



# strategy

2022 - 2026

bringing together thinking on defence AI

## PARTNERS



**Australian Government**  
Defence



**NEXT GENERATION  
TECHNOLOGIES FUND**



**University of  
South Australia**

The DAIRNet office is located on lands of the Kaurna people. DAIRNet acknowledges the Kaurna people and the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders both past and present and emerging leaders.

# strategy overview

## bringing together thinking on defence AI

The DAIRNet Strategy was developed in consultation with key stakeholders within the Defence AI ecosystem and was endorsed by the DAIRNet Governance Panel in June 2022.



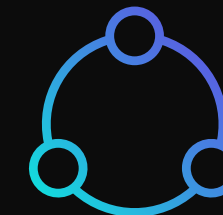
### our mission

Connecting Defence opportunities with next generation AI solutions

### our vision

By empowering innovation and collaboration across diverse national AI capabilities, we will develop safe and secure AI solutions to provide advantages for Defence

### our objectives



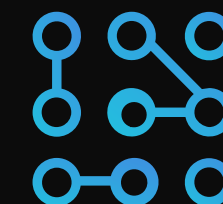
#### people & talent

Sustain a talent pipeline to grow domestic AI capability and AI-ready specialists.



#### research impact

Support R&D and provide the platform in which AI-users work alongside researchers and developers.



#### integration & evolution

Bring together and support the broader Defence and AI ecosystems.

# people and talent

Sustain a talent pipeline to grow domestic AI capability and AI-ready specialists.

An active community of AI specialists from multiple institutes and at different career stages.

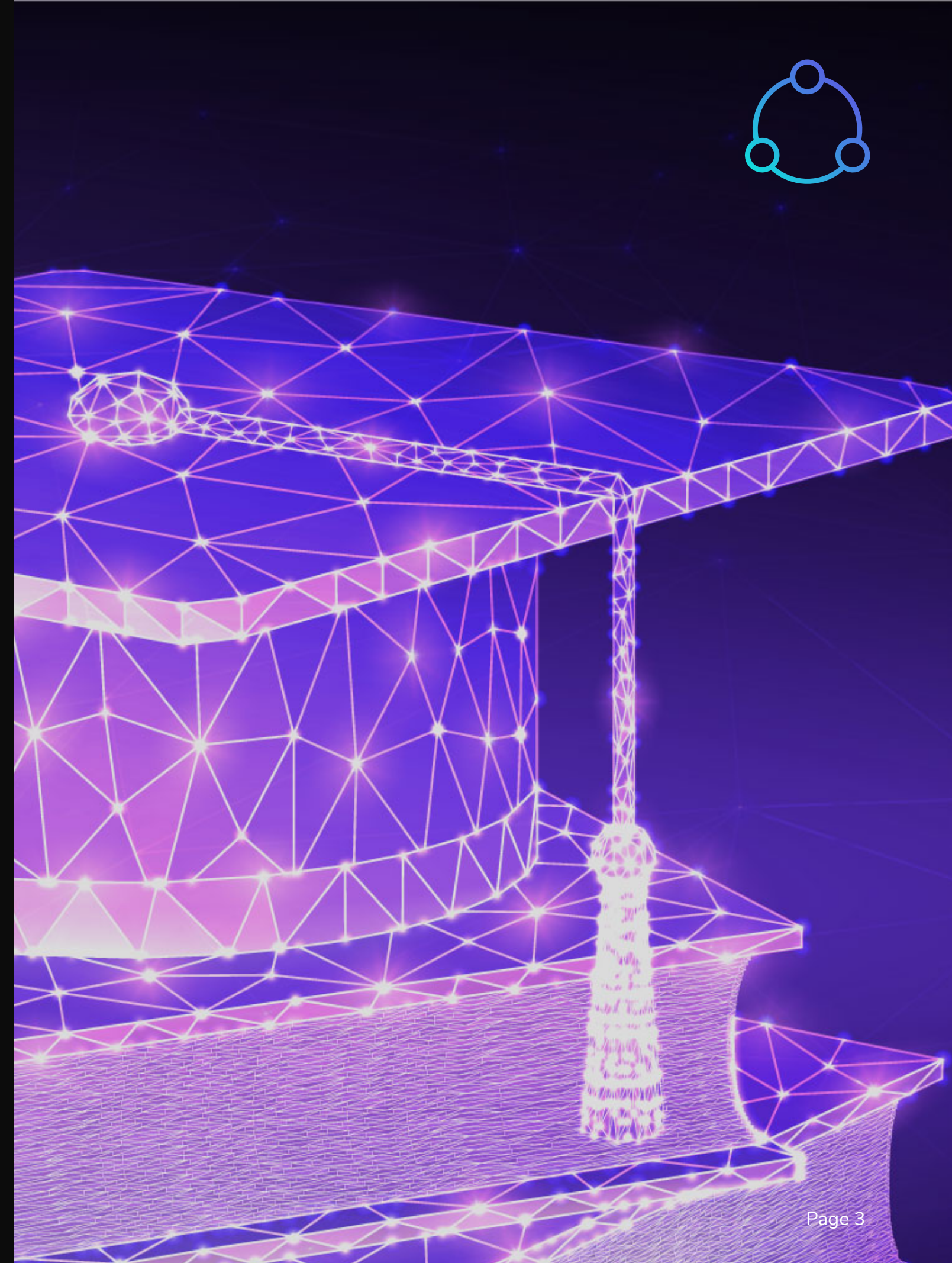
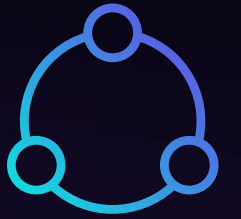
- Execute the initial multi-party collaborative agreement and expansion of DAIRNet corporate membership.
- Develop communication platforms and host events to facilitate multi-disciplinary and institutional collaborations.
- Provide scholarships and other opportunities to increase diversity in AI.
- Provide professional development and mentoring opportunities to existing talent, such as early-mid career researchers and end-users.

Creation of the AI Academy to train the next generation of AI specialists and up-skill existing workforces.

- Develop DAIRNet HDR programs, including scholarships, workshops and mentoring.
- Up-skill researchers, industry and Defence through AI-adoption readiness and literacy short courses, micro-credentials and ongoing education.
- Identify new researchers and AI practitioners from other disciplines and assist with Defence-readiness.
- Identify and prioritise intervention points and methods in the Defence AI talent pipeline.

Science communication and outreach to inspire the next generation of AI specialists.

- Deliver scientists in schools, internships and other outreach programs and activities.
- Sponsor Defence and AI related activities targeting students in schools and universities.
- Develop career pipelines and talent streams for Defence AI.





# research impact

Support R&D and provide the platform in which end-users work alongside researchers and AI specialists.

Provide and manage research calls for basic and applied R&D.

- Manage DAIRNet calls and post-award activities.
- Manage AI-related funding calls sponsored by other Divisions and groups within Defence.
- Facilitate competitions, seed funding and scoping calls to assist with the identification of talent (especially civilian).

Up-scale funding opportunities through external funding sources.

- Assist with the application for larger programs.
- Engage with other government agencies to facilitate funding opportunities.

Bring the best AI talent together.

- Host biennial Defence AI symposia and showcases of DAIRNet research projects.
- Attend/sponsor Defence/AI conferences and trade shows.
- Promote DAIRNet through roadshows to Defence/AI hubs across Australia.

Promote AI commercialisation mindsets.

- Provide coaching and education opportunities to develop an innovation mindset.
- Host/support spin outs, Shark Tanks and provide assistance to link with venture capitalists.

# integration & evolution

Bring together and support the broader Defence and AI ecosystems.

## Support the broader Defence AI ecosystem.

- Break down the silos across AI and Defence AI to enable the best capabilities in AI to be developed.
- Develop AI frameworks, workforce planning, principles and analysis, current state reports and advocacy.
- Curate a consistent narrative for Defence AI and myth busting.
- Assist with marketing, communications, and outreach as the outward facing entity of Defence AI.

## Host resources and events to increase accessibility and attract new talent.

- Provide unclassified and sensitive environments to host datasets and unclassified sandpits.
- Showcase to Defence low to mid TRL R&D that has been funded by DAIRNet to attract further support.
- Facilitate the progression of mid-TRL and validated technology into capabilities.

## Facilitate the engagement between Defence AI and other stakeholders.

- Host networking events to bring together AI users, researchers, developers, business, venture capital, etc.
- Establish a Defence AI Key Stakeholders Group.
- Identify civilian AI applications and products that may have Defence applications (and vice versa).
- Strengthen Defence AI capability through collaborations with other organisations.





for more information

[www.DAIRNet.com.au](http://www.DAIRNet.com.au)

Email us at: [enquiries@dairnet.com.au](mailto:enquiries@dairnet.com.au)

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## PARTNERS

DAIRNet is an initiative of the Department of Defence through the Next Generation Technologies Fund (NGTF), and is managed in partnership with the University of South Australia.



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