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Securing a pro-teacher AI agenda and enforceable workplace protections

Australian teachers reported the fourth highest use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the third highest levels of stress among teachers in [OECD countries in 2025](#). Our teachers have adapted to AI faster than most of their international counterparts, in part to try and offset [unsustainable workloads](#) and declining levels of professional satisfaction.

The education workforce is increasingly using AI tools to help streamline workloads and reduce administrative demands. It is essential that school staff are consulted in the evaluation and implementation of these tools to uphold their professional autonomy and ensure that AI supports, rather than undermines, educational outcomes.

The IEU continues to campaign to reduce [teacher workloads](#) and ensure that workplace protections are not outpaced by the AI revolution. Our union is developing detailed protocols to guide the use of AI in workplaces and joins the ACTU in calling for enforceable AI [implementation agreements](#), including guaranteed consultation and job security.

In our recent submission to the [Joint Select Committee on AI](#) the IEU advocated for multiple [worker protections](#) including:

- AI implementation agreements that include guarantees on job security, skills and training, transparency in the use of AI, privacy and the safe storage of data. Employers must consult meaningfully with employees and their union, either through such standalone implementation agreements, or relevant collective bargaining consultative provisions.
- AI-related policy responses and changes to school practices should be evaluated for their impact on already unsustainable teacher workloads. All AI-related training and professional development should occur during paid working time.
- Equitable access to AI technologies and digital infrastructure must be guaranteed for all students, regardless of sector, background or location, to ensure high-quality educational opportunities for all Australian students.

The union movement is also calling for a [licensing regime for AI models](#), including proactive risk mitigation requirements for AI developers and deployers in Australia.

More broadly, the IEU welcomes the new [AI Safety Institute](#), which helps ensure AI developers comply with Australian laws, and the Office of AI, established by the Prime Minister to coordinate a [national response](#) to the impacts of AI, support secure jobs and build sovereign AI capability.