Guidelines for use of generative AI tools in the preparation of Research Outputs by Higher Degree by Research Students

1. Preamble

Generative AI is a rapidly evolving technology, with new capabilities and applications being introduced regularly. The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines and expectations for the use of generative AI tools in the preparation of research outputs related to the Higher Degree by Research (HDR) program, including the thesis. These guidelines do not prescribe specific tools or uses, and are subject to change from time to time.

Generative AI tools generate new content, such as text or images based on prompts from the user. While such tools present opportunities generative AI tools do not have the capability to undertake independent original research. Overreliance on such tools may inhibit the development of the skills needed to be an independent researcher.

Despite the potential risks and limitations, AI tools present opportunities such as streamlining routine activities, providing input to improve writing quality, and even with research related tasks such as identifying relevant literature. Digital literacy skills, including those required to use AI effectively, are likely to be increasingly important in the workforce. Therefore, students are encouraged to use and experiment with AI tools in appropriate ways, but remain aware of the risks.

For research outputs related to the HDR, the decision to use generative AI tools should be discussed

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[2] Responsible Conduct of Research Policy and Procedure https://www.adelaide.edu.au/policies/96/

3. Use of generative AI in the written thesis

The following uses of generative AI may be appropriate, following consultation with the supervisors:

- Editorial purposes, aligned with the guidelines for the editing of research theses by professional editors and the Australian standards for editing practice[3]. This means that the use of generative AI must be limited to clarity, expression and spelling. Students should consider the use of appropriate prompts to generate a list of suggested improvements, not to re-write the content.
- Where a published article forms part of this thesis, the article must comply with University requirements, including these guidelines, as well as the AI policy of the publisher. The published article must be accompanied in the thesis by a statement of AI use, and a link to the publisher's AI use policy (or equivalent) must also be included.

The following uses of generative AI are **not permitted**:

- Generation of text for inclusion in the thesis. Students are expected to write the thesis independently, under the direction of

5. Acknowledging generative AI use

Students must maintain their own records of generative AI use, including programs or applications used,