

When AI Detection Backfires — Australian Catholic University Drops Turnitin's AI-Cheating Tool

AI in Education · Good practice · Australia

Quality score: 7/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Australian Catholic University logged nearly 6,000 AI-cheating referrals in 2024 — 90% of misconduct cases — via Turnitin's AI detector, then dropped it in March 2025 after a quarter of cases were dismissed on investigation and students reported months-long, damaging processes.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of learning impact	0/3
Equity & inclusion	0/3
Transparency, ethics & data protection	1/3
Teacher capability & pedagogy	0/3
Scalability & sustainability	0/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-25

[Australian Catholic University](#) — accessed 2026-08-25

[ABC News: University caught out using AI to wrongly accuse students of cheating with AI](#) — accessed 2026-08-25

[HEPI: Catching the wrong students — AI detection, international students and the fairness crisis in UK universities](#) — accessed 2026-08-25

[ABC News: Over a dozen universities are using AI to catch AI — and getting it wrong](#) — accessed 2026-08-25

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