



SELECT COMMITTEE ON ADOPTING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

**Adopting AI**

FRIDAY, 16 AUGUST 2024

CANBERRA

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FOR MR SADLER (GOOD ANCESTORS POLICY) AND  
MR POUR (HARMONY INTELLIGENCE)



**Question:** Senator Pocock asked Mr. Sadler and Mr. Pour about the specific funding and structure details for an AI safety institute and related matters.

**Answer:**

Good Ancestors recommends that an Australian AI Safety Institute should focus on safety issues at the frontier of AI research and recruit the deep technical expertise necessary to perform its role successfully. Our submission argues that, consistent with other AI Safety Institutes, an Australian AI Safety Institute should:

- Evaluate advanced AI systems
- Drive research about the safety of frontier AI systems, and
- Partner with international peers.

In terms of funding, **The UK** has funded its AI Safety Institute from multiple sources and for multiple purposes. An announcement from the Minister in November 2023 said (emphasis added):

*Ensuring the development of advanced AI is safe is essential for harnessing the extraordinary opportunities of AI. **The UK government is therefore prepared to put significant investment behind the AI Safety Institute over the coming decade. With the initial £100 million (approx. AUD 195m) investment in the Frontier AI Taskforce, the UK is providing more funding for AI safety than any other country in the world.** The Institute will be backed with a continuation of the Taskforce's 2024 to 2025 funding as an annual amount for the rest of this decade, subject to it demonstrating the continued requirement for that level of public funds. This will be funded as part of the government's record investment into R&D, which next year will have increased to £20 billion.*

The UK Government has subsequently announced the UK will offer grants to researchers to study how to protect society from artificial intelligence (AI) risks like deepfakes.

The funding is also intended to be used to harness the benefits of AI like increased productivity. The most promising proposals will be developed into longer-term projects and receive further funding. Further information about these grants is available here:

- <https://www.aisi.gov.uk/grants>

**Canada announced \$50m** (approx. AUD 55m) **to create its AI Safety Institute.** Remarks from the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister are here:

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2024/04/remarks-by-the-deputy-prime-minister-on-securing-canadas-ai-advantage.html>
- <https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2024/04/07/securing-canadas-ai>

**The US has committed approximately \$82.7m** (approx. AUD 121m) **to AI Safety.** This includes \$35m of NIST funding for foundational AI safety, \$37.7m for implementation of the recent AI safety Executive Order, and \$10m for the US AI Safety Institute. [We note that this is a best-efforts analysis and that the complexity of US appropriations means our analysis may be incomplete.]

- <https://www.democrats.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/majority-leader-sc-humer-announces-first-of-its-kind-funding-to-establish-a-us-artificial-intelligence-safety-institute-funding-is-a-down-payment-on-balancing-safety-with-ai-innovation-and-will-aid-development-standards-tools-and-tests-to-ensure-ai-systems-operate-safely>
- <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/FY25%20CJS%20Senate%20Report.pdf>
- <https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/NIST-NTIS-FY2025-Congressional-Budget-Submission.pdf>
- [https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy24\\_cjs\\_report.pdf](https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy24_cjs_report.pdf)