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# NCOP Training Programme

## AI Driven Research Tools

Parliament of South Africa  
ICT Division

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# AI Driven Research Tools

Software applications that use AI techniques to assist, support and improve the research process.

Assist with:

- Literature review,
- Data analysis,
- Hypothesis generation, and
- Reporting





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# Benefits of AI Driven Research Tools

## 1) Understand a situation

AI helps you **understand documents and issues quickly**

## 2) Prepare for action

AI helps you **prepare questions, talking points, and explanations.**

## 3) Compare options

AI helps you **compare options, countries, or approaches.**

## 4) Reflect & Remember

AI helps you **not lose knowledge over a parliamentary term.**

# Understand a Situation

## Typical questions Members ask

- “What is this report about?”
- “What are the main issues?”
- “What should I pay attention to?”

## What AI does

- Summarizes long documents
- Explains complex language in plain terms
- Highlights key risks and implications

## What AI does *not* do

- Decide what you should think
- Replace reading entirely

## AI reads with you — not *instead* of you

Typical tools: Microsoft Co-pilot, ChatGPT, Claude, Perplexity, Elicit



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# Prepare for Action

## Typical questions Members ask

- What questions should I ask the Department?”
- “What are the weak points in this proposal?”
- “How do I explain this to the public?”

## What AI does

- Suggests oversight questions
- Helps structure speeches
- Translates policy language into public language

## What AI does not do

- Decide which position to take
- Replace political judgment

**AI helps to ask better questions.**

Typical tools: Microsoft Co-pilot, ChatGPT, Claude, Perplexity



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# Compare options

## Typical questions Members ask

- “How do other countries handle this?”
- “What are the different policy options?”
- “What are the trade-offs?”

## What AI does

- Summarises international examples
- Compares approaches side by side
- Highlights advantages and risks

## What AI does not do

- Recommend a political choice
- Replace deliberation

**AI shows the landscape — Members choose the path.**

Typical tools: Microsoft Co-pilot, ChatGPT, Claude, Perplexity, Consensus, Elicit



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# Reflect and remember

## Typical questions Members ask

- “Where did we discuss this before?”
- “What commitments were made?”
- “What patterns are emerging?”

## What AI does

- Helps organise notes
- Makes past discussions searchable
- Supports continuity across years

## What AI does not do

- Replace institutional processes
- Act as an official record

**AI helps memory — accountability remains with Parliament.**

Typical tools: Notion AI, Mem.ai, ChatGPT, Microsoft OneNote (with Co-pilot)



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# Typical AI Tools Available for Research



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Literature Search	Elicit	ResearchRabbit
Writing Assistant	ChatGPT	Microsoft Copilot
Grammar & Paraphrasing	Paperpal	grammarly
Ideation/writers block	jenni	miro
Institutional knowledge/ memory	mem	NotebookLM



**Members don't need to use all these tools.**



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# How To Write a Research Prompt

This is how you brief AI — the same way you brief a researcher:

1. *I am a* **[your role]**.
2. *The situation is:* **[brief context]**.
3. *Help me to:* **[specific task to perform]**.
4. *Provide the answer as:* **[format and tone]**.
5. *I am asking this because:* **[purpose]**.
6. *Ensure that:* **[quality check / limits]**.



# Step Prompt Example

## 1) Role:

I am a Member of Parliament serving on a Portfolio Committee.

## 2) Context:

I have received a departmental performance report covering the last financial year.

## 3) Task:

Summarize the key issues and identify areas that may require oversight.

## 4) Desired Output:

Provide the answer in plain language, using bullet points, no longer than one page.

## 5) Why I Am Asking:

I need to prepare questions for an upcoming committee meeting.

## 6) Quality Check:

Clearly distinguish facts from interpretation and highlight any areas where further verification may be needed.



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# Parliament POC



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Refresh

what has changed in the marriage bill?



The Marriage Bill [B 43 – 2023] has seen some important changes during its consideration in Parliament. One significant issue being addressed is the impact of marriage on people with disabilities who receive grants. Under the current system, many people with disabilities lose or have their grants reduced when they get married, not because their disability has changed, but because their spouse earns an income. This has been recognized as undermining constitutional rights to equality, dignity, and social security.

The Bill is being processed to address these concerns and ensure that marriage does not unfairly penalize people with disabilities. If you need more details on other specific changes, please let me know!

Sources:

[01pv5mf2e4l2s2hg5i4bhyx7uhh6rddc2j](#)

Type your message here...





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## AI Tools for Members of Parliament

How AI can assist, not replace, your work as a Member of Parliament.

<b>UNDERSTAND</b> Help me understand this.	<b>PREPARE</b> Help me get ready.	<b>COMPARE</b> Help me see the options	<b>REMEMBER</b> Help me keep track.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summarise reports</li> <li>Explain complex issues</li> <li>Highlight key points</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft questions</li> <li>Prepare speeches</li> <li>Find background info</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compare policies</li> <li>Show pros &amp; cons</li> <li>Review evidence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize notes</li> <li>Recall past discussions</li> <li>Track commitments</li> </ul>

### AI TOOLS TO USE:



### AI NEVER DOES:

- ◆ Make decisions for you
- ◆ Replace judgment
- ◆ Act as an official record

### ASKING AI A GOOD QUESTION:

A simple prompt template:

- 👉 I am a... [your role]
- 👉 The situation is... [brief context]
- 👉 Please help me to... [specific task]
- 👉 Provide the answer as... [format and tone]
- 👉 I am asking this because... [purpose]
- 👉 Please ensure that. [quality check]

**Thank you**

AI helps you understand, prepare, compare, and remember. Members decide—AI assists.



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