

Western Australia's Early- and Mid-Career Researchers Reference Group Meeting 3

Wednesday, 29th July 2026

The third meeting of the Western Australian Early to Mid-Career Research (EMCR) Reference Group was held on Wednesday, 29th July at the Forrest Research Foundation.

Prior to the meeting, Reference Group members attended the WA Science & Technology Council meeting as observers, where the group's submission — *Building a Sustainable WA EMCR Workforce* — was formally presented to the Council. Members of the Council were subsequently invited to join the EMCR meeting that followed.

Board Submission: Building a Sustainable WA EMCR Workforce – Draft Submission

A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to discussion of the submission to the WA Science & Technology Council. This submission is aligned with WA's 10-Year Science & Technology Plan and addresses future research workforce needs and capability. Key items included for the Council's consideration were:

1. Enhancing awareness by reporting the challenges impacting WA EMCRs across all scientific and technological disciplines to the Science and Technology Council.
2. Establishing a clear and accessible mechanism for EMCR input into policy and strategy development.
3. Discussing key items from the WA EMCR Workforce Sustainability Plan.

State and Sector-Wide Workforce Survey

The group discussed plans to develop a state and sector-wide survey of the WA research workforce. The survey will aim to quantify current needs, gaps, and capacity, and will directly inform the development of the EMCR Workforce Sustainability Plan. A consultation process for the development of the plan will take place with key stakeholders and relevant WA Government departments.

ARC Funding Scheme Changes

The group briefly noted the recent changes to ARC funding schemes, with further discussion to follow at a future meeting.