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PO Box 123, Broadway, NSW 2007, Australia

The Parliamentary Officer
Select Committee on
Artificial Intelligence
GPO Box 572
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Monday 21 August 2023

Dear Parliamentary Officer,

I am writing on behalf of the Human Technology Institute (HTI), based at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), regarding this Select Committee inquiry on artificial intelligence (AI). This letter provides some material relevant to the inquiry, and we also offer to provide oral evidence or a briefing for the Select Committee if this would be of assistance.

HTI is building a future that applies human values to new technology. HTI has close partnerships with industry, civil society and government, and applies socio-technical expertise to ensure new and emerging technologies are inclusive and fair.

By way of background, one of HTI's co-founders, Professor Nicholas Davis, was Head of Society and Innovation at the World Economic Forum (2014–2019) and brings with him world-leading expertise in strategic foresight for emerging technologies.

I am HTI's other co-founder, and Australia's former Human Rights Commissioner (2016–2021). In this previous role, I led a three-year national consultation project on human rights and technology, culminating in our final report and recommendations which were tabled in the Commonwealth Parliament in May 2021. The [Human Rights and Technology Final Report](#) has particular relevance to clauses 1, 3 and 4 of this inquiry's Terms of Reference, especially:

- Part B: the use of artificial intelligence in decision making by government and the private sector
- Part C: supporting effective regulation through the creation of an AI Safety Commissioner.

I have also attached two other relevant documents to this letter, via email. First, [HTI's recent submission](#) to the Australian Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) Discussion Paper, *Safe and Responsible AI in Australia*, contains research and recommendations outlining how governments should strike an appropriate balance between promoting positive AI innovation for economic and broader gains, while also ensuring that Australians are protected from harm.

Second, in September 2022, HTI published a world-leading report outlining [a model law for the regulation of facial recognition technology](#). This report focuses specifically on the privacy, data security and other human rights impacts of AI in the form of facial recognition. You may find this useful in reference to clauses 3 and 4 of your inquiry.

While HTI has not produced a formal written submission for this inquiry, we would be pleased to provide evidence and expertise as required. This may be through a parliamentary hearing process or a separate briefing with the Select Committee.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch if I can assist further.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Edward Santow

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