



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

Policy on Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in the ARC's grants programs

Policy Name: Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in the ARC's grants programs

Policy Owner: Branch Manager, Research Evaluation and Policy

Effective from: 28/04/2026 **Version number:** 2026.1

Date for revision: 28/11/2027



Policy on Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in the ARC's grants programs (2026)

1. Purpose

The *Policy on Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in the ARC's grants programs* provides guidance for researchers, Administering Organisations, and peer reviewers including all Detailed and General Assessors engaged in the ARC's National Competitive Grants Program in relation to the use of generative Artificial Intelligence (generative AI) tools.

2. Background

This policy has been developed in response to the potential use of generative AI in ARC applications and assessments.

Some of the opportunities for enhancing both research and research assessment with AI include tools that quickly summarise or refine text to increase readability, analyse large data sets, craft and debug code, communicate research results and streamline repetitive tasks.

While there are a range of benefits, it is also important to carefully manage:

- intellectual integrity and authorship
- safeguarding intellectual property
- the culturally appropriate use of data
- repeatable, transparent and reliable content free from bias
- the centrality of human knowledge and expertise
- appropriate human oversight and individual expert judgement, and
- energy and environmental impacts.

Generative AI technologies are rapidly evolving and we will continue to monitor developments. The ARC maintains active engagement with domestic and international counterparts and will update this policy as required, and in line with the guiding principles of the *Policy for the responsible use of AI in government (v2.0) (Digital Transformation Agency 2025)*. These principles include the need for fairness, transparency, and accountability in the use of AI by the Australian Government.

3. Use of generative AI or similar technologies within the National Competitive Grants Program

3.1 Advice to applicants (researchers and Administering Organisations)

The ARC recognises that some applicants may use generative AI tools to support the preparation of grant applications, for instance in testing ideas, improving language, and summarising text. The ARC encourages applicants to take care that any use of these tools does not compromise their intellectual contribution to the application or introduce flaws or incorrect data.

The applicant bears the responsibility for the content of their application and is considered to be the author of the content which they submit to the ARC. Applicants are expected to be transparent about their AI use when this information is requested by the ARC.

Administering Organisations, as the applicant, are also responsible for the following:

- ensuring that applications submitted to the ARC are complete and all details in the application are accurate and current at the time of submission; and
- ensuring that applications do not contain false or misleading information, or otherwise breach the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018*.

The Deputy/Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) or their delegate or equivalent at an Administering Organisation is also required to certify applications on submission to the ARC. This includes certification that all participants are responsible for the authorship and intellectual content of the application, and that they have not impinged the IP rights of intellectual contributions of others.

We also encourage applicants to read the [Guidance for AI Adoption | Department of Industry Science and Resources](#).

3.2 Advice to individuals providing assessments (including all General and Detailed Assessors) within ARC peer review processes

The ARC recognises that generative AI technologies are becoming embedded in many of the tools that are used by assessors.

The ARC permits the use of generative AI tools by assessors, provided that:

- Assessors meet their obligations to provide detailed, high quality and constructive assessments grounded in their own expert judgment. High quality assessments support the peer review process which is core to the ARC's identification of excellent research. Assessors should not use AI to assist in forming an opinion of the quality of the application they are assessing. Unchecked or irresponsible use of generative AI risks compromising the integrity and trustworthiness of the ARC's peer review process.
- Confidentiality of all application materials is preserved. This includes the ideas (intellectual property) within an application, and the actual content (text, data and images). Inputting any application material into public generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, Perplexity etc.) is considered by the ARC to constitute a serious breach of confidentiality and is not permitted.

Assessors may only use generative AI tools to correct or help with grammar, spelling, formatting and readability of drafted assessments.

Assessors will be asked about their use of AI in assessments and are to be transparent when this information is requested by the ARC.¹

The ARC’s position is supported by the following frameworks:

- The *Australian Research Council Act (2001)*, which identifies peer review as a core process by the ARC to identify excellent research.
- The Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018 (the Code), which sets out that individuals participating in peer review are to act in a way that is fair, rigorous and timely and maintains the confidentiality of the content.
- The ARC Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy (2020), which requires that all officials and individuals carrying out ARC business, including assessors and peer reviewers, preserve the principles of confidentiality.

The ARC’s [Research Integrity Policy](#), which sets out how the ARC manages concerns with confidentiality and integrity during review. This Policy allows for the ARC to take precautionary actions to protect the assessment process. Specifically, in cases where the inappropriate use of generative AI by assessors is suspected, the ARC will remove that assessment from its assessment process.

If, following an investigation, an assessor is found to have breached the Code during ARC assessment, the ARC may impose consequential actions in addition to any imposed by the assessor’s employing institution.

4. Contact Details

Stakeholder Relations

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5. Document Control

Number	Date Approved	Approved By	Brief Description
2026.1	15 April 2026	ARC Board	The policy was revised to permit limited AI use by assessors and provide greater clarity to applicants and assessors.

¹ The policy takes effect from 28 April 2026. It applies to applications and assessments for Discovery Indigenous 2027 and all scheme rounds opening after that date. RMS functionality to support compliance will be available by mid-2026.