USING A PRINCIPLES BASED APPROACH TO THE USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

POLICY STATEMENT

Introduction

As the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) increases, and generative AI (Gen-AI) has become easily accessible to the average person, concerns have been raised about the presence of AI generated content in a number of contexts, including clinical settings and those where assurance over authorship is required.

Other organisations and institutions are beginning to develop policies on the use of AI. This has been visible in educational institutions, many of which are providing advice around AI, and requiring students to make declaration statements AI use when submitting work.

SWRB will be using a principles-based approach to the use of AI

As SWRB develops more comprehensive and operational AI we are implementing a principles-based approach, and suggesting that the sector uses these principles as guidance for their own AI use. This will allow us the flexibility to adjust and keep pace as necessary and appropriate. For example, our policy could be informed and underpinned by the following guiding principles:

- Upholds SWRB's Te Tiriti o Waitangi responsibilities
- Trust in the system
- Ethical considerations
- Regulatory accountability
- Fairness and unbiased decision-making
- Transparency
- Data privacy and security.

As we develop our longer-term policy, we intend to discuss our approach with the Ministry of Social Development and the Department of Internal Affairs to ensure we aligned with public sector expectations.

SWRB is aware of AI use in applications and assessments

An example of potential risk that is posed, is that social workers whose registration is assisted by an AI generated competence assessment has not demonstrated to the Board that they are competent. This poses a risk to public safety, and potentially undermines effort to improve the public's trust in the profession. Social workers whose continued ability to practise – such as CPD audited social workers – is assessed based on AI generated content also pose a risk to the public. The SWRB will focus on identifying the use of AI in regulatory processes, most specifically with regards to social work registration in a way which aligns with our regulatory strategy.

Future policy development

SWRB will be doing wider work to better understand how SWRB uses AI in the future for its own work, and also how AI could potentially affect social work itself. As this occurs, we will be renewing and adapting our policies, including this one.