

Health and Medical Life Sciences Industry Advisory Group

Communique

November 2025

I am pleased to provide the second Communique of the Health and Medical Life Sciences (HMLS) Industry Advisory Group following its November 2025 meeting.

Workforce development

We received an update from the WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub and Life Sciences WA on upskilling training co-ordinated by them, and commend the delivery of these activities. We also received an update on a collaboration between the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification and the Department of Training and Workforce Development to develop a microsite highlighting biomedical careers pathways on the Jobs and Skills WA website. As a group, we are keen to explore how workforce and company growth can be tracked within the sector.

Procurement

We received an update on the status of government procurement initiatives, including the recent publication of an addendum to the refreshed WA Industry Participation Strategy, which focuses on innovation in procurement. We recognise the need to separate procurement of standard items from procurement of innovative products in the procurement process. We recommend exploring fellowships for procurement staff to learn about innovation, similar to the model used in the NHS.

Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund

We received an update on current and upcoming FHRI Fund programs, including the Innovation Seed Fund, Major Research and Innovation Application Support (MRIAS), Distinguished Fellows Program, Research Infrastructure Support program, new Spotlight program, Golden Ticket program and Enabling Scheme.

AusMedtech conference and satellite events 18-22 May 2026

We received an update on Perth hosting the national AusMedtech conference in May 2026. We note that as well as the AusMedtech and AusMedtech Invest conferences, several satellite events will take place, including two site tours of key WA infrastructure, the 10th anniversary celebration of Perth Biodesign and a Medtech Masterclass. We encourage all participants in the WA biomedical industry to invite people in their networks to come to Perth in the week commencing 18 May 2026 and experience all that WA has to offer in the medtech sector.

BioInnovation Festival March 2026

We received an update on the BioInnovation Festival to be held from 9-13 March, hosted by Life Sciences WA and partners. We note that the Festival will include all sub-sectors of life sciences including health and medical, agritech and marinetech, and will feature a conference, investor breakfast and satellite events in Perth, plus events in the South-West of Western Australia. We likewise encourage all participants in the life sciences to invite people in their networks to come to Perth and beyond to engage with a broad spectrum of life sciences activities happening in Western Australia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharath Sriram', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Professor Sharath Sriram *FIEAust*

CHIEF SCIENTIST OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA