NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS INCORPORATED

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Schools

NTCOGSO "AI in Schools" Proposed Policy Text

"*Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to address some of the challenges in education and innovate teaching and learning practices. To fully benefit from the potential of AI, schools must be resourced to appropriately manage a range of learning, security and ethical considerations. NTCOGSO supports the six underlying principles of the Australian Framework for Generative Artificial Intelligence in Schools:*

Meaningful and purposeful human control is a necessity for the use of AI within schools.

Quality AI can assist with Education management and delivery, learning and assessment, empower teachers and enhance learning.

AI should be teacher-led in the classroom.

AI should be accessible to all schools and students.

Students will be exposed to and practice the responsible and ethical use of AI as part of their preparation for post-school success.

Students and others using generative AI tools must have their privacy and data protected".

Policy Guidance Introduction

The Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations (**Council**) recognises that artificial intelligence (**AI**) is a powerful and transformative technology with new and valuable opportunities for teaching and learning.

Council also acknowledges that AI poses risks and challenges including:

equitable access;

student skill development and assessment;

perpetuation of harmful biases; and

preserving human interaction and connection.

To ensure that AI is used in schools responsibly and ethically in ways that benefit Northern Territory (**NT**) students and the wider educational ecosystem, Council has developed this policy guidance document which outlines the Vision, Guiding Principles and Guidelines for AI in government schools in the NT (**Government Schools**).

In this policy guidance, AI means technology or software capable of undertaking tasks which typically require human intelligence.

Vision

Council envisions a future where:

AI supports and enhances teaching and learning in Government Schools;

AI skills, knowledge and ethics are incorporated into the Government School curriculum and students leave secondary education with the AI capabilities and understanding to flourish in the workplace, higher education and Australian society;

AI is used ethically, responsibly, and beneficially in ways which address the unique diversity and challenges of Government Schools, benefit students and the wider educational ecosystem.

Guiding Principles

Ethical use: AI should be used in an ethical manner to ensure privacy, security, fairness and human connection. AI use must respect the diversity of the people who live in the NT and take into account the unique educational challenges of Government Schools.

Transparency: The use of AI in Government Schools should be transparent with simple and clear communication to Government School stakeholders about how and why it is being used and what provisions are in place to ensure safe, appropriate, beneficial and ethical use.

Inclusivity: AI should be used in Government Schools to promote equity and access for all students, regardless of their background, ability, location (rural, regional or remote) or learning preferences.

Collaboration: the use of AI in Government Schools should foster collaboration between students, teachers and AI systems. AI should be implemented to complement the work of teachers, not replace them.

Lifelong learning: AI should promote a culture of lifelong learning and equip students with the life skills to adapt to new technologies, enabling them to become active and informed members of their community and the wider Australian society.

Guidelines

To ensure that AI is used in schools in accordance with the Vision and Guiding Principles, Council supports and advocates for:

AI Governance: Implementation of guidelines, principles, policies and procedures to appropriately govern the use of AI in Government Schools. AI governance should include mechanisms to minimise and counter unfair discrimination, embed respect for Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights, and respond to the unique challenges of access and equity in Government Schools.

Ongoing Consultation: Facilitation of ongoing consultation with principals, their association, the teaching profession, their unions, parents/caregivers, students, community leaders and other stakeholders in Government Schools.

Professional Development: Provision of ongoing, high-quality and relevant professional development for teachers, along with the allocation of sufficient time to enable safe and effective use of AI technologies in teaching and learning.

Curriculum Development: Representations to the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority seeking ongoing review, adaption and augmentation of the Australian

Curriculum content to include AI ethics, critical AI literacy and a clear pathway to AI fluency and AI work readiness for all students. (See ACARA Submission Inquiry into the use of generative artificial intelligence in the Australian Education System (14 July 2023)).

Equitable Access: Investment in AI technologies and supporting infrastructure to enable equitable access to AI use and education for all teachers and students, including those in regional, rural or remote communities, students with disability and those from diverse backgrounds.

Policy Guidance Review

In recognition of the rapid pace of AI development, this policy guidance will be reviewed annually or more frequently at the Council's discretion.

References and Resources

- ACARA Submission Inquiry Into the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in the Australian Education System (14 July 2023).
- The Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration (13 December 2019).
- National Agreement on Closing the Gap - Priority Reform Four: Shared Access to Data and Information at a Regional Level (July 2020).
- Department of Education's Australian Framework for Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Schools (17 November 2023)
- Education Services Australia - Safer Technologies for Schools (ST4S) Initiative (2022)