

Senate Select Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Inquiry into the Adoption of AI
Digital Transformation Agency
16 August 2024

Department/Agency: Digital Transformation Agency

Topic: DTA Involvement in AMICA tool

Asked by: Senator Sheldon Shoebridge

Type of question: Spoken

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 September 2024

Question on Notice Number: DTA-AAI-002

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator Shoebridge: Did the DTA work with the AG's Department in assessing the suitability of this tool, and considerations of this tool in property disputes and family law matters?

Mr Fechner: I can take it on notice whether we were ever asked or whether that was ever proffered as a use case, Senator, but it's not from my knowledge, no.

Senator Shoebridge: Is that the kind of service that DTA would provide to Departments to help them assess this kind of tool?

Mr Fechner: Absolutely, the assurance framework that we've got would consider the risk associated with things and absolutely dimensions within that risk assessment that consider privacy of information, the potential harms, risks in areas where it may or may not be appropriate to do so, things such as where the data has come from, how it's been trained, does it represent/has it been tested for bias, there's significant components within the framework that will come into play. We're actually just commencing piloting of that framework, Senator, so we really need to have the policy positions in place before we could give that any effect.

... [Discussion on the Framework] ...

Senator Shoebridge: Why don't I do this, instead of poke and prod in the blind, why don't I ask both agencies to take on notice what, if any, exchange happened in relation to AMICA, when any approaches were made and responded to, and perhaps this matter on relies in the space of the AGs, the timeline for as and when it rolled out AMICA. Could I ask both agencies to take that on notice?

Mr Fechner: Certainly sir

Answer:

The Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) has had no engagement with the Attorney-General's Department or the Legal Services Commission of South Australia regarding AMICA as a Generative AI tool.

In 2019, prior to the emergence of Generative AI, the Legal Services Commission of South Australia, engaged with the DTA, in its previous role as the administrator of the government

domain name system, to gauge the availability of 'amica.gov.au', on the basis that the AMICA tool was co-sponsored by the Attorney-General's Department. Management of the government domain name system moved from the DTA to the Department of Finance in 2021.