

AI will take jobs – and create them

Melanie Burgess

More than 1.3 million workers could be displaced by 2027 as advances in artificial intelligence speed up automation.

But skills shortages in other parts of the workforce are creating opportunities for career change.

Data analysis from Faethm by Pearson predicted almost 10 per cent of Australia's working population may need to retrain within the next four years.

The research, commissioned by tech company ServiceNow, identified the tasks involved in 6000 different job types and used machine learning to analyse which were most susceptible to automation.

Bank workers topped the list, with 46 per cent of their workload forecast to be automated.

Other workers in the firing line with more than a third of their workload swallowed by automation included financial and insurance clerks, bookkeepers, checkout operators, data entry operators, telemarketers and legal secretaries.

But it's not all bad news.

Pearson vice-president of AI products Richard George said it was up to employers how they responded to technology.

"Automation doesn't have to equal job losses," Dr George said. "(Employers could ask) 'can we reposition this individual or individuals into other jobs that we're hiring for?'"

The Pearson data analysis also showed opportunity for people worried about automation to make a career change and possibly land a pay rise in the process.

For example, it calculated sales assistants (average salary \$50,000 to 60,000) had a 91 per

cent job fit to become childcare workers (\$55,000 to 65,000); checkout operators/cashiers (\$45,000 to 55,000) were a 78 per cent fit for customer service managers (\$75,000 to 90,000); and store persons (\$55,000 to 65,000) a 68 per cent fit for teachers (\$90,000 to 100,000).

Career development practitioner Helen Green recommended anyone considering a new career start with a skill audit and list of achievements.

"Many people put off changing careers because they assume lengthy study will be required," said Ms Green, the director of Career Confident.

"This is not necessarily true. A short course or micro-credential is sometimes sufficient to help you change careers, especially when combined with work performance."

The analysis predicted tens of thousands of workers would be specifically affected by new generative AI technology, such as text tool ChatGPT and image creator Midjourney.

These included law clerks, graphic designers and architectural draftsmen.

However, Dr George said at this stage these jobs still required "a human in the loop", meaning AI would make workers more productive rather than replace them.

AI is also creating new jobs, according to ServiceNow managing director Eric Swift.

"Australia needs approximately 370,000 more people working in tech to deploy AI and other technologies," he said. "More people from a wider background will be able to do jobs that were previously only reserved for people with specialised technical skills."

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Andrews to take stand

Daniel Andrews will appear before the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

In a statement on Monday, a premier's spokeswoman said the probe was a critical step to ensure the experiences of Victoria's veteran community was acted on.

Mr Andrews is to appear on

August 30. "The Victorian government welcomed the Royal Commission when it was established and we welcome it to Melbourne for its 11th hearing block," the spokesperson said.

The government made a whole of government submission to the commission on August 3, 2022.

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Research on the victims register suggests only a small proportion of victims actually use it

Fiona McCormack

Victims of Crime Commissioner

Screen-time problems

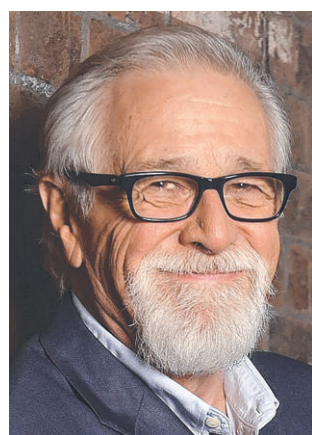
Screen time is linked to delayed development in young children, and the type of delay varies with age and amount of screen time, according to a team of Japanese researchers.

The team assessed 7097 mother-child pairs using a questionnaire to investigate the relationship between screen time and various developmental delays, including in communication,

problem-solving, personal skills and social skills.

They found increasing screen time at age one was linked to an increasing risk of communication and problem-solving at ages two to four, although personal and social skills did not seem to be affected.

It is possible that children with developmental delays tend to spend more time in front of a screen, they said.



Neil Mitchell

Mitchell's not going anywhere

Sophie Elsworth

Top-rating Melbourne radio identity Neil Mitchell has hit back at media reports that he could be replaced as 3AW's morning host and said management told him he could stay in the job until he reaches "100 or 120".

During his show on Monday, he addressed the speculation that his hosting duties at the Nine Entertainment-

owned station could be ending.

"I don't know everything that is going on, nor should I," Mitchell said. "I do know there will be changes ahead at 3AW but they are not finalised."

"Some of what was reported was right, much of it was wrong."

"I can assure you nobody has sacked me, nobody is trying to drive me out. Quite the opposite, in fact."

"Management has made it

clear I can stay in the job until I reach 100 or 120, which is very tempting."

There have been recent reports that Mitchell, 71, could be moving on from his slot and be replaced with drive-time presenter Tom Elliott.

The reports said "Mitchell has refused to buy into speculation that 3AW drive host Tom Elliott will take over the morning slot ... at the end of the year".