

MEDIA RELEASE

OpenAI Medicare hack underscores need for rules and standards for tech platforms

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The hacking of a Medicare portal by an OpenAI agent is a peek of what the future holds if governments do not implement some basic rules and standards for tech platforms.

Democracy Counts Campaign Director Tom Mooney said AI posed threats not just for data privacy, but for democracy.

“The hacking of a public institution like Medicare – and the fact that OpenAI sat on this information for months without reporting it – is proof that public interest is being totally overlooked in the settings that govern AI,” Mr Mooney said

“As AI capabilities grow and AI tools play an increasing role in citizens’ everyday lives, we need to make sure the technology works for us – not the other way around.

“Governments, as our representatives, have a duty to create some basic rules and standards, and we welcome the Australian Government’s moves in this direction.

“Around the world, democracy is facing many challenges, which will multiply and intensify if AI is left to run wild, without basic rules and standards.

“AI-generated videos, images and audio are increasingly impersonating politicians online and misrepresenting political debate.

“AI increases the scale and sophistication of misinformation, disrupts the foundations of public-interest journalism, and intensifies power imbalances by concentrating influence in the hands of a small number of foreign technology companies.

“While AI offers opportunities to improve democratic participation and public administration, we need to be clear eyed about the risks of continuing to allow tech companies to develop these technologies without safeguards.”

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