



Human Rights and Technology Final Report

New technologies, like artificial intelligence (AI), are reshaping our world. They present unprecedented opportunities and threats, especially to our human rights. The Australian Human Rights Commission's *Human Rights and Technology Final Report* sets out a roadmap for Australia to seize the opportunities and address the threats.

Part A: A national strategy for responsible innovation

Australia's overall approach to new technology—embodied in the *Digital Australia Strategy*—should focus on promoting responsible innovation. This should be achieved by modernising Australia's laws, government policies, education and resourcing (Recommendation 1).

Part B: Use of artificial intelligence in decision making

Increasingly, AI is being used to make decisions by government and the private sector. Many of those AI-informed decisions affect legal or similarly significant rights—in areas as diverse as social security, recruitment and financial services.

The use of AI can lead to better, more data-driven and efficient decisions, but it can also bring risks—including to human rights. AI-informed decisions should be lawful, transparent and subject to human oversight and review. Reform is needed to make such decision making more accountable and protect against harm, including:

- *human rights impact assessments* should be undertaken before AI-informed decision making is used (Recommendations 2, 9)
- individuals should be *notified* when AI is used in decisions that affect them (Recommendations 3, 10)
- people generally should be provided *reasons* for AI-informed decisions (Recommendations 5-7, 12-13)
- people generally should be able to *review* AI-informed decisions (Recommendations 8, 13).

Without effective safeguards, the use of AI can result in decisions that are unfair or even discriminatory. To minimise harm:

- Guidance should be issued for government and the private sector on using AI fairly and in compliance with anti-discrimination law (Recommendation 18).
- Special legal protections are needed to address serious harms associated with biometric technologies, including facial recognition (Recommendations 19, 21).

Part C: An AI Safety Commissioner

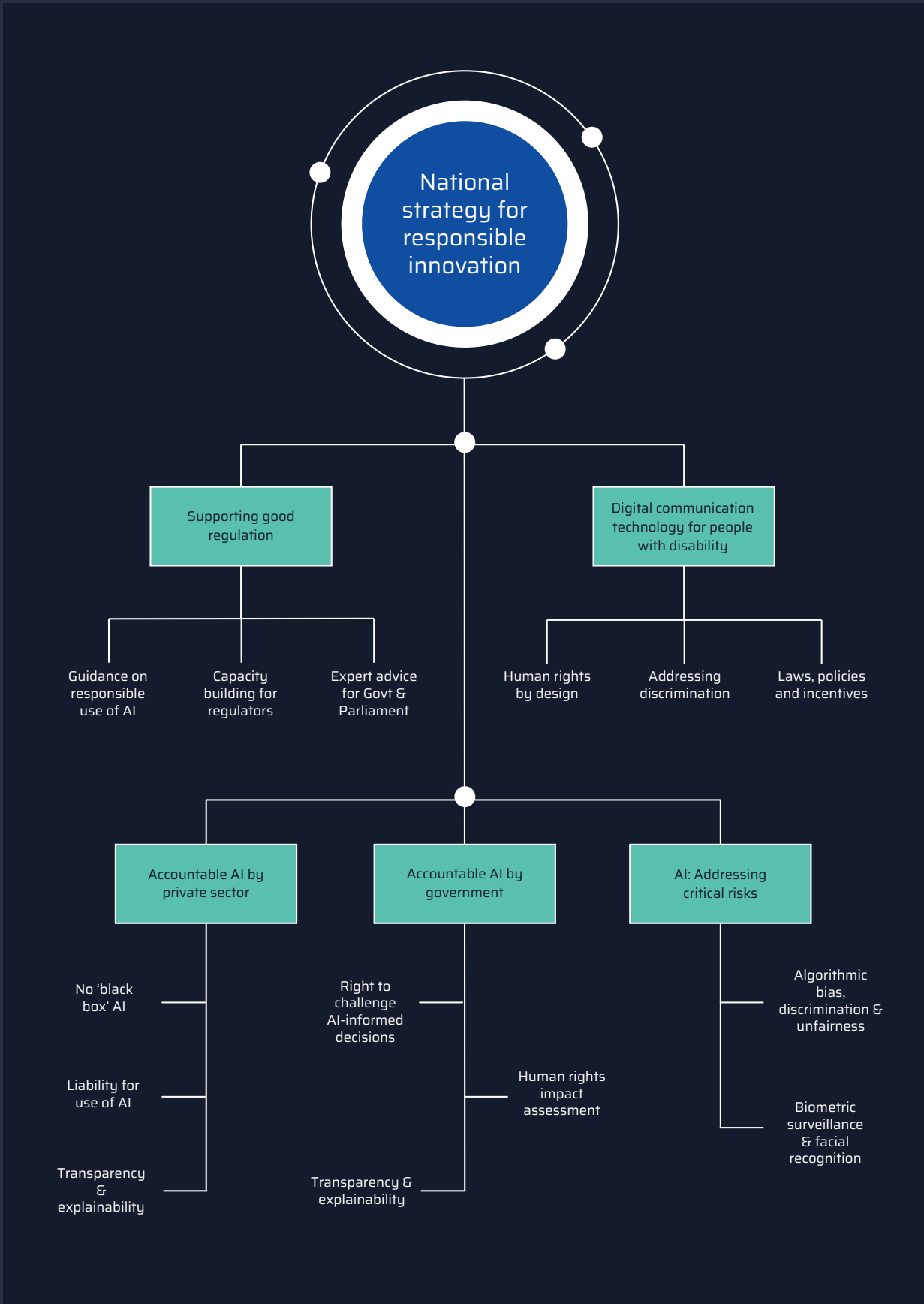
The creation of an AI Safety Commissioner would help build public trust in the safe use of AI by:

- providing expert guidance to government agencies and the private sector on how to comply with laws and ethical standards
- building the technical capacity of regulators to adapt and respond to the development and use of AI
- monitoring trends in the use and regulation of AI and providing independent advice to legislators and policy makers (Recommendations 22, 23).

Part D: Accessibility of new technology

People with disability should have equal access to technology, to enable independence and full participation in all aspects of community life. However, many people with disability encounter barriers in accessing Digital Communication Technology. To address this problem:

- law and policy reform should improve functional access to Digital Communication Technology (Recommendations 24-26)
- more accessible information and broadband internet are needed, including through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (Recommendations 32-34)
- implementing a 'human rights by design' strategy should improve accessibility, with benefits for the broader community and technology sector (Recommendations 35-37).



Major project partners

