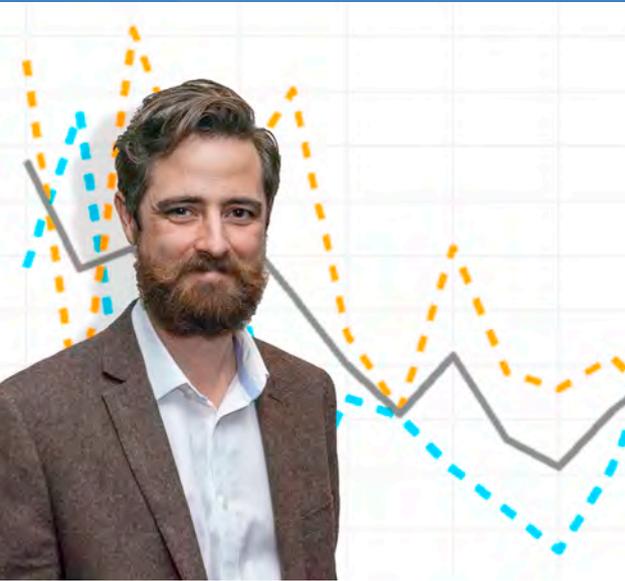# POLICY
FUTURES
A Reform Agenda

Artificial Intelligence and Human Government

The rising role of data in the process of government decision making promises efficiencies for governments but entails risks to individuals and society.

A responsible policy is not to stop data-driven decisions. Rather, with an appropriate approach, the benefits of using data can be gained while safeguarding the rights and safety of individuals and promoting the social ideals we desire.

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2018 Churchill Fellow, South Australia

Key Policy Recommendations

1 **Mandate data ethics training for government technical and procurement staff.**
Governments routinely mandate continuous workplace training for their employees. These courses change the behaviour of staff by setting out a clear baseline of acceptable standards. Government should take a similar approach to data ethics training for quantitative professionals and their managers as well as procurement professionals who will purchase databases and analytics services from industry. This training could be based on existing platforms such as the Open Data Institute's Data Ethics Canvas and the Government of the United Kingdom's AI Procurement Guidelines.

2 **Provide data literacy training for government non-technical staff at the executive level.**
The goal of this training is not to make all executive level staff into data scientists. Rather, it is to create a climate of informed confidence in which these executives know that they can engage in a positive spirit of dialogue with their technical colleagues about technical decisions. It will show these executives that their training in law, accountancy and domain-specific skills gives them a basis for helping to improve the decisions made by quantitative experts. Short executive courses in this topic are already offered by Australian universities.

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