

Project Profile

AI and Online Safety in New Zealand

Project Objectives: The project aims to analyse and provide comprehensive insights into the implications of artificial intelligence (AI) on online safety. It seeks to identify key trends, challenges, and strategies for addressing online harms, including AI-facilitated issues. The objective is to offer actionable recommendations for policymakers, industry stakeholders, and educators to foster a safer digital environment within the unique context of New Zealand..

Online Harms and AI. Online harms refer to any negative impacts experienced by individuals or groups due to harmful behavior or content encountered on the internet. AI, defined as the simulation of human intelligence processes by computer systems to perform tasks, has seen exponential developments. Generative AI (GenAI) is particularly noteworthy, as it both creates new online harms and exacerbates existing ones, while also offering solutions to these problems..

Project Activities. To achieve the project objectives, the project team will: (a) Identify the most urgent policy, legal and regulatory gaps in AI/online safety within the New Zealand context, providing recommendations on how to address them; (b) Encourage multi-stakeholder participation in AI policymaking within New Zealand; (c) Produce a discussion paper which will explore the Implications of AI on online safety - distilling international trends and issues on this topic for the New Zealand audience and context (the NZ AI Safety Paper).

The Paper will complement and enhance New Zealand's existing frameworks and guidelines on AI governance and online safety. Developed to assist policymakers, industry stakeholders, and educators in New Zealand, as well as international partners, the Discussion Paper will identify key issues and trends of online harms and relevant AI implications, provide strategic insights, and recommend policy actions aligned with Netsafe's values.

Project Management. The project is managed by Netsafe, which has engaged the AI Asia Pacific Institute to carry out research and prepare the NZ AI Safety Paper.

Netsafe. Netsafe is New Zealand's independent, non-profit online safety organisation, founded to help internet users stay safe online. It provides online safety support, expertise, and education, encouraging the adoption of technology by promoting tools and techniques to

minimise online risks. Netsafe collaborates with government, law enforcement, industry, and community organisations both locally and internationally, enabling New Zealanders to confidently access digital opportunities and prevent online harm. See: <https://netsafe.org.nz/>.

The AI Asia Pacific Institute (AIAPI). The AI Asia Pacific Institute (AIAPI) is a global nonprofit organization committed to strengthening the Asia-Pacific economies by facilitating the responsible development and adoption of artificial intelligence.

The AIAPI serves as an independent catalyst, uniting stakeholders to guide AI's responsible development through interdisciplinary research, awareness raising, international collaboration, and policy advisory activities. See: <https://aiasiapacific.org/>.

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