

Innovation Advisory Board Communique

November 2025

The sixth Innovation Advisory Board (IAB) meeting was held on Tuesday 25 November 2025. The focus of the meeting was the promotion of Western Australia's innovation ecosystem.

The Minister opened the sixth IAB meeting by welcoming all members and guest presenter, Derek Gerard from The Malka Foundation.

The Minister reflected on recent travel and engagements with IAB members, including attendance at the Innovation of the Year (IOTY) and Premier's Science Awards.

Presentations

The Malka Foundation

Derek Gerard, Chairperson of The Malka Foundation, provided an overview of the Foundation's support programs designed to grow the pipeline of innovators and entrepreneurs. He highlighted key findings and impacts from the programs to date.

StartupWA

StartupWA shared outcomes from the Promotion Roundtable held on 4 November 2025, attended by 42 participants. Early findings and recommendations will be reflected in the forthcoming roundtable report.

Discussion Items

People and Skills Discussion and Workshop

The People and Skills Subcommittee led a workshop on potential initiatives to drive the Skills, People, and Culture priority of the WA Innovation Strategy.

Topics discussed included:

- Potential development of a Public Sector Innovation Toolkit for both State and Local Government, to provide a common language and support a culture of innovation across the public sector.
- Potential adoption of accreditation or certification standards for innovation hubs.
- Establishing formal learning pathways and recognised professional standards in innovation management, design thinking, future foresight, ecosystems, and related fields.
- The importance of cultural change and measurement, with successful adoption requiring champions at all levels of the organisation to drive an innovation culture.

Advisory Board members discussed topics and actions that could be undertaken within the State to improve innovation skills, people, and culture in Western Australia.

Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 2026.