

Children, Privacy & Generative AI: Some Initial Concerns

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General Comment No. 25 (2021)

“Privacy is vital to children’s agency, dignity and safety and for the exercise of their rights. Children’s personal data are processed to offer educational, health and other benefits to them. Threats to children’s privacy may arise from data collection and processing by public institutions, businesses and other organizations”

The Myth of Artificial Intelligence is in the name.



[DALL-E3] a really good calculator with a sleek design

1. Artificial Intelligence *isn't* intelligent in any recognisably human way. Nor is it sentient or alive. These tools don't hallucinate; they glitch, they produce errors.
2. Large Language Models (LLMs) = probabilistic recombining of training data in novel ways (text, images, audio, video).
3. The myth that AI will be intelligent, and then super-intelligent is part of the sales pitch from AI companies, fuelled by 75 years of popular culture.
4. The current cause célèbre in the tech world – enormous amounts of investment and (expected) profits to be had. The Foundation models are getting larger and larger, and more and more expensive to create/train.

AI Agents / AI Companions



ABC NEWS



Young Australians using AI bots for therapy

triple j Hack



By April McLennan

Mental Health

Mon 19 May



Gracie Johnson says she developed a connection with an AI chatbot once she opened up to it emotionally. (Supplied: Gracie Johnson)

In short:

Some young Australians say they are turning to artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots as a form of therapy.

They say after the federal government cut the number of Medicare-subsidised mental health sessions, they are using ChatGPT for support.

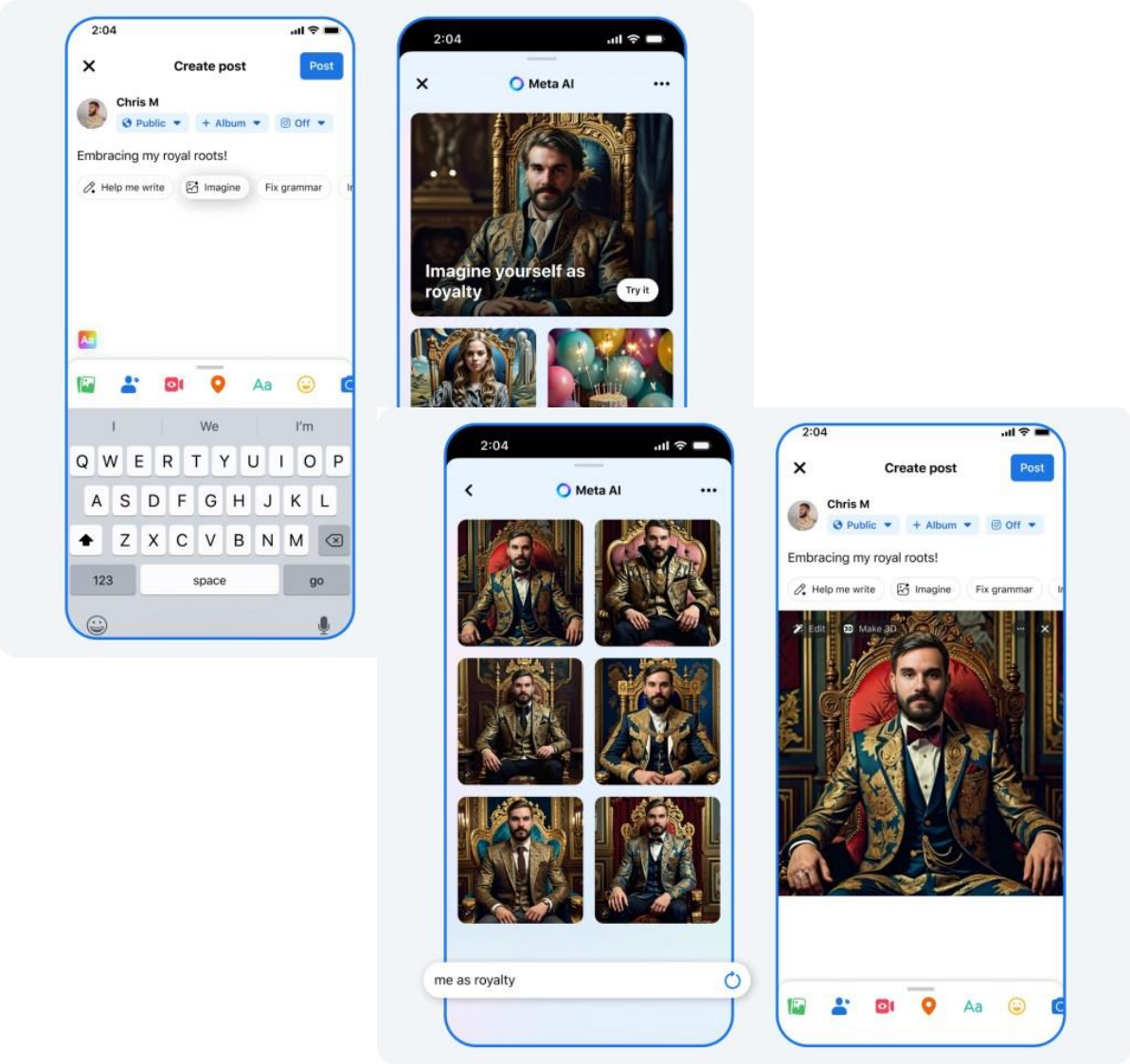
Move Fast and Break Things (even if the things are people)



“For people who don’t have a person who’s a therapist, I think everyone will have an AI.”

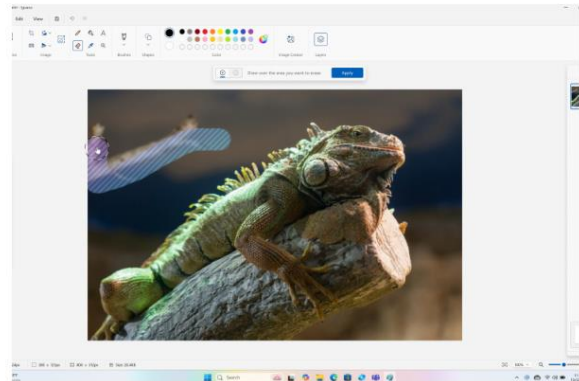
- Mark Zuckerberg
(Meta/Facebook), April 2025

Ubiquity



TECH / MICROSOFT

Microsoft Paint is getting Photoshop-like generative AI fill and erase features



/ The Paint update allows users to add or remove objects using a brush, alongside erasing and image upscaling in Microsoft's Photos app.

by **Jess Weatherbed**
Oct 1, 2024, 10:00 PM GMT+8

22 Comments (22 New)

Generative Erase is like Google Pixel's Magic Eraser feature but for your desktop PC.
Image: Microsoft

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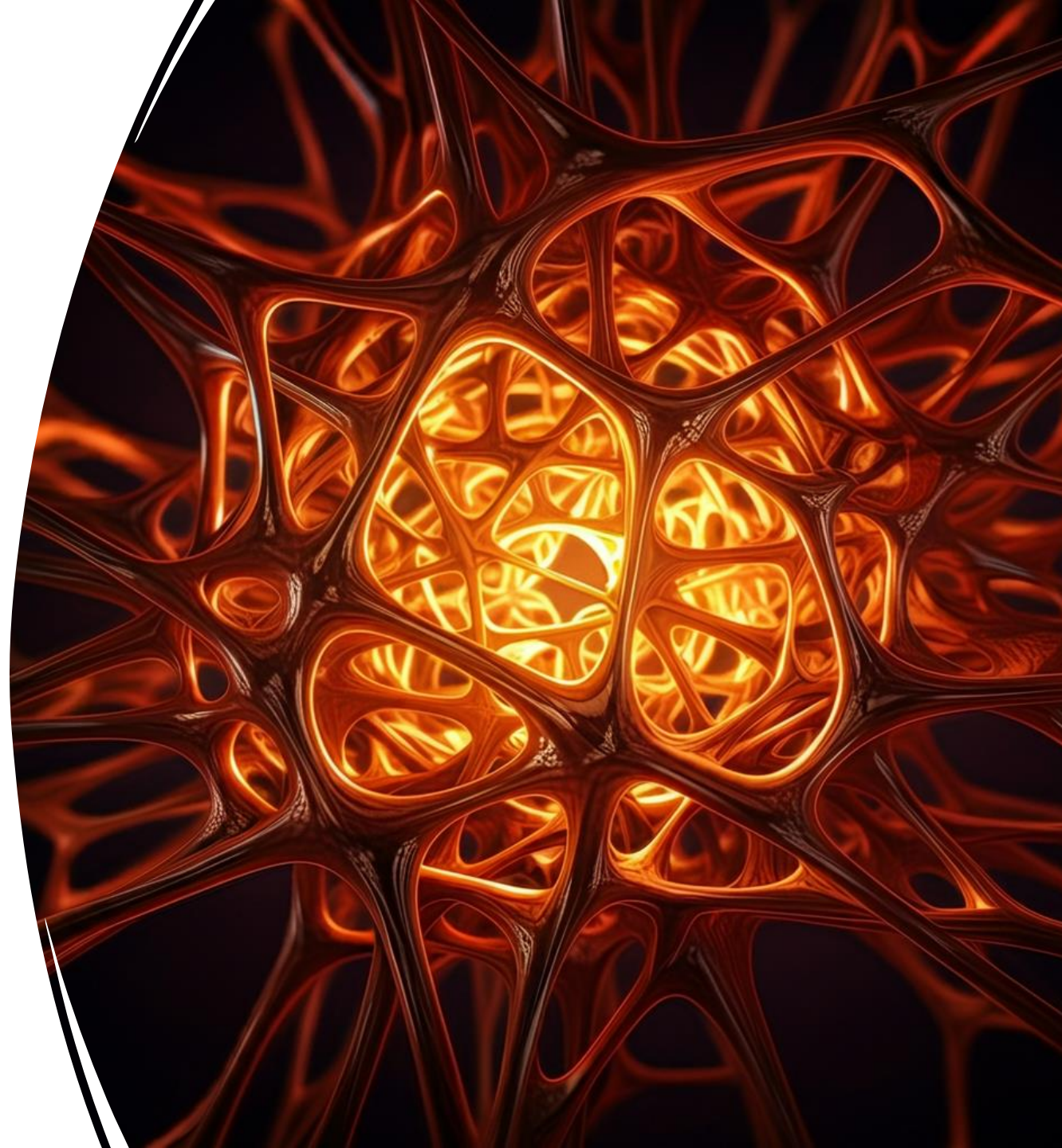
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2024/03/14/bringing-copilot-to-more-customers-worldwide-across-life-and-work/>
<https://techcrunch.com/2024/09/25/meta-ais-gemini-imagine-features-expand-across-facebook-instagram-and-messenger/>
<https://www.theverge.com/2024/10/1/24259239/microsoft-paint-generative-erase-fill-photos-upscaling>

Ubiquity across Children's Worlds



Untangling LLM Privacy?

- Generative AI tools: ubiquitous, highly accessible, developed to maintain use.
- Unique privacy challenges: LLMs already absorbed vast data sources (undisclosed) from many sources.
- LLMs *might* be absorbing every new query, but probably in use for the *next model*. (Can't 'correct' in realtime).
- While ToU suggest children can't use, now in many edtech and everyday consumer tools, including smart speakers and smart toys.
- LLM models are like cakes: they can't be unbaked, so the Privacy Code needs to address privacy at the level of *LLM creation*, not just the moments of consumer use.



Bias?



Prompt: 'an Australian's House'
(ChatGPT4, May 2025)



Prompt: 'an Indigenous Australian's House'
(ChatGPT4, May 2025)

Australian Social Media Ban Vs AI Apps?



Would you like to know more?

- Leaver, T., & Srdarov, S. (2023). ChatGPT Isn't Magic: The Hype and Hypocrisy of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Rhetoric. *M/C Journal*, 26(5), Article 5.
<https://doi.org/10.5204/mcj.3004>
- Srdarov, S., & Leaver, T. (2024). Generative AI Glitches: The Artificial Everything. *M/C Journal*, 27(6), Article 6.
<https://doi.org/10.5204/mcj.3123>
- Leaver, T., & Srdarov, S. (2025). Generative AI and children's digital futures: New research challenges. *Journal of Children and Media*, 19(1), 65–70.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17482798.2024.2438679>

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Children and Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) in Australia: The Big Challenges



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

digitalchild.org.au/artificialintelligence