



19 APR, 2024

Artificial intelligence tool 'a threat to truth as well as our health'

The Australian, Australia



Page 1 of 1

[Return to media item](#)

Artificial intelligence tool 'a threat to truth as well as our health'

EXCLUSIVE

JOANNA PANAGOPOULOS

Meta's new artificial intelligence tool is punishing local publishers by summarising news so that users aren't required to click onto individual articles, as doctors warn medical misinformation on its AI chat feature – which includes telling users that crystals are used for pain reduction – could let down the country's "most vulnerable". AI experts also warned there is a "real risk" of news soon being "homogenised" by whatever "editorial bent" a very small number of powerful tech giants decide to take.

Meta's new in-platform "Meta AI" tool, which has been rolled out to a limited number of users on Facebook and Instagram, allows people to choose a prompt question under certain news articles on their feed. That prompt is then answered by a chatbot in the messenger app without the user having to click on the article.

"Centralising consumption of news will punish publishers," artificial intelligence expert Alex Jenkins said.

"If we have a future where all news is filtered through Meta's AI, then its going to be homogenised by whatever editorial bent Meta decides to take. That's a dangerous precedent to me. It goes against diversity in the media, and towards trying to provide a single source of truth."

Mr Jenkins, director of Curtin's WA Data Science Innovation Hub, said there were also fears of misinformation, especially on health issues.

The Australian asked Meta AI whether "aventurine", a type of quartz crystal, can be used for healing. It responded that it is used in healing practices, as well as for physical healing by some people. This includes "reducing inflammation and pain".

Former AMA president Mukesh Haikerwal said those looking for quasi-scientific interventions had often suffered chronic pain for a long time, and he had fears these treatments "prey on the vulnerable".

"In this country, these AI tools should be subject to the overview of the TGA ... It cant just be the wild west," he said.