

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF RIVERINA



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Policy on the Appropriate Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Approved by Diocesan Council 11th March, 2026

Date for Review March, 2027

Contents

1. Preamble	3
2. Scope	3
3. Definition of Artificial Intelligence	3
4. Guiding Principles	3
5. Acceptable Uses of AI	4
6. Prohibited or Cautioned Users	4
7. Benefits of Using AI in the Diocese.....	5
8. Risks and Limitations of AI	5
9. Implementation and Oversight.....	6
10. Reporting Concerns.....	6
11. Contact and Questions	6

1. Preamble

- 1.1 AI presents exciting opportunities to enhance our administrative and communication work. However, its use within the context of the Church demands wisdom, caution, and unwavering commitment to our core values and the primacy of human relationships in Christ.
- 1.2 This policy sets out guidelines for the ethical and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) within the Anglican Diocese of Riverina. It aims to encourage the appropriate use of AI tools while safeguarding the Diocese's mission, pastoral integrity, and legal obligations.
- 1.3 **The only approved AI platform is Microsoft Copilot.** The Diocese does not give permission for the use of any other platform.

2. Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to all diocesan clergy, employees, volunteers, and students involved in ministry, administration, communications, education, or any activity where AI tools may be used.

3. Definition of Artificial Intelligence

- 3.1 AI refers to systems or tools that simulate human intelligence, including text generation, image creation, automated decision-making, predictive analytics, and other machine learning applications.

4. Guiding Principles

- 4.1 **Mission Alignment:** AI must be used in ways that uphold the mission, values, and pastoral care of the Diocese of Riverina, and must never undermine them.
- 4.2 **Transparency:** Users must disclose when content has been generated or significantly assisted by AI using an appropriately worded disclaimer (e.g., "This draft was created with the assistance of AI tools and has been thoroughly reviewed and edited for accuracy and context by Name/Team")
- 4.3 **Accountability:** Human oversight is essential. AI must not be relied upon for

autonomous decision-making in sensitive or pastoral matters and individuals using AI tools are ultimately responsible for the accuracy, appropriateness, and consequences of its output.

- 4.4 **Privacy and Confidentiality:** Public AI tools must not be used to process personal or sensitive data without the explicit consent of the person or people to which the data relates, written approval from the Diocesan Registrar, and proper data protection safeguards.
- 4.5 **Equity and Inclusion:** AI use must not perpetuate bias, misinformation, or discrimination.
- 4.6 **Compliance:** AI use must adhere to all relevant laws, regulations (especially privacy laws like Privacy Act 1988), and existing Diocesan policies (IT, Data Protection, Codes of Conduct etc).
- 4.7 **Stewardship of earth's resources:** the use of AI technologies has a range of environmental impacts, most notably in respect of energy and water use, greenhouse gas emissions, and land and resource use; AI users must be considerate of the earth's resources.

5. Acceptable Uses of AI

- 5.1 AI may be used to:
 - i. Assist in drafting sermons, liturgical resources, and educational material (with human review and theological oversight).
 - ii. Enhance administrative efficiency and personal productivity (e.g., summarising reports, drafting routine correspondence, formatting documents, organizing personal task lists)
 - iii. Summarisation (e.g. summarising complex documents on non-sensitive topics, recording and summarising transcripts of meetings).
 - iv. Improve accessibility (e.g., generating alternative formats for communication, language translation).
 - v. Support creative design for events, newsletters, and digital communication.
 - vi. Aid in research or background preparation for training, teaching, and strategic initiatives from publicly available data.

6. Prohibited or Cautioned Users

- 6.1 AI must not be used to:
 - i. Handle confidential data (e.g. personally identifiable information, sensitive pastoral details, financial data, personnel records, or confidential meeting minutes). Third-party AI platforms (e.g., free versions of ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot) must **never** be used to process any identifiable personal data.

- ii. Make pastoral decisions (e.g., counselling advice, providing spiritual advice, theological declarations) without human discernment.
- iii. Generate confidential reports involving personal data (e.g., Safe Church investigations, personnel matters).
- iv. Replace human relationship and discernment in sacramental, spiritual, or pastoral contexts.
- v. Draft legal documents without professional legal oversight.
- vi. Create or distribute content that may mislead, offend, or misrepresent Christian teaching or Diocesan policy.
- vii. Draft sensitive communications (e.g., responses to complaints, disciplinary matters, major announcements) without explicit approval and rigorous human oversight.
- viii. Create sacred art, liturgy, or prayers without explicit theological and aesthetic review and approval.
- ix. Facilitate automated decision-making affecting individuals (e.g. volunteer screening, resource allocation) without robust human review and appeal processes.

7. Benefits of Using AI in the Diocese

- 7.1 Efficiency: Reduces time spent on administrative or routine tasks.
- 7.2 Creativity: Aids in the generation of ideas for sermons, graphics, and communications.
- 7.3 Accessibility: Offers support to those with limited capacity, language barriers, or disabilities.
- 7.4 Education and Training: Enhances resources for clergy and ministry students in theological learning.

8. Risks and Limitations of AI

- 8.1 Misinformation: AI may generate plausible sounding but factually incorrect, nonsensical, or theologically misleading content.
- 8.2 Bias and Injustice: AI models are trained on vast datasets that can reflect and reinforce social or cultural biases.
- 8.3 Loss of Pastoral Presence: Over-reliance may diminish authentic human care and engagement.

- 8.4 Confidentiality Breaches: Using AI for sensitive data could violate privacy laws and Safe Church principles.
- 8.5 Overdependence: Using AI as a spiritual or theological authority undermines human discernment and Christian formation. Overuse may erode essential skills like critical thinking, writing, and pastoral discernment.
- 8.6 Plagiarism and Intellectual Property: AI-generated content may plagiarise existing sources. Ownership and copyright of AI outputs can be legally complex.
- 8.7 AI tools can hallucinate and present information in credible ways when that information is in fact misleading or even inaccurate. Careful human oversight is needed of all AI content.

9. Implementation and Oversight

- 9.1 Use of any AI tool beyond basic, low-risk tasks (like simple brainstorming or drafting internal emails) for official Diocesan work requires approval from the Diocesan Registrar.

10. Reporting Concerns

- 10.1 Suspected breaches of this policy, data privacy incidents related to AI, or concerns about inappropriate AI use, should be reported immediately to the Diocesan Registrar.

11. Contact and Questions

- 10.1 For clarification or advice on AI use, contact the Diocesan Registrar.