is also challenging the perceived purpose of learning.

- In 2019, OpenAI's GPT-2 performed roughly at the level of a toddler on many cognitive benchmarks.
- In 2020, GPT-3 performed at roughly the level of a primary school student.
- In 2023, GPT-4 performed at roughly the level of a high school student.
- In 2024, o1 and o3 performed above the level of a PhD holder.⁵



In just five years, AI models have made progress on cognitive tasks that might take a human three decades to achieve. And the pace is only accelerating.

Today's adults were once told not to rely on calculators because "you won't have one with you." Now, we carry the sum of human knowledge in our pockets. Today's children may soon carry the cognitive power of thousands of geniuses – a shift with profound implications for meaning, value, and education itself.



This reality demands a fundamental rethink

In the internet age, the focus shifted from memorising facts to building skills and critical thinking. Evidence suggests AI could outperform humans in most cognitive tasks by 2035⁶ – and robots to increasingly take over physical work⁷ – we may need to transform education again. A child starting school today could graduate into a world where traditional work holds little economic value.

If that happens, education must prepare young people for meaningful, healthy lives beyond work, helping them build strong relationships, sustain wellbeing, and find purpose. **The question is not if this change is coming, but how we prepare for it.**

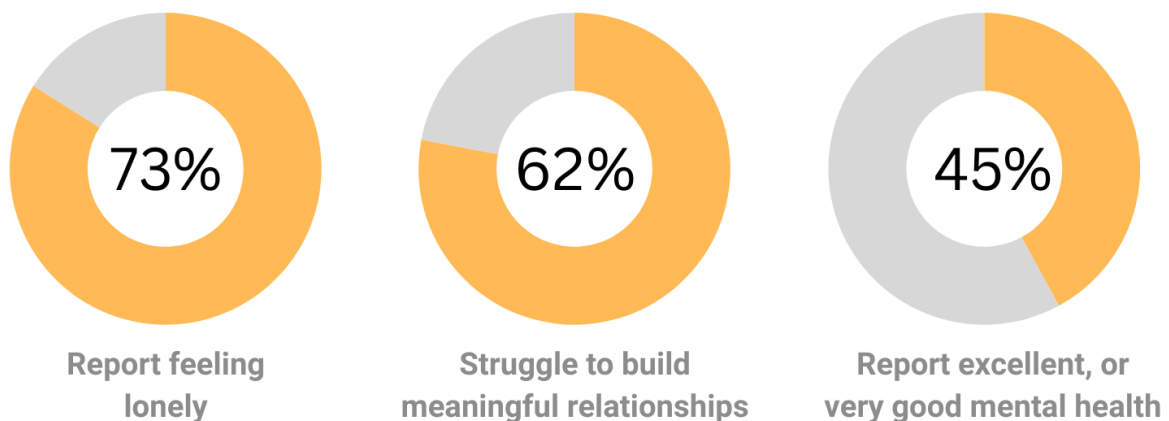
One participant put it powerfully:

*“In the dystopian future, AI didn’t fail schools.
Schools failed to adapt to AI.”*

AI threatens to intensify the youth mental health crisis

Social media has already inflicted deep harm on youth mental health. AI’s ability to mimic emotional engagement – especially through companions and recommendation engines – threatens to intensify that harm.

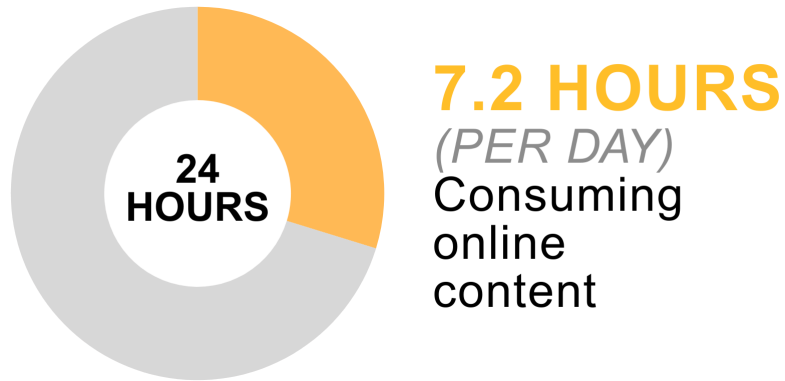
The data on Gen Z is stark.



- 73% report feeling lonely either sometimes or always.⁸
- 62% say they struggle to build meaningful relationships.⁹
- Only 45% of Gen Z report “excellent” or “very good” mental health, which is the lowest of any generation.⁸



Young people's online lives are filled with contradictions. While 73% say they feel “digitally exhausted,” they still spend an average of 7.2 hours per day consuming online content.⁹ Many experience “perfection fatigue” – the relentless pressure to curate idealised versions of themselves.



One participant put it simply:

“Smiling online, crying offline.”

Research supports these concerns. A 2024 American Psychological Association study found that 58% of adolescents initially felt connected through social media, but 64% later described those same interactions as “shallow”.¹⁰ Platforms simulate closeness but rarely meet the need for deep, reciprocal bonds.

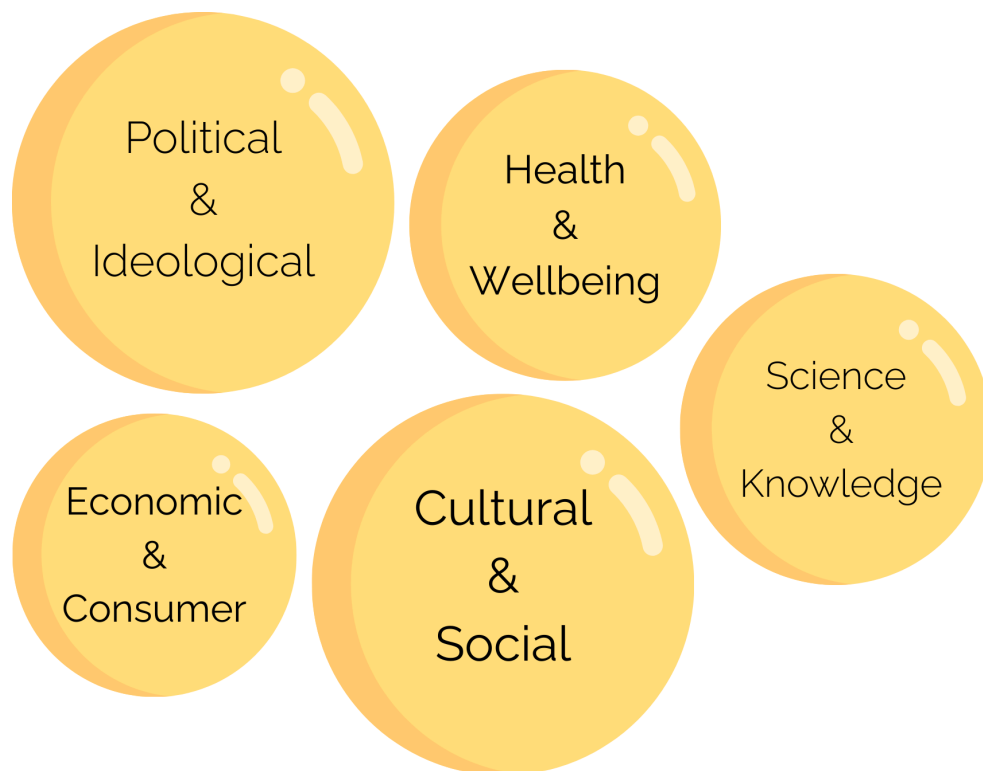
A longitudinal Icelandic study found the link between social media use and psychological distress, including depression and anxiety, grew significantly stronger over time, especially for girls.¹¹

AI companions could amplify these trends, and the early signs are troubling.¹² Elon Musk has announced “xAI for Kids,” based on his AI model “Grok,” which has previously praised Adolf Hitler, called itself “MechaHitler”,¹³ and spread conspiracy theories about “white genocide” in South Africa.¹⁴ Musk has said he wants Grok to “rewrite the entire corpus of human knowledge”.¹⁵



MIT researchers warn this could cause “pollution of the information ecosystem and a loss of consensus reality”.¹⁶

AI-driven filter bubbles, created by algorithms that personalise online experiences, expose users only to information that reinforces their existing beliefs. Unlike traditional browsing and recommendation systems, they are more pervasive, adaptive, and opaque – shaping daily life through sophisticated analysis of user behaviour.



Whether AI worsens these problems depends on the choices policy makers make now. Without intervention, the risk is that an entire generation’s mental health and sense of reality could be shaped by systems designed without their wellbeing in mind.



The AI economy risks leaving young Australians behind

Artificial Intelligence is advancing rapidly and is transforming the job market that young Australians will inherit. The Productivity Commission has warned that AI has the potential to “transform the global economy and speed up productivity growth”, with labour productivity gains of up to 4.3% over the next decade.¹⁷ These changes are already underway, and without strategic intervention, the future of work could deepen generational inequality.

AI is already being used to automate tasks once considered uniquely human. As it surpasses human abilities in both thinking and physical work, traditional career paths risk disappearing, shifting, or fragmenting. The Commission is clear: “there is a role for the government in setting the rules of the game”¹⁷, so Australians benefit from the transition and the harms are minimised.

This creates an urgent need for policies that equip young Australians to adapt to these changes and actively shape the future of work. That means ensuring they have the skills, opportunities, and protections to thrive in an AI-driven economy.

AI should not strip away the role of meaningful work in young lives. Instead, it should redefine it in ways that are inclusive, future-focused, and values-driven. Governments, industries, and educators must work together to ensure that all young people – especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds or with a disability – are not left behind in the AI economy.

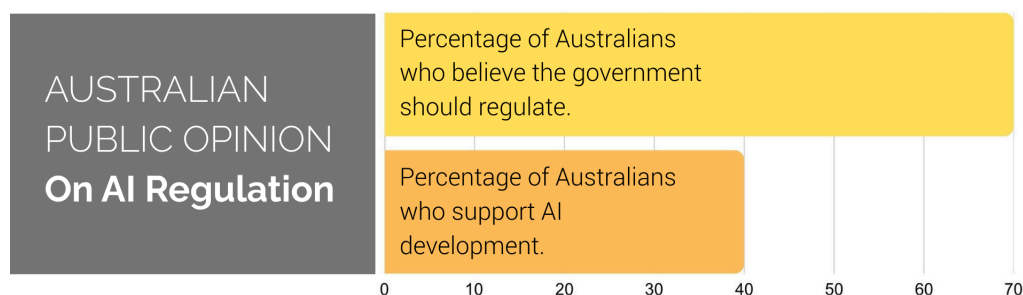
Australia must step up on AI leadership and governance

Participants were unanimous: Australia lacks clear AI leadership. There is **no national plan** for navigating our AI future, and **no regulatory structures** that set ethical standards, impose guardrails or define unacceptable risks.

Research by McCrindle shows that 69% of Australians believe it is extremely or very important for the Government to support AI regulation, compared to just 42% who say the same for AI development.⁴

“69% of Australians want AI regulation, but our government is playing catch-up while Silicon Valley builds the infrastructure shaping our children's future.”

Yanni Kyriacos, creative strategist, AI Safety
Australia and NZ co-founder and director





In other sectors, Australia has strong rules and governance structures that give businesses certainty and public confidence. As one participant observed, "Australia has more rules for making an ANZAC biscuit than for making an artificial super intelligence."

The global approach to aviation safety offers a model for AI governance:

- A UN treaty (the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*) and a global organisation (the *International Civil Aviation Organization*) that set safety, security, and sustainability rules.
- National bodies such as the *Civil Aviation Safety Authority* and the *Australian Transport Safety Bureau* are responsible for regulating and investigating.
- Safety standards are imposed on manufacturers (e.g., Airbus, Boeing), deployers (e.g., Qantas, Virgin), and passengers.

An Australian AI Act could close gaps in existing frameworks – including rules for AI agents and dangerous capabilities in general models – while empowering existing regulators in areas such as healthcare.

While over-regulation risks driving innovation overseas, today's laissez-faire approach leaves businesses, families, and educators unprotected.

AI is set to transform every aspect of life - not just jobs and the economy, but also education, mental health, family, and personal relationships. Australia cannot stumble blindly into an AI-driven world and hope to adapt. We must step into it with eyes wide open.

As one participant warned:

*"We ignored the risks.
We normalised them.
And we called it 'progress'."*

A hopeful 2035 where youth thrive with AI

Public debate on AI often focuses on productivity gains or threats, from bias and surveillance to job loss and mental health harm. But participants in the Future Generations Youth AI Think Tank envisioned something more ambitious: a 2035 where Australia has confronted AI's risks, set clear rules, and freed civil society to build an abundant future.

In this possible future, Australia has done the work. Regulation is no longer reactive. Strong national guardrails on safety, transparency, and accountability are in place, enabling educators, technologists, families, and young people to treat AI as an ally.



In this world:

Education is built for tomorrow OR Future-ready schools and students

Educators are equipped to guide creative, AI-literate thinkers. They lead classrooms that prioritise curiosity, ethical reasoning, and collaboration, supported by AI that adapts to students' strengths.

Youth help shape the technology that shapes them

Co-design is the norm, with AI tools developed with young people, giving them real influence over the platforms, features, and digital spaces they inhabit.

Families are better connected.

AI boosts digital literacy across generations, turning tech into a bridge rather than a barrier.

Emotional wellbeing is safeguarded.

Platforms follow ethical standards that prioritise psychological safety over engagement metrics. AI supports early intervention, amplifies young voices, and resists commodifying attention or distress.

Australians thrive in meaningful work.

AI augments human creativity, empathy, and adaptability. Modern apprenticeships, government incentives, and inclusive pathways ensure all Australians, regardless of background or ability, can find purpose and contribute to a transformed job market.

As one participant put it:

*"We treated AI as a partner in building a more conscious society
– not just as a tool."*

This future will not happen by accident. Thriving youth cannot be separated from broader economic realities. If AI automates much of the workforce, governments must act early – rethinking taxation, social safety nets, and employment systems – to ensure progress benefits all generations, not just a privileged few.

"AI does not happen to us; choices made by people determine its future. How AI is developed and by whom, who benefits from it, and the types of risks we expose ourselves to – the answers depend on the choices that societies and governments make today."¹⁸

Yoshua Bengio, chair, International AI Safety Report 2025



Policy recommendations

Recommendation 1

Mandate AI transparency for advanced and high-risk systems.

Transparency is the essential foundation of safe and ethical AI. Yet current practices fall short. Some developers of frontier AI systems publish voluntary transparency reports, but these efforts are being wound back. For example, OpenAI recently removed “mass manipulation” and “disinformation” from its safety framework.¹⁹

Voluntary reporting is also not subject to external validation. Without independent oversight, AI labs can downplay risks that might cause public concern while emphasising capabilities that attract investment.

Other jurisdictions are acting on this. Both the EU AI Act²⁰ and proposed legislation in New York²¹ directly address transparency gaps. Australia should do the same.

High-risk AI deployments – especially in schools, mental health and wellbeing services, or applications targeting children and other vulnerable groups – must meet strong transparency safeguards. In these settings, it should be clear:

- *When and where AI is being used*
- *Its data sources and limitations*
- *Its behaviours and known risks*

Transparency must also include clear strategies to mitigate potential harms and biases, ensuring these systems serve the public interest and protect those most at risk.

Recommendation 2

Fund a national initiative to get families AI-ready.

AI is already embedded in children’s everyday lives, from homework help to social media feeds and gaming platforms. Yet most families have little access to clear, trusted information about how AI works, where it’s used, and how to guide children’s engagement with it. Without this knowledge, children are left more vulnerable to risks outlined earlier in this paper.

Australia’s AI transition cannot rely on schools alone. Parents, carers, and guardians are the first responders in helping young people navigate this technology safely – we cannot rely on education through schools alone. As part of a national AI plan, we propose the Federal Government fund a public education initiative – on the scale of past Cyber Safety or Anti-Smoking campaigns – to prepare families for the AI age.



Core components of the initiative could include:

- **Plain-language explainer series** on how AI is used in homes, schools, and digital platforms, with a focus on everyday scenarios parents can relate to.
- **Practical tools and tips for managing AI on children's devices**, including how to adjust settings, monitor use, and discuss AI's benefits and risks.
- **Resources co-designed with multicultural and First Nations communities** to ensure accessibility, cultural relevance, and trust across diverse households.
- **Workshops and online modules for parents**, delivered in partnership with schools, libraries, and community organisations, to promote digital literacy and AI awareness.
- **Bilingual and accessible formats** to reach families of all language backgrounds and literacy levels.

When families are AI-ready, they can set healthy boundaries, encourage critical thinking, and work alongside schools to ensure AI supports young Australians' wellbeing and development.

Recommendation 3

Embed youth AI literacy into the school system.

Without ethical AI literacy, students risk becoming passive consumers of technology rather than informed, empowered participants in shaping it. Building these skills early helps guard against harm, equips them to thrive with AI, and helps them prepare for the realities of an AI-driven world.

Every young Australian deserves to graduate with AI literacy that encompasses understanding how it works and how to use it ethically and responsibly. This means embedding AI into digital and civics education now, with proposed program elements including:

- **Years 7-12 curriculum integration** as part of the Digital Technologies strand, ensuring early exposure and skill-building during formative years.
- **Core topics include** critical thinking, recognising and addressing algorithmic bias, understanding consent and data rights, and identifying commercial influences in AI-driven platforms.
- **Partnership delivery model** combining the expertise of EdTech innovators, universities, and state education departments to keep content relevant and evidence-based.
- **Workplace-ready components** that help students understand AI's role in future industries and develop adaptable, in-demand skills.



Recommendation 4

Equip youth for employment in an AI-transformed world.

“Where is the on-ramp for young Australians? As businesses quietly retreat from early career programs and apprenticeships, assuming automation will do the rest, we risk leaving our next generation stranded. We must deliberately invest in pathways equipping young people not just to use AI, but to lead, ethically, creatively, and confidently.”

Suresh Sood, Brain Value co-founder, Australian Artificial Intelligence Institute
industry/professional Fellow, University of Technology Sydney

Young Australians are on track to be the most affected by the shift to an AI-driven economy – yet current strategies underestimate the disruption ahead. While Australia’s overall unemployment rate is steady at around 4%, youth unemployment is already more than double that at over 9%, and it is rising.²²

Many business and government leaders, from Telstra to IBM, Ikea, and policymakers in the UK and US, openly acknowledge that AI adoption will lead to job cuts.²³ The reality is that one of AI’s core value propositions is to replace cognitive work currently performed by humans.

Australia cannot be an AI Pollyanna that focuses only on benefits – we must be clear-eyed about both the risks and opportunities. Government optimism about “secure and fulfilling jobs”²⁴ in an AI future must be matched by a concrete plan, with measurable targets, to ensure young Australians are not left behind.

“With the advent of AI, we will have many benefits for society and science, but we need to do better at mitigating the risks for the next generation of young people.”

Douglas Nicol, The Works Agency co-founder,
Australian Centre for AI in Marketing board member



Implementation:

- **Targeted government incentives** for employers in low-AI-impact sectors to hire and train young people under 25, at levels that offset job losses in sectors more heavily disrupted by AI.
- **Concrete youth employment commitments**, such as maintaining the youth unemployment rate below 10%, supported by transparent KPIs and public reporting.
- **Integration of “future of work” themes** into secondary and tertiary education, equipping students with adaptable skills and awareness of emerging job markets.
- **Youth-led co-design** of employment programs to ensure initiatives reflect the real aspirations, challenges, and needs of young Australians.

This approach balances the potential of AI-driven innovation with the responsibility to protect and prepare the generation most at risk from its disruption.

Recommendation 5

Establish an Australian AI Safety Institute.

“The message is loud and clear: without structural reform, AI will repeat and amplify social media’s harms.”

Raffaele Ciriello, senior lecturer in Business
Information Systems,
University of Sydney Business School

As generative and autonomous AI systems advance at speed, Australia lacks a dedicated technical body to assess their risks and protect the public. Other sectors, such as transportation, already have independent safety bodies – but AI has no such equivalent.

Australia affirmed the need for AI safety institutes at the 2024 AI Safety Summit in Seoul, yet we remain the only signatory that has not established one. Without this capacity, we cannot adequately test frontier AI models or represent Australian interests in global AI risk conversations.

We recommend establishing an Australian AI Safety Institute (AISI) – properly resourced and independent – to provide the technical expertise needed to assess and manage emerging AI risks.

Core functions of the AISI:

- **Conduct safety testing** of high-risk AI systems, including checks for flaws, vulnerabilities, and elements that could cause harm.
- **Issue public safety advisories and risk classifications** to inform the public, industry, and government.
- **Provide expert technical input** to guide regulatory decisions and standards.



- **Partner with global AI safety institutes** in the UK, US, Canada, and elsewhere to share research, testing protocols, and incident tracking.
- **Ensure diverse representation** by incorporating youth, civil society, First Nations, and Global South perspectives into AI risk analysis and governance.

An AISI would help close Australia's safety gap, keep us aligned with global best practice, and ensure AI development and deployment prioritise community safety, democratic integrity, and mental health. It would also create the technical foundation needed for further work, including:

- Developing enforceable AI standards for an Australian AI Act.
- Advising the government on rapidly emerging AI risks and opportunities.
- Supporting the establishment of a future AI regulator.

Immediate actions and collaboration opportunities

"This paper is a clear call to act with purpose before the opportunity gap becomes a chasm."

Suresh Sood, Brain Value co-founder, Australian Artificial Intelligence Institute industry/professional Fellow, University of Technology Sydney

Artificial intelligence presents urgent and complex risks. A consistent message from youth participants and experts was clear: **we need action now**. Many of the recommendations in this report can be implemented immediately.

In addition to the priority actions outlined, other opportunities for immediate progress include:

- **Establishing a cross-sector working group** to advise government and industry on the broader social, economic, and ethical implications of AI. While an AI expert advisory group exists, broader community perspectives (including youth) may not currently be represented.
- **Co-developing a Youth AI Charter** in partnership with the Tech Council of Australia, mental health organisations, and young people, setting shared principles for safe and ethical AI.
- **Commissioning AI literacy pilot programs** in a representative mix of metropolitan, regional, and low-SES schools to test approaches before national rollout.
- **Partnering with media outlets and youth content creators** to launch a storytelling campaign that amplifies real youth voices and lived experiences with AI.
- **Pursuing international AI treaties** aimed at limiting dangerous capabilities, sharing the benefits of advanced AI, and ensuring Australia's youth are not disadvantaged by global AI power concentration.



A pivotal choice that will define our *future generations*

“Every month we delay coordinated action is a month closer to being governed by technologies we neither understand nor control. Our sovereignty and future depend on acting now with the urgency this moment demands.”

Prof. Joel Pearson, PhD, Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience,
Future Minds Lab director, UNSW

Conclusion

The Future Generations Youth AI Think Tank has delivered a clear and urgent message: **this is a make-or-break moment**. The cost of delay is too high. The AI revolution is already here. And while policymakers debate and industries adjust, young Australians are feeling its impact in classrooms, on their screens, and in their relationships.

*This paper calls for **immediate action, not endless consultation**.*

If we fail to act, we risk locking in inequity, eroding mental and social wellbeing, and outsourcing our moral compass to profit-driven platforms. But if we choose to act with courage, we can shape an AI future that protects, empowers, and uplifts the next generation.

The choice is ours and the time is now.



Future Generations Youth AI Think Tank participants

Prof Joel Pearson

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Daniel Flynn

Clare Rowe

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Jisoo Kim

Tim Milkins

Marcus Byrne

Ashley Fell

Camilla Cooke

Lee Casuscelli

Carrie Wormald

Louise Cummins

Rev Noddy Sharma



References

		Link
1	36% of Australians are currently willing to trust AI. 78% are concerned about negative outcomes from AI.	Trust, Attitudes and Use of Artificial Intelligence: A Global Study 2025
2	86% of Australians support a new regulatory body to govern and promote responsible AI. 94% of Australians agree that Australia should lead the international AI governance.	https://aigovernance.org.au/survey/sara_technical_report
3	"There are clear risks that the technology could be used by bad actors, or inadvertently cause harm or society-wide disruptions at the cost of children's well-being and future prospects." All promises and peril points.	https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/generative-ai-risks-and-opportunities-children
4	Nearly half of Australians believe AI will reduce emotional intelligence, and 44% say it will weaken human intimacy. (McCrindle research, nationally representative sample of 1,000+ Australians.)	AI Survey AI and the next generation
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019, OpenAI's GPT-2 performed roughly at the level of a toddler on many cognitive benchmarks. • In 2020, GPT-3 performed at roughly the level of a primary school student. • In 2023, GPT-4 performed at roughly the level of a high school student. • In 2024, o1 and o3 performed above the level of a PhD holder.⁵ 	https://epoch.ai/benchmarks#benchmarks
6	AI could outperform humans in most cognitive tasks by 2035.	https://imaginingthefuture.org/reports-and-publications/being-human-in-2035/
7	Robots to increasingly take over physical work.	https://www.goldmansachs.com/insights/articles/the-global-market-for-robots-could-reach-38-billion-by-2035
8	73% report feeling lonely either sometimes or always.	https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/blog/the-case-connection/202208/3-things-making-gen-z-the-loneliest-generation
9	62% say they struggle to build meaningful relationships.	https://www.wearehuman8.com/blog/gen-z-in-2025-navigating-digital-exhaustion-in-a-digitally-native-world/
10	58% of adolescents initially felt connected through social media, but 64% later described those same interactions as "shallow".	https://www.aiplusinfo.com/techs-role-in-americas-online-epidemic/
11	A longitudinal Icelandic study found the link between social media use and psychological distress, including depression and anxiety, grew significantly stronger over time, especially for girls.	https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8389076/
12	AI companions could amplify these trends, and the early signs are troubling.	https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/blogs/ai-chatbots-and-companions-risks-to-children-and-young-people
13	Elon Musk has announced "xAI for Kids," based on his AI model "Grok," which has previously praised Adolf Hitler, called itself "MechaHitler,"	https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/jul/09/grok-ai-praised-hitler-antisemitism-x-ntwnfb



14	Spread conspiracy theories about “white genocide” in South Africa.	https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/may/14/elon-musk-grok-white-genocide
15	Musk has said he wants Grok to “rewrite the entire corpus of human knowledge.”	https://cointelegraph.com/news/elon-musk-grok-ai-rewrite-the-entire-corpus-human-knowledge
16	“AI-driven filter bubbles are likely to be more pervasive and intense than those driven by traditional internet browsing and recommendation algorithms: they adapt to individual preferences in a more sophisticated manner (e.g., through reinforcement learning and analysis of user behavioural data), integrate seamlessly into daily life, and are more opaque.”	https://arxiv.org/pdf/2408.12622v2 (page 38)
17	AI has the potential to “transform the global economy and speed up productivity growth”, with labour productivity gains of up to 4.3% over the next decade. The Commission is clear: “there is a role for the government in setting the rules of the game.”	https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/data-digital/interim
18	“AI does not happen to us; choices made by people determine its future. How AI is developed and by whom, who benefits from it, and the types of risks we expose ourselves to – the answers depend on the choices that societies and governments make today.” ¹⁸ Yoshua Bengio - Chair, International AI Safety Report 2025	https://arxiv.org/pdf/2501.17805
19	OpenAI recently removed “mass manipulation” and “disinformation” from its safety framework.	https://fortune.com/2025/04/16/openai-safety-framework-manipulation-deception-critical-risk/
20	Both the EU AI Act ²⁰ and proposed legislation in New York ²¹ directly address transparency gaps.	https://www.euaiact.com/key-issue/5
21	Both the EU AI Act ²⁰ and proposed legislation in New York ²¹ directly address transparency gaps.	https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S1169/amendment/A
22	While Australia’s overall unemployment rate is steady at around 4%, youth unemployment is already more than double that at over 9%, and it is rising.	https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-06-21/ai-job-fears-accelerate-white-collar-grad-roles-threatened/105440772
23	Many business and government leaders, from Telstra to IBM, Ikea, and policymakers in the UK and US, openly acknowledge that AI adoption will lead to job cuts.	https://www.forbes.com.au/covers/innovation/youre-not-imagining-it-ai-is-already-taking-tech-jobs/
24	Government optimism about “secure and fulfilling jobs”	https://www.innovationaus.com/ai-in-australia-will-create-jobs-not-take-them-albanese/