



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 311

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Corporate and Digital Development, Hon Joshua Burgoyne MLA:

Artificial Intelligence Policy

1. **Is there a Northern Territory Government policy on the use of artificial intelligence in the public sector and, if so, what is it?**
 - a. **Does the policy distinguish between general and professional use, for example clerical as against clinical use, and if so how?**

The Northern Territory (NT) Government has published an artificial intelligence (AI) policy and AI Assurance Framework, which are publicly available at: <https://dcdd.nt.gov.au/publications>

The AI policy sets out the requirements for the acceptable use of AI and conditions for use of AI tools. It also identifies Microsoft Copilot as the NT Government's endorsed assistive AI tool.

The AI Assurance Framework outlines the need for a risk assessment for any AI systems that may affect government services, operations or the public. The framework also outlines the AI ethics principles that guide the risk assessment and the rules for NT Government employees making responsible use of AI.

2. **Is artificial intelligence used in any human services settings such as health and mental health and, if so, how is its use governed to ensure it causes no harm to individuals?**

The ethics principles in the AI Assurance Framework and the acceptable use rules in the AI policy directly address the requirements to avoid, prevent or address harm to individuals by any use of AI in the NT Government.

3. **Is artificial intelligence used in any eligibility settings such as housing or aged care and, if so, how is its use governed to ensure it causes no harm to individuals?**

Where AI is used to support NT Government staff, the AI Assurance Framework and the acceptable use rules in the AI policy notes public sector staff retain ultimate responsibility for decisions and requires staff to validate the accuracy, appropriateness and address potential bias before taking action from the output of an AI tool.

4. Is there an NT Government plan for the use of artificial intelligence across the Territory in both public and private sectors, including in schools, commerce and advertising?

a. How much funding has been allocated in the coming and forward years?

b. What projections exist for what will be required in future years to regulate its ethical use and application?

The Department of Corporate and Digital Development (DCDD) is currently leading an AI adoption program with initiatives designed to assist public sector staff to understand AI and develop relevant skills when making use of AI tools. This has included:

- communication campaigns about the AI policy and endorsed AI tool
- a skills development program with both self-guided and classroom-based training
- example AI prompts library to remind people about the AI rules in different government processes such as executive brief writing, frontline services and more.

Across the NT Government, agencies are developing their approaches to harnessing AI technology that aligns with their agency strategy or plans.

A central AI plan for the NT Government is being developed to address actions in the Digital Futures Strategy 2026–2028 (available at <https://dcdd.nt.gov.au/digital-futures-strategy>), designed to support agencies with their own AI aspirations and plans. The plan will include actions to support AI enablement, capability and AI advisory services by DCDD.

The funding and monitoring of AI developments is centrally delivered by DCDD's Digital Experience division. For 2026–27, the division's budget is \$1.37 million. This funding is not solely dedicated to the AI plan and activities.