



Professional Development Bootcamp

AI, Emerging Tech & Policy

where strategy meets technology: empowering tomorrow’s policy leaders



This is a sample course overview: while the substance will remain the same, modules will be updated and presenters may be subject to change from course to course

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	
845	<div><div>1.1 - INTRODUCTORY SESSION</div><div>A dynamic roundtable where each participant shares their journey and motivations for enrolling, and their unique vision of what success looks like in this course. Do a quiz to divine your tech policy philosophy. Get ready to be inspired and energised by your colleagues diverse backgrounds and ambitions.</div><div>delivered by Team TPDi</div></div>	<div><div>1.2 - SPECTRUM OF ONLINE EXPERIENCES</div><div>In groups you will be assigned an online avatar. Over the 4 days of the course, on supplied devices, you will experience firsthand how algorithms shape the online experience of personas different to your usual self. This exercise reveals the impact of algorithms and filter bubbles, highlighting the importance of considering diverse experiences when developing or implementing law and policy.</div><div>delivered by Team TPDi</div></div> <div><div>2.1- NATIONAL AI CAPABILITY</div><div>We begin the day by opening your eyes to Artificial Intelligence. This session looks at Australia's AI capacities: what they are, why they matter, and how it's shaping Australia's future. We'll unpack the building blocks of national AI capability and give you a clear picture of where Australia stands today. Through expert insights and practical examples, you'll gain a grounded understanding of Australia's AI strengths, gaps, and opportunities.</div><div>delivered by Team TPDi</div></div>	<div><div>2.2- TECH TUTORIAL: AI, THE AI TECH STACK, AND THE CLOUD</div><div>No prior technical knowledge is needed for this Tech Tutorial, which takes you on an engaging journey into the heart of modern technology. Experts from the Gradient Institute will guide you through the evolution of AI, demystifying key concepts with clear explanations and practical demonstrations.</div><div>delivered by The Gradient Institute</div></div>	<div><div>3.1 - THE GEOPOLITICS OF TECH POLICY</div><div>Get ready for an exciting journey into the geopolitics of tech policy and global tech competition. We'll explore the intense landscape of international competition and its profound impact on both global and domestic policies. Delve into the implications for the rules-based order and discover the roles and regulatory approaches of major powers, including the US, China, India, the EU, and leading tech companies. A series of case studies will bring to life how technologies drive geopolitical and geoeconomic forces. Uncover the dynamic interplay between technology and global power.</div><div>delivered by Dr Tobias Feakin, Australia's Inaugural Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology</div></div>	<div><div>4.1 - ONLINE SAFETY</div><div>Online safety is one of the most emotive and divisive frontiers in tech governance: Democracies around the world are now grappling with how to deal with the very real harms that can stem from online speech—from abuse to exploitation and exclusion. We chart Australia's journey as an early mover in online safety regulation, and the responsibility that comes with being a world leader in this space - all in the age of Trump Presidency 2.0. From digital duties of care to age restrictions on social media and the politics of content moderation, we unpack the big debates shaping Australia's online safety policy in 2025. The last 30 minutes of this session will revisit the tech policy process and include two way reflection.</div><div>Zoe Hawkins and + panel session with representatives from Government and Industry</div></div>
1030	MORNING TEA				
1100	<div><div>1.3 - AUSTRALIAN TECH POLICY 101</div><div>What is the state of tech policy in Australia? We'll explore the historical development of tech policy in our nation, delve into the current mandates of key policy agencies, and examine the impact of politicking in policymaking – highlighting that tech policymaking is not a theoretical exercise.</div><div>delivered by Team TPDi</div></div>	<div><div>1.4 - BEST-PRACTICE TECH POLICY DESIGN</div><div>Get hands-on in this interactive exercise featuring the Tech Policy Design Toolkit. You'll dive into the Tech Policy Process and explore essential Design Principles. This toolkit equips you with a robust methodological framework for best-practice tech policy design - an indispensable skill in the field of tech policymaking.</div><div>delivered by Team TPDi</div></div>	<div><div>2.2- TECH TUTORIAL: AI, THE AI TECH STACK, AND THE CLOUD (continued)</div><div>We continue our journey by uncovering the inner workings of the “Tech Stack”, from artificial intelligence to cloud computing. This module goes beyond surface definitions to help you understand and explain these concepts with clarity. You'll explore how these technologies operate, identify their many layers and composite parts, trace their evolution over time, and consider their profound implications for policymakers. By the end of the session, you'll feel more confident engaging in complex AI and technology discussions and know where to find reliable information to deepen your expertise.</div><div>delivered by The Gradient Institute</div></div>	<div><div>4.1 - MIS & DIS INFORMATION</div><div>Misinformation and disinformation influences public opinion, undermine trust, and disrupt social cohesion. In this module, participants will examine the tools and tactics behind these campaigns, their impacts on Australia's national security and democracy, and the personal consequences for individuals navigating today's complex information environment.</div><div>delivered by Meg Tapia, Novexus</div></div> <div><div>4.2 - THE STATE OF PLAY OF TECH AND DEMOCRACY</div><div>Next we examine the complex relationship between technology and democracy - far beyond just elections. While public discourse often focuses on the threats tech poses, we explore how it can also be harnessed to strengthen democratic systems, depending on how it's designed and governed. We also explore emerging strategies for defending trust in electoral institutions and using tech to reinforce, rather than erode, democratic resilience.</div><div>Zoe Hawkins in discussion with Australia's former Electoral Commissioner, Tom Rogers</div></div>	<div><div>4.2 - SPECTRUM OF ONLINE EXPERIENCES</div><div>Drawing on your time inhabiting different online personas, we'll unpack how algorithms shaped your digital journeys, the filter bubbles you encountered, and the insights you gained about perception and bias. This reflection consolidates your learning and highlights how these experiences can inform more inclusive, effective approaches to law and policy in the real world.</div><div>delivered by Team TPDi</div></div> <div><div>4.3 - CONSOLIDATION</div><div>In this session, we return to the foundations of the tech policy process, consolidating the skills and insights you've built throughout the course. We'll set you up for your scenario exercise, where you'll apply what you've learned to a real-world policy challenge, rounding out your four-day journey. We'll then close with a guided reflection on the key lessons and perspectives you've gained so far, helping you translate them into your own professional practice.</div><div>delivered by Team TPDi</div></div>
1230	LUNCH				
1330	<div><div>1.5 - TECH TUTORIAL: INTERNET 101</div><div>We all use the Internet daily, but do we truly understand how it works or how it's governed? This session includes a brief history of the Internet, an overview of Internet governance, and a practical, interactive activity that will get you moving around the room to demonstrate how the Internet operates. By the time we break for afternoon tea, you'll understand concepts like metadata and encryption and be amazed by the extraordinarily distributed nature of global Internet infrastructure. Get ready to uncover the intricacies of the digital world we rely on.</div><div>delivered by audio, Australia's Domain Name Administrator with the exercise facilitated by TPDi</div></div>	<div><div>LIFE IN SILICON VALLEY (w Frances Haugen)</div><div>This module features a 25-minute pre-recorded fireside chat between Frances Haugen and Johanna Weaver, delving into Frances' experiences working for Big Tech in Silicon Valley, corporate cultures and practices, and Frances optimistic vision for best-practice tech policy co-design and collaboration.</div><div>Frances Haugen in conversation with Johanna Weaver</div></div>	<div><div>2.2 - TECH BUSINESS MODELS AND THE INNOVATION CYCLE</div><div>Explore the business models of tech companies, including common financial structures, revenue streams, funding methods, and strategic goals - and the significance of understanding these for effective tech policy. Plus, hear about the tech innovation cycle from an industrial policy perspective, grounded in contemporary and future trends in innovation policy.</div><div>delivered by Kate Pounder and Shahar Mermon</div></div>	<div><div>3.3 - TECH TUTORIAL: QUANTUM</div><div>Dive into the world of quantum computing, sensing, and cryptography. We'll cover foundational concepts, explore key risks and opportunities related to quantum technologies, and analyse the current landscape in Australia. Discover how these cutting-edge innovations could revolutionise various industries and understand Australia's position in the global quantum landscape.</div><div>delivered by Dr Sean Hodgman with the exercise facilitated by TPDi</div></div> <div><div>3.4 - WARGAMING QUANTUM POLICY FUTURES</div><div>Step into the future of quantum policy with this skills lab. Engage in wargaming exercises where you'll formulate strategic policies in response to hypothetical scenarios. This hands-on session will challenge you to mitigate risks and seize opportunities, ensuring Australia stays ahead in the quantum technology race.</div><div></div></div>	<div><div>4.4 - WE CONTROL THE FUTURE - A POLICY FUTURES ACTIVITY</div><div>Get ready for the ultimate challenge! In the culminating activity of the course, participants will use the Tech Policy Design Toolkit to craft tech policy responses to exciting hypothetical future scenarios developed by audio: "The Price is Right," "Ecological Civilisation," and "State of Alert." This fun and interactive session lets you apply your course learnings in a hands-on way, navigating ambiguity, disruption, and change, driving innovation, and managing future complexity by thinking ahead. Experience the buzz of well-designed tech policy. This module highlights the agency policymakers have shaping the future of technology, just as technology shapes our future.</div><div>facilitated by Team TPDi</div></div>
1500	AFTERNOON BREAK				
1530	<div><div>1.6 DIGITAL RIGHTS 101</div><div>This session explores the intersection of human rights and technology. The presentation will highlight both the threats and opportunities that digital technologies pose, as well as the implications of digital rights for policymakers. Participants will be introduced to the full spectrum of rights and be challenged to apply digital rights principles to real-world examples, fostering a deeper understanding of how to navigate, protect and promote these rights in an increasingly digital world.</div><div>delivered by Lizzie O'Shae, Chair, Digital Rights Watch</div></div>	<div><div>2.4 - PITCH PANEL: THE OPPORTUNITIES OF TECH</div><div>In this fast-paced pitch panel, we will showcase innovative Australian tech companies and visionary leaders tackling complex issues to improve our future. We'll highlight lessons learned by these companies, offering valuable insights into the intersection of innovation and regulation. By understanding these experiences, we can better appreciate the challenges and opportunities that come with technological advancement and the critical role of policy in shaping technology, emphasising the value of collaborative approach between industry, government, and civil society.</div><div>facilitated by Kate Pounder, inaugural CEO of the Tech Council of Australia</div></div>	<div><div>3.5 - NATIONAL SECURITY TECH THREATS</div><div>A sobering overview of the national security threats posed by technology. Explore the landscape of cyber threats, AI manipulation, ransomware, cybercrime, and supply chain attacks. This session will uncover the critical challenges we face in safeguarding Australia in a digital-first world.</div><div>delivered by National Security Expert</div></div> <div><div>3.6 - A FIRESIDE CHAT WITH MARCUS THOMPSON</div><div>A Fireside Chat with former Australia Defence Force Head of Information Warfare, Marcus Thompson AM. Delve into the shadows of cyber and information operations and uncover first-hand insights from the digital frontlines.</div><div>with Marcus Thompson AM</div></div>	<div><div>POLICY FUTURES ACTIVITY REVIEW</div><div>As a cohort, debrief on the Tech Policy Futures Activity and the course, giving participants the opportunity to share their insights and reflections on best-practice tech policy design. Engage in lively discussions, exchange ideas, and learn from each other's experiences in this collaborative session.</div><div>facilitated by Team TPDi</div></div> <div><div>GRADUATION AND INDUCTION INTO TPTC</div><div>We'll wrap up with graduation and your official induction into the exclusive Tech Policy Tragic Club (TPTC) before closing the course - but not your tech policy journey - with celebratory networking drinks with your peers, and course facilitators.</div><div></div></div>	
1700	CLOSE				
	Optional: continue the conversation over drinks		Optional: continue the conversation over drinks		