AI in Education - Concerns and Opportunities Results

CEnet recently conducted a short, online survey to gather insights from Educators on the use of AI in education. The survey, called "AI in Education - Concerns and Opportunities" was designed to gain an understanding of the enthusiasm, apprehension, and overall experiences of incorporating AI into teaching methodologies. It will also be used to help focus CEnets efforts to develop and roll out our AI as a Service (AIAAS).

The primary objective of this activity was to collect real-time feedback from Educators across Australia, in real-world classrooms, and utilise this information to enhance the services CEnet provides to its members and the broader Catholic education sector.

CEnet received 170 responses to this survey, and asked a number of questions. The first set were of the form: How well do you agree with the statement (1 strongly disagree to 5 strongly agree).

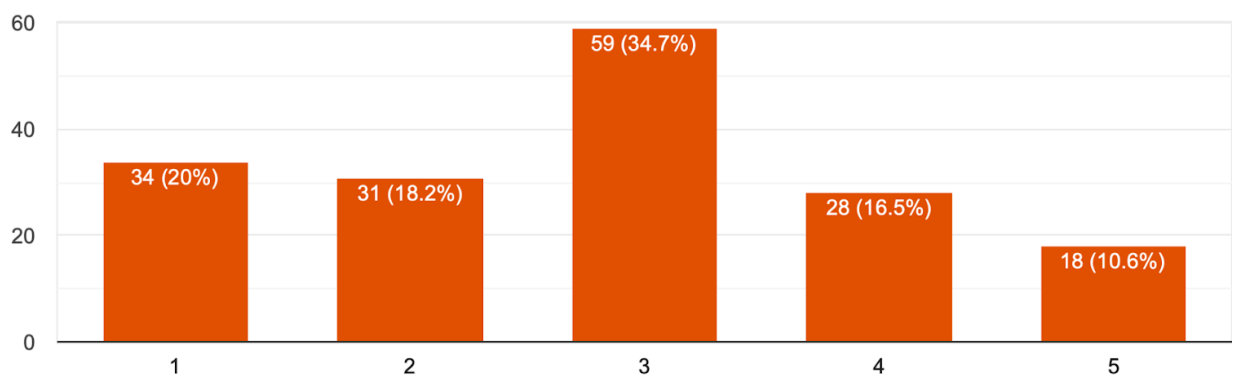## Q.1 Generative AI is important in my class today

This question was aimed at finding out how AI was used today in our classrooms. We will ask this again later to see if things change.

Response:
As you can see the majority of the respondents (34.7%) neither agree nor disagree with the statement but there is a slight bias (38.2%) who disagree or strongly disagree vs (27.1%) who agree.

Generative AI is important in my class today
170 responses

## Q.2 Generative AI will important in my class in the future

This question is a bit predictive and is aimed at finding out how AI may well be used in the future in our classrooms. We will ask this again later to see if things change.

Response:
Unlike the equivocal response to Question 1, you can see the majority of the respondents (34.9%) strongly agree with the statement (66.9% if you include the agrees) only (6.5%) who strongly disagree that AI will be important. The shape of this graph shows that our teachers are getting ready for AI in their classrooms.

Generative AI will be important in my class in the future
169 responses
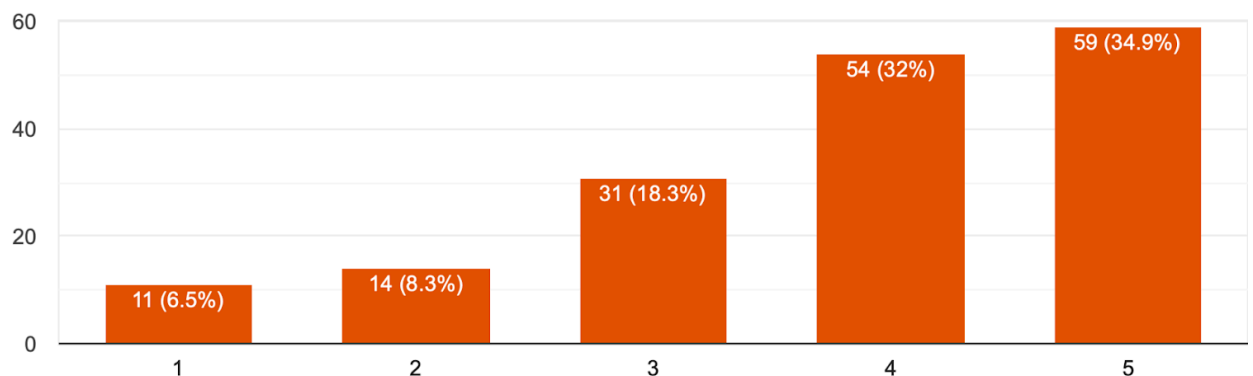
Q.3 Generative AI is just another Education Fad

This question was designed to be a little bit emotional and is aimed at finding out how our teachers feel about AI as a technology in the classroom. As we know education has more fashion changes than a Paris couture studio so is AI just another one? We will ask this again later to see if things change.

Response:
Again unlike the equivocal response to Question 1, you can see the majority of the respondents (42.9%) strongly disagree with the statement (72.9% if you include the disagrees) only (4.1%) who strongly agree that AI will be just another fad. The shape of this graph shows that our teachers feel AI in their classrooms is a thing that is here to stay.

Generative AI will is just another education fad
170 responses
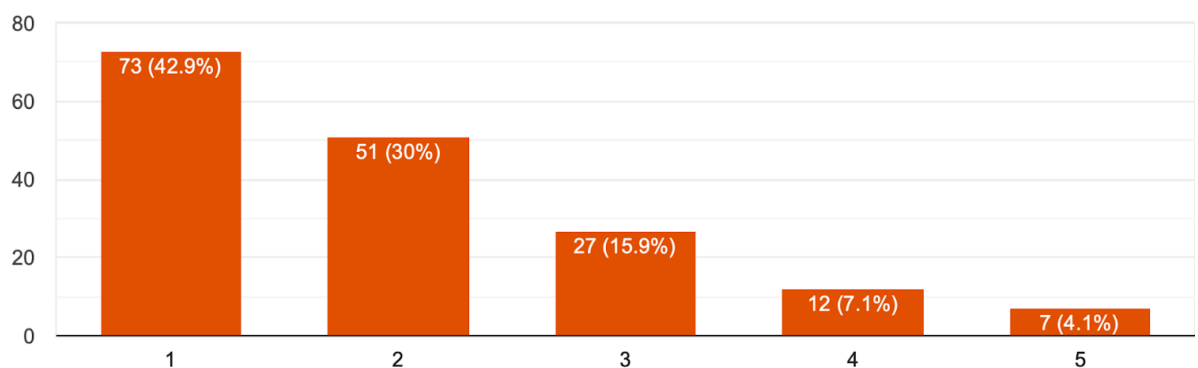
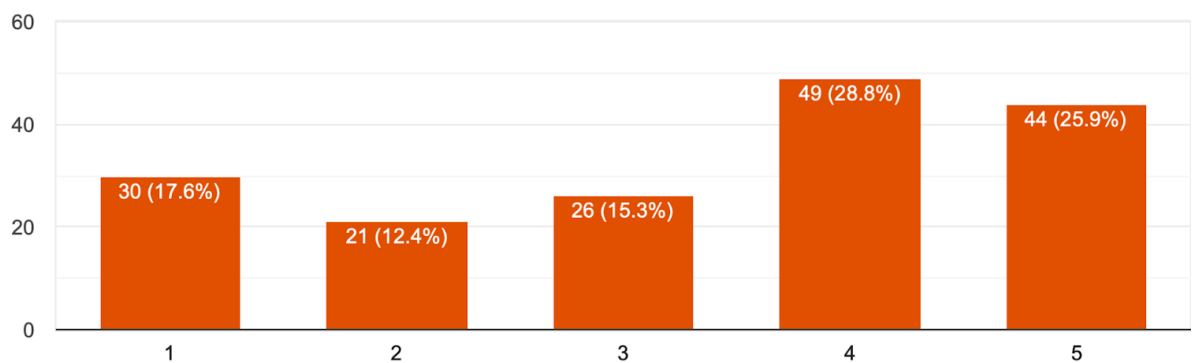### *Q.4 I have use AI in my teaching*

This question was designed to find out how many of our teachers are early AI adopters.

Response:
54.7% of respondents have not used AI in their teaching while 30% have that means 15.3% don't know or don't want to say.

I have used AI in my teaching
170 responses

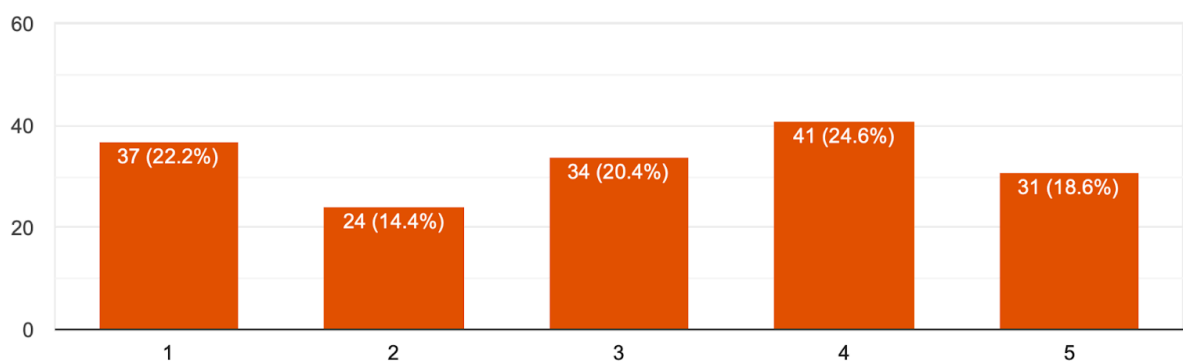## Q.4 My Students have used AI in their learning

This question was designed to find out how many of our teachers feel their students have used AI.

Response:
In this response, similar to the response to Question 1 there is a spread as many agree as disagree. Maybe the next question will illuminate the answer to this one.

My students have used AI in their learning
167 responses

Q.5 I am not sure if my students have used AI in their learning

This question was designed to find out how many of our teachers feel they actually know if their students have used AI.

Response:
Super interesting 65.7% of respondents know that their students have used AI in their learning. This makes sense but talks to our need to make AI as important to us as our students.

I am not sure if my students have used AI in their learning
169 responses
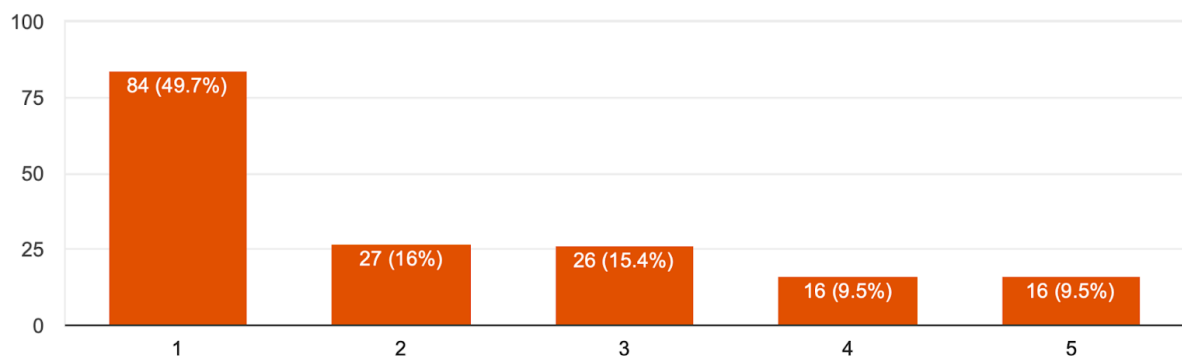
Q.6 I would encourage students to use AI in their learning

This question was designed to find out how many of our teachers would encourage their students to use AI.

Response:
Again a super interesting result. The response is balanced around a 31.8% peak of maybe yes maybe no. Given our kids are using AI, we think it is here to stay and we think we need to make it important. Why is this result so equivocal? This is something CEnet needs to find out.

I would encourage students to use AI in their learning
170 responses
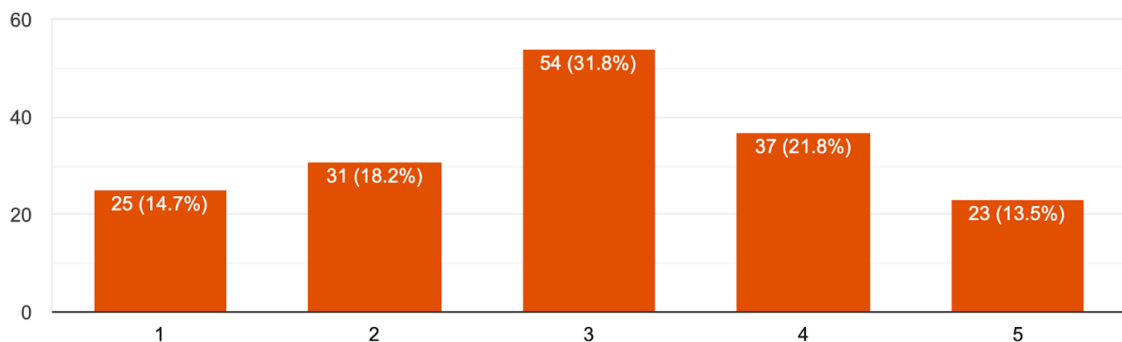
Q.7 I am nervous about encouraging students to use AI in their learning

This question was designed to find out how many of our teachers are concerned to encourage their students to use AI.

Response:
According to this response teachers are a bit nervous about encouraging students to use AI. This indicates that we need to do more to help teachers feel comfortable with this technology.

I am nervous about encouraging students to use AI in their learning.
170 responses
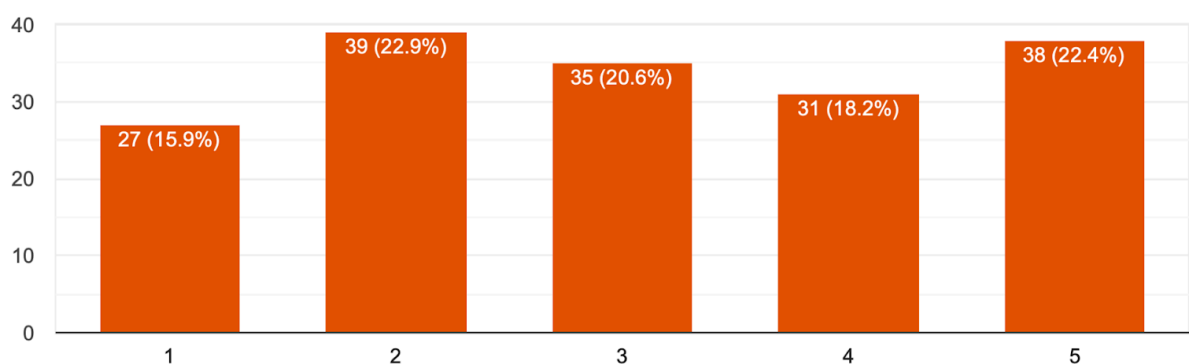
Q.8 I would like to learn more about AI and how to use it in my classroom

This question was designed to find out how many of our teachers are keen to learn.

Response:
A great response thank you:

I would like to learn more about AI and how to use it in my classroom.
170 responses
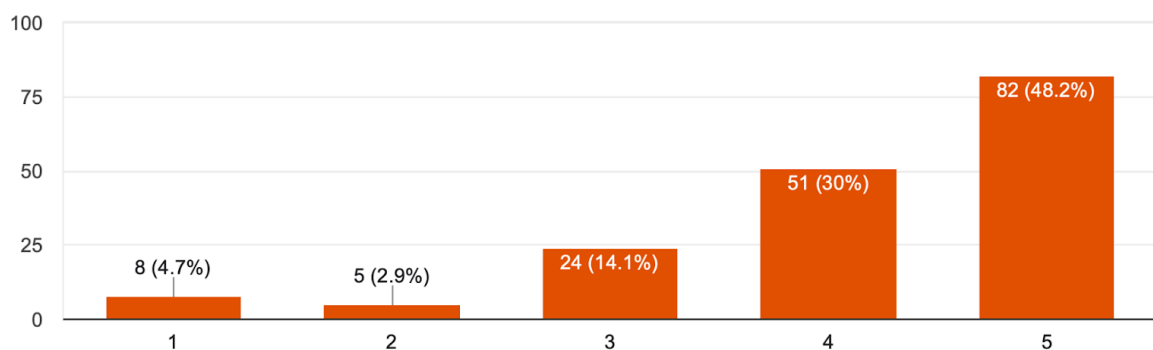
The next two questions were designed to help CEnet find out what to focus on during the pilot of **ce**chat. The first one asked "If you could create an AI duplicate of yourself what would you have that duplicate do for your students"? The options were:

- Providing instant and personalised feedback
- Personalising support and guidance
- Coaching on study techniques
- Explaining key concepts
- Encouraging exploration, curiosity, good questions, and new ideas
- Practising workplace conversations

- Helping unpack assessments and marking rubrics
- Answering common questions
- Other

If you could create an AI duplicate of yourself what would you have them do for your students? (You can pick more than one)

168 responses

Category	Value
Providing instant and person…	139 (82.7%)
Personalising support and g…	86 (51.2%)
Coaching on study techniques	56 (33.3%)
Explaining key concepts	97 (57.7%)
Encouraging exploration, cur…	88 (52.4%)
Practicing workplace conver…	27 (16.1%)
Helping unpack assessment…	107 (63.7%)
Answering common questions	95 (56.5%)
Tease out and expand thinking	1 (0.6%)
	1 (0.6%)
I would not create an AI dupl…	1 (0.6%)
all planning and paperwork	1 (0.6%)
Administrative tasks	1 (0.6%)
Difficult to answer for a teac…	1 (0.6%)
The design of this question i…	1 (0.6%)
helping ESL students to mee…	1 (0.6%)
Be a totally chilled teacher w…	1 (0.6%)
I would use it as a guide, an…	1 (0.6%)
Using AI to create assignme…	1 (0.6%)
Be available 24x7x365	1 (0.6%)

Overwhelmingly there is a need for a tool to provide instant and personalised feedback (88.7%) followed by a tool to help unpack assignments (63.7%). We had one person who would not create an AI clone of themselves and one thought this could help them be a totally chilled teacher
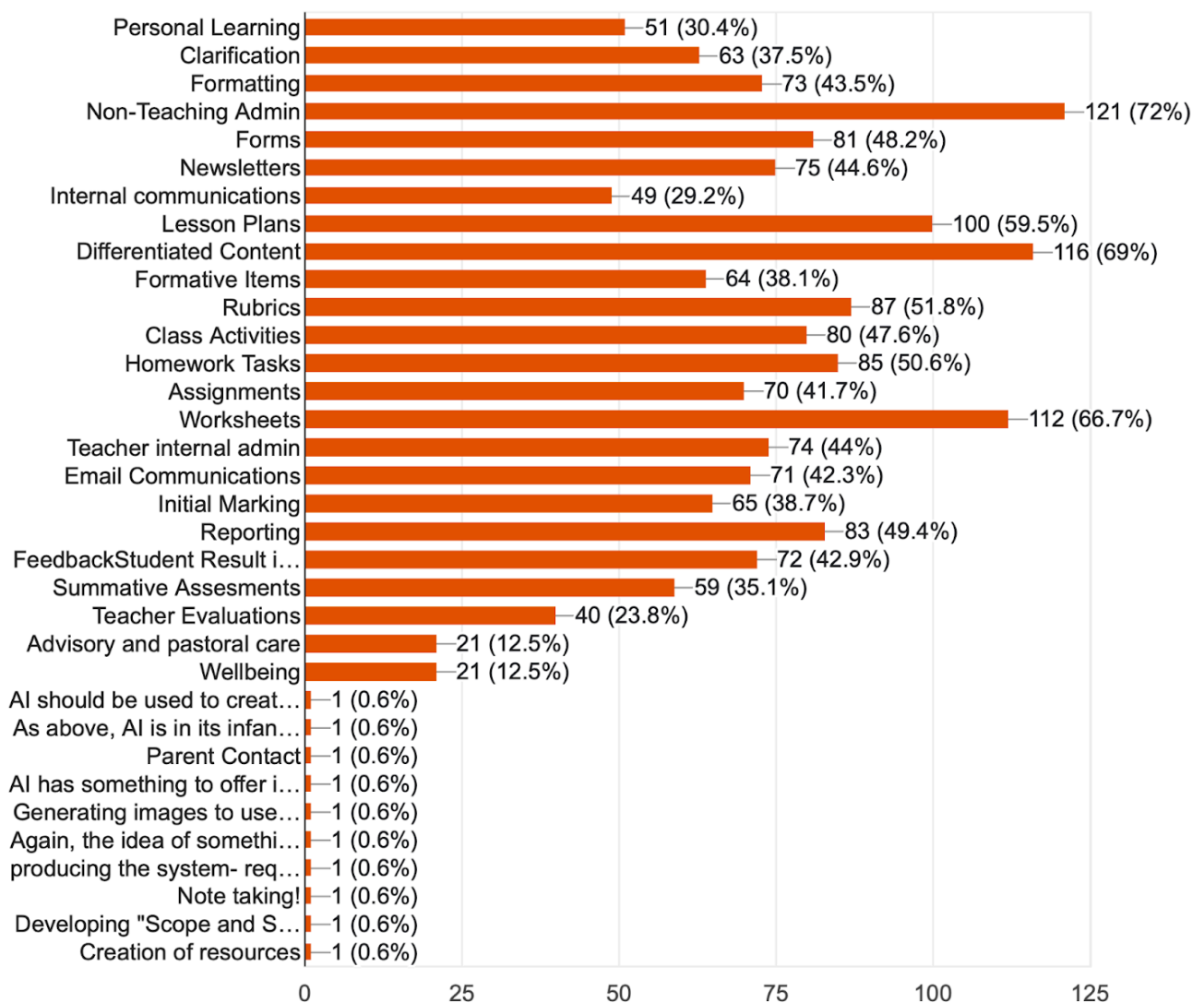
The other question asked in this section was "Generative AI may be able to help reduce administrative tasks and make your life easier. If it was possible which of these tasks would you have AI help with?"

We took the options for this question from the TALIS survey and the work that IAMAI have done in producing the Mecha AI assistant. Each of

these tasks (and others) is addressed explicitly in Mecha so for those schools in the AI pilot program it will be great to get feedback as to how well we have hit this target.

Generative AI may be able to help reduce administrative tasks and make you life easier. If it was possible which of these tasks would you have AI help with?

168 responses

Task	Responses
Personal Learning	51 (30.4%)
Clarification	63 (37.5%)
Formatting	73 (43.5%)
Non-Teaching Admin	121 (72%)
Forms	81 (48.2%)
Newsletters	75 (44.6%)
Internal communications	49 (29.2%)
Lesson Plans	100 (59.5%)
Differentiated Content	116 (69%)
Formative Items	64 (38.1%)
Rubrics	87 (51.8%)
Class Activities	80 (47.6%)
Homework Tasks	85 (50.6%)
Assignments	70 (41.7%)
Worksheets	112 (66.7%)
Teacher internal admin	74 (44%)
Email Communications	71 (42.3%)
Initial Marking	65 (38.7%)
Reporting	83 (49.4%)
FeedbackStudent Result i…	72 (42.9%)
Summative Assesments	59 (35.1%)
Teacher Evaluations	40 (23.8%)
Advisory and pastoral care	21 (12.5%)
Wellbeing	21 (12.5%)
AI should be used to creat…	1 (0.6%)
As above, AI is in its infan…	1 (0.6%)
Parent Contact	1 (0.6%)
AI has something to offer i…	1 (0.6%)
Generating images to use…	1 (0.6%)
Again, the idea of somethi…	1 (0.6%)
producing the system- req…	1 (0.6%)
Note taking!	1 (0.6%)
Developing "Scope and S…	1 (0.6%)
Creation of resources	1 (0.6%)

From this response we can see teachers really are looking for help with non-Teaching administration, the creation of differentiated content and creation of worksheets. This makes a lot of intuitive sense and will form the focus of the early **ce**chat pilot work.

In this section of the survey we asked about concerns people had with various aspects of the use of AI.

For the potential concerns mentioned in each of each of the columns, select your level of concern from no concern to major concern. If the prompt is not relevant then just mark it as such.
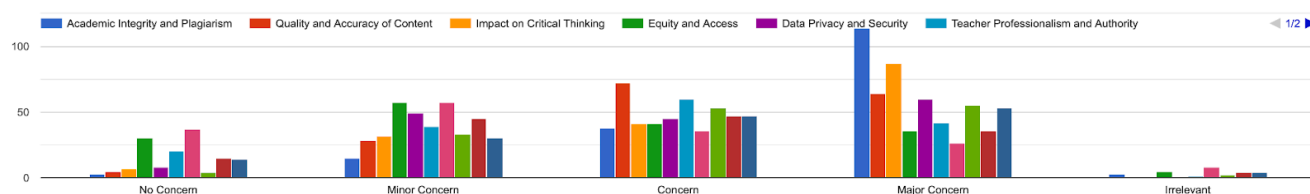
While it is a bit difficult to see academic integrity and plagiarism is the highest concern to our teachers. This is also the most difficult issue to deal with but these results show CEnet that this must be a key area for our research and work.

We have one final question, in this we asked what are your concerns, what have we missed and what should we do from here. I have created a word cloud to bring these concepts out:

From this response it seems that there is a real need for a group to share ideas in. CEnet is creating just such a safe space to share ideas and challenges called the CEnet AI educationExchange (eduExchange for short). Look out for this and join us to share ideas and feedback.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the survey. I really appreciate the time, effort and care you have put in to share your thoughts and concerns. CEnet will take all of this feedback very seriously and use it to guide our service provision to our members and partners.

Dr Alan Ibbett
Head of IT, CEnet
18 September 2024