

Interface Expo 2026

# Day of AI Aotearoa New Zealand

Year 5 - 10



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## Leading Responsible, Strategic whole-School AI Integration

*"Empowering the next generation to shape the future of humanity and the planet."*



**Susana Tomaz**

- Director of Futures and AI Strategy, WGHS
- Fellow of the International Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI) auspices UNESCO
- Global mentor on AI in Education for Asia Europe Foundation
- Day of AI Aotearoa | New Zealand Coordinator
- Edtech NZ

AI will not change education, educators will!  
The Future is not a destination we go to,  
is a place we create.

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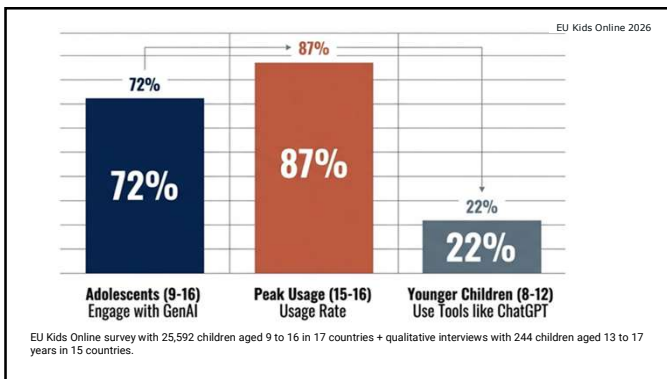
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**Student Use** NZ DATA

90% of students had heard of AI; over 50% had used it, mostly outside of school

**Common Uses Include**

- fixing writing (29-45%)
- idea generation (6-32%)
- chatting like a friend\* (12-47%)

55-72% said using AI "feels like cheating"; most had received no clear guidance on appropriate use

NZCER (2025). Generative artificial intelligence in Aotearoa New Zealand primary schools—Teacher and student survey findings. NZCER.

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What is Day of AI Aotearoa, New Zealand?

DAY OF AI

New Zealand Aotearoa

Year 5 - 10

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What is Day of AI?

175

2+ million

70k+

Partners

Collaborators

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## Day of AI Aotearoa New Zealand?

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## What is Day of AI?

A free, high quality curriculum-aligned culturally responsive program for schools across Aotearoa | New Zealand

- 👉 Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for students in Years 5-10 aligned to the UNESCO AI Competency Framework for Teachers and Students
- 👉 Any teacher can deliver the program, no computer science background required
- 👉 Kit-in-box ready to go, with support materials, webinars and videos
- 👉 Free for every school through the Creative Commons Licence

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## The 5 Big Ideas of AI

- 👉 It can **sense** its surroundings
- 👉 It can **plan** and make decisions
- 👉 It can **learn** new knowledge and skills
- 👉 It can **interact** with humans and the environment
- 👉 It has an **impact** on society

8 nua ngā mata o te hangarau (whakatauraki, nā Hēmi Dale)

### Impact of AI (Atamai Hangahanga)

- 👉 **Whānau tangata**  
How does it affect the way we relate to each other?
- 👉 **Ako, Mātauranga**  
How does it change how we learn and share knowledge?
- 👉 **Whānau tangata, Kaitiaki tangata**  
How does it influence how we care for each other and our environment?

What does 'Artificial Intelligence, Atamai Hangahanga' make you think of?

A Self Driving Car  
1. **Perceive**: How do we perceive things around us?  
How does the self driving car perceive things?

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**Activities are:**

- Scaffolded
- Differentiated
- Adaptable
- Interdisciplinary
- Localised & Authentic
- Unplugged & Digital

**Smarter Farming: How AI is Transforming New Zealand's Farming Industry**

AI is changing farming in exciting ways. In the future, farms could use AI to:

- Watch crops grow every day
- React quickly to weather changes
- Use water and resources more wisely
- Grow more food in a healthier way

Think of AI like a very smart helper for farmers – one that never gets tired and is always checking how to make things better.

Used well, AI can help us grow enough food for the world while also taking better care of our planet.

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# What did we learn from the pilot?

Term 4 2025 Pilot

DAY OF AI  
New Zealand Aotearoa

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# 2025 Pilot results

In the Day of AI Aotearoa New Zealand pilot, delivered the four-lesson "Demystifying AI" programme to Years 5-10 students across nine diverse schools (primary and secondary, including low-decile and geographically isolated communities), with no prior teacher AI training required.

Independently evaluated by NZCER, New Zealand's leading education research organisation, results showed measurable student gains in knowledge, confidence, critical thinking, and cultural engagement.

**STUDENT CONFIDENCE UPLIFT**

64% Primary  
82% Secondary

**100% PRIVACY AWARENESS**

Disagreed with sharing personal information with AI tools

**AI CRITICAL THINKING**

93% Agreed that AI can make mistakes or be unfair

**RECOGNITION OF CULTURAL RELEVANCE UPLIFT**

21% All students

**92% of NZ students had already used AI**

"The students moved from seeing AI as something magical and all-knowing, to understanding it, questioning it, and even challenging how it should be used."

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### Day of AI Aotearoa: Connecting Years 7 & 8 to the NZC

A flexible 4-lesson framework integrating AI literacy through a powerful lens exploring the entire New Zealand Curriculum.

**STEM & Logic (Maths, Science, and Technology)**

- The Fundamental AI Model:** Students explore the system as a scientific transformation process. (Data Input, Algorithms/Control, Prediction/Output)
- Probability in Action:** Learners apply Year 8 Maths to see how large Language Models use chance to predict text.
- Prompting as Composition:** English students master "the art of prompting" using precise language to guide generative AI outputs.
- Critical Media Literacy:** Students learn to interrogate the quality of digital texts, distinguishing between human-made content and automation.
- Data Sovereignty (Te Rangaitaranga):** Students learn that data has a "heartbeat" (ownership) and require kaitiakiwhiriaki (guardianship).
- Protecting Hauora:** Using the "Mauri Test" to check if AI suggestions harm a person's dignity or the force.
- Stakeholder Perspective-Taking:** Social Science students evaluate the economic and ethical impacts of AI on different community groups.
- Collective Digital Safety:** Civics collaborate to create responsible use guidelines to ensure AI participation is safe and fair.
- AI for Conservation:** Students investigate how scientists use AI to identify and track endangered Maui dolphins and Kaka.

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### Day of AI Aotearoa: Connecting Year 9 to the NZC

A flexible 4-lesson sequence integrating AI literacy through Science, Maths & Statistics, Social Sciences, and English.

**STEM & Logic (Science, Maths & Statistics)**

- What is Artificial Intelligence?** Term 1 - Week 7 - Year 9 Science. AI is a non-living, human-designed system that senses patterns using data + sensors. (What AI is / is not, Living vs non-living systems: sensing & responding, Biological senses vs machine senses). Science: Living World & Nature of Science.
- How do Machines Learn?** Term 1 - Week 8 - Year 9 Maths & Statistics. Machines "learn" by finding patterns in training data — and that can introduce bias + uncertainty. (How AI learns from data, Patterns, training data, and probability, Where bias comes from). Maths & Data Analysis.
- How do Machines Create Things?** Term 1 - Week 9 - Year 9 Social Sciences. Generative AI creates outputs by remaking patterns — humans still shape meaning, impact, and responsibility. (Generative AI (text, images, media), Creativity, limitations, and human input, Social, environmental, and cultural impacts). Society & Culture.
- Ethics, Misinformation & Trust** Term 1 - Week 10 - Year 9 English. Trust online is earned through evidence, source checks, and ethical use — not confidence or vibes. (Mis/dis/misinformation in digital texts, How to verify validity and the sources, Bias: who is included/excluded - whose voice is missing, Ethical participation + intellectual property). Trust & Digital Literacy.

**Teacher Facilitation Note:** Predict - Test - Explain - Verify - Reflect. Short, consistent routine: predict - test - explain - verify - reflect.

**Whānau & Community Connection:** "Who made this tool, what is their purpose, and why should we trust it?"

**Student Challenge:** Create a simple "Trust Checklist" for AI outputs. (Source, evidence, bias, context, usefulness).

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## Teaching materials and resources

**Year 5 - 10**

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### Teaching Materials and Support

Access to teaching materials is via the [dayofainewzealand.com](http://dayofainewzealand.com) website



Educators Guide



Lesson Plans



Presentation Slides



Webinars and Lesson Guiding Short Videos

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DOAI NZ Home DoAI Programme Resources

## Day of AI Aotearoa | New Zealand

Bring AI literacy to your classroom with free, ready-to-teach units and educator resources.

[Register here](#)

Day of AI Aotearoa New Zealand?

[www.dayofainewzealand.com](http://www.dayofainewzealand.com)

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### Next Steps?

- Extend to Year 13 (Y5 to Y13)
- Expand on PD support to schools, including face to face (regions)
- More lessons and resources- Election lesson release in July
- Resources for Schools on policy and guidelines
- Resources for parent community

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Q&A



Register here 📄



Any questions? Get in touch with our team: [dayofainewzealand@gmail.com](mailto:dayofainewzealand@gmail.com)

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