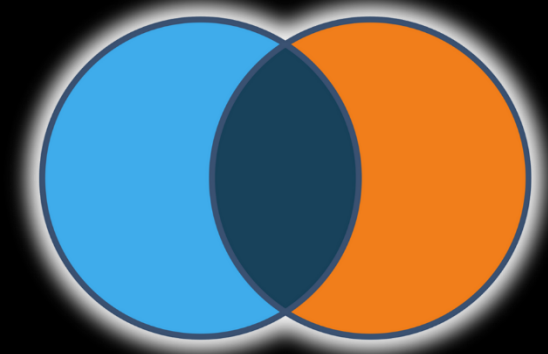




AI CoLab

Alliance Charter

The AI CoLab Alliance is a shared initiative of partners and participants across sectors and jurisdictions, including and supported by the Australian Government.

Alliance Partners

Participants who actively and substantially support the alliance's shared mission, model, and goals



Australian Government

Preamble

We advance both "Good with AI", harnessing technology to empower communities and enhance societal well-being—and "Good within AI", ensuring the way we work with AI systems is ethical, fair, and inclusive.

Under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, every individual has the human right to benefit from technological progress.⁴

As we enter an era where AI is a foundation of our social infrastructure, it stands to transform lives for the better. A society where AI is accessible and inclusive will empower communities and be healthier, more sustainable, and more prosperous.

This transformative potential also means individuals and communities—particularly those already experiencing disadvantage—are vulnerable to disruption and exclusion from AI technologies, and harm from people who use them irresponsibly or unfairly.

To advance AI for the common good, we must act now. Barriers to accessing AI are already driving inequality, and we have already seen the speed and scale at which people using digital systems unethically can hurt our most vulnerable.⁵

We must also act together. By working closely across traditional borders, we will accelerate public purpose innovation that benefits everybody, with resilience against harm. In doing so, we will drive a virtuous cycle of inclusion and impact.

This means working with governments and other stewards of social infrastructure upon which vulnerable people rely. We recognise the Australian Royal Commission into Robodebt's first finding; we directly relieve distress and disadvantage through:

- systems that make engaging with government easier and more inclusive,
- explaining government processes in clear terms and plain language, and
- all practicable steps to ensure governments do not cause or worsen distress.⁶

Cross-sector collaboration is not just desirable—it is essential. Direct impact takes:

- Civil society to represent the needs and concerns of vulnerable communities.
- Leading researchers to translate ethical principles into tangible practices.
- Technology leaders and social enterprises to build or provide solutions.
- Government partners to shape, accelerate, and implement solutions that democratise government and drive better, more inclusive community outcomes.

Only by aligning and coordinating action across sectors can we create solutions that target disadvantage, ensure AI is universally accessible, and embed ethical practices.

We invite leaders across sectors and borders to join our shared banner. Through collaboration, we accelerate innovation for the common good.

⁴ ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-economic-social-and-cultural-rights#article-15

⁵ academic.oup.com/pnasnexus/article/3/6/pgae191/7689236

⁶ robodebt.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/report

Our Vision

For Good and For All

We envision a world where ethical technology realises its full potential to overcome disadvantage, empower communities, and improve lives. In this world, joint action across sectors and borders drives a virtuous cycle of inclusion, impact, and trust.

Our Mission

Public Purpose Innovation through Cross-Sector Collaboration

Accelerating innovation for good and for all takes everyone at the table. Our mission is to:

- **Accelerate Good with Innovation:** Drive public purpose innovation that relieves distress and disadvantage, advances inclusion, and improves societal well-being.
- **Accelerate Good within Innovation:** Develop and demonstrate ethical practices that reduce harm and ensure technological systems, and governance systems, benefit all.
- **Unify Cross-Sector Efforts:** Bring together partners from civil society, industry, governments, and academia to align and coordinate mutually reinforcing action.
- **Empower Communities:** Enable communities to be active participants in shaping the technologies they use and rely on, ensuring their needs and voices are addressed.
- **Universal Access:** Make ethical deployment and use of technology viable for all, and ensure all individuals and communities are able to access its opportunities.

Our Values

We are a staging area for partners in industry, academia, civil society, and government to coordinate mutually reinforcing actions and combine strengths. Together, we will embed change we cannot achieve alone. To maintain this model, we commit to these values:

- **Public purpose:** We are driven by impact. Through close ties to benevolent institutions, we maintain a clear line of sight on community wellbeing, values and rights.
- **Long term impact:** We exist to accelerate cross-sector, public purpose innovation at scale. We attract, include, and empower diverse partners by driving new ways of working, addressing systemic barriers, and ensuring marginalised voices are heard.
- **Bring people together:** We marshal diverse perspectives, capabilities, and resources of allies across industry, civil society, academia, and the public sector. We work together openly and inclusively to explore, coordinate, and drive reinforcing action.
- **Stand for change:** We maintain a sense of urgency and stand together in the face of inertia and resistance. We are steadfast against attempts to dilute, delay or derail action, and drive systems that meet the needs of collaboration—not the other way around.
- **Empower, don't control:** No centrally controlled plan or single idea will create sustainable, systemic change. Working together, we empower diverse groups to lead mutually reinforcing actions in different environments.
- **Adapt and inspire:** We stay flexible and entrepreneurial to recruit new allies, seize new opportunities, adapt to partners' strengths and resources, and discover valuable ways for our strengths to combine.

Our Strategy

Innovators without Borders

We work together to align, elevate, and accelerate action—including existing efforts where we are independently making significant strides. We collaborate in areas including:

1. Community and Capability:

- Joint training programs on opportunities, risks, ethics, and collaborative innovation, to build motivation, knowledge and ability to create and adopt ethical AI across sectors.
- AI immersives that convene cross-sector partners to build mutual understanding, direct experience with AI systems, and prototype and test AI solutions.
- Fostering a mission-driven network of innovators and early adopters that co-designs, shares, and showcases solutions across traditional sectoral and jurisdictional borders.

2. Projects and Platforms:

- Open and shared digital, physical and institutional platforms for cross-sector partners to jointly explore, experiment with, and refine solutions across traditional borders.
- Cross-sector working groups and fellowships that empower diverse groups to work together, communities to participate, and technologists to make impact.
- Rapid prototyping and co-design to adapt versatile systems for specific use cases, community needs and contexts.

3. Assurance and Adoption:

- Accelerating ethical AI adoption in the public and private sector, including through practical, standardised processes that build clarity and confidence.
- Driving universal access to AI and its opportunities, including through systems and assurance processes that are equitable, ethical, and viable for everyone.
- Sharing and supporting socially valuable tools to amplify their impact, encourage adoption, and inspire others, including by hosting tools for public benefit.

An Alliance With Close Public Sector Ties

We recognize the vital role of cross-sector collaboration with governments in shaping, accelerating, and implementing solutions that democratize the benefits of technology. The AI CoLab Alliance aims to support citizen-centric outcomes through:

- **Practical Collaboration:** creating a staging area and neutral, trusted space for governments, communities and industry to explore, co-design and test on equal footing, providing a clear front door for partners and ensuring diverse voices are heard.
- **Training and Immersion:** access to hands-on training with expert partners for new, experienced and expert users of AI, and immersion programs that allow public servants to explore, experience, and experiment with cutting-edge technologies safely.
- **Safe Experimentation:** empowering agencies to experiment, pilot new tools, and prototype solutions with partners in a controlled setting—without requiring extensive approvals or piecemeal procurements.
- **Assurance and Governance:** linking agencies with experts in ethics and safety to collaboratively explore, test, and refine best practices—and in doing so, accelerate ethical, diverse, and impactful AI adoption in the public sector.
- **Cross-Sector Community:** supporting innovators and early adopters in the public sector to build strong relationships and common understanding with allies in the social sector, academia, industry, and other jurisdictions.

Our Model

Real Collaboration through Strong, Shared Foundations

Our collaboration efforts include working through a [collective impact model](#) that brings together partners across sectors and jurisdictions, and acts as a staging area for joint action.

- **Working Groups:** These are our operational core: action-focused forums, bringing together diverse partners to align and drive action on both new and existing initiatives.
- **Steering Committee:** Composed of dedicated, collaborative individuals from diverse sectors and backgrounds, steering committee members provide strategic guidance, support working groups, and advocate for the AI CoLab Alliance in their communities.
- **Backbone Support:** We each contribute to the foundations for collaboration, pooling strengths to support teams, infrastructure, and systems that foster continuous communication, accelerate coordination, and unlock practical joint projects.

We uphold the highest standards of ethics and integrity:

- **Independent Entity:** The Alliance is supported by an independent not-for-profit ('CoLab Foundation') that offers a public face and front door for new partners and supporters. Its neutrality fosters trust and ensures we always welcome new and diverse partners.
- **Ethical Practices:** We are committed to embedding ethical considerations into all AI initiatives to prevent harm and promote fairness.
- **Open Innovation:** We work in the open wherever possible, encouraging open dialogue and exchange of ideas, and promoting contestability and innovation across sectors.

Our Commitment to Shared Success

We support and coordinate with partners who share our agenda. Together, we advance:

- **Access to Collaborative Networks:** Supporting partners to connect with diverse allies and partners across sectors to share knowledge and resources.
- **Ethical Development:** Empowering partners to explore, experiment with, and co-design innovative solutions to ensure they are ethical, inclusive, and advance the common good.
- **Capacity Building:** Access to educational initiatives, workshops, and joint projects that equip organizations to innovate effectively, ethically and collaboratively.
- **Recognition and Confidence:** Acknowledging and promoting leaders in ethical innovation and collaboration, enhancing public awareness, confidence and trust.

In joining us under this Charter, participants commit to:

- **Active Participation:** Engage regularly with the CoLab's activities, including honouring any commitments to working groups and collaborations on projects.
- **Resource Sharing:** Where possible, provide resources such as expertise, data, technology, or funding to support joint initiatives.
- **Promoting the Mission:** Advocate for the CoLab's objectives within your organization and networks, encouraging others to join and support our efforts.
- **Ethical Practices:** Upholding the highest standards of ethics in all collaborative efforts, actively preventing harm and ensuring that benefits are accessible and inclusive.
- **Mutual Support:** Working collaboratively to overcome challenges, sharing knowledge, and supporting one another to achieve our shared objectives.