



Today the Turnbull Government released the [National Innovation and Science Agenda \(NISA\)](#), one of the most comprehensive policy announcements designed to boost economic growth in our nation's history. It is designed so that we can embrace new sources of growth, maintain high-wage jobs and seize the next wave of economic prosperity.

Over the past year, I have been working closely with WA's innovation community to identify where our nation can improve and how we can harness the full potential of our intellectual capital.

I am heartened to see in NISA so many of the recommendations outlined in the West Australian Discussion Paper on Finance, Capital and Commercialisation published by myself and Senator Dio Wang as co-chairs of the Parliamentary Alliance of Research and Innovation have been embraced by the government. The full report is available [here](#).



Presenting the discussion paper on finance, capital and commercialisation to the Assistant Minister for Innovation.



There are four key areas that form the basis of the NISA, all of which were touched on throughout extensive consultations with WA's innovation community:

Culture and capital

Here in Western Australia, we have a vibrant innovation community; one brimming with ideas in all sectors. WA has a culture that embraces 'having a go' and if that leads to failure, we dust ourselves off and start again. The new measures in the NISA mean that capital investment will become more readily available to innovators in Western Australia and will help to kick-start some of our brightest innovations.

Talent and skills

We need to start preparing ourselves for the jobs of the future; this starts with ensuring young Australians receive a world class education that embraces Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). During consultations, it has been suggested that we should add two more letters to this acronym to create STEAME. A for Arts and culture and E for Entrepreneurial.

Collaboration

WA understands the importance of collaboration between research institutions and businesses. Our Universities have a good track record of collaborating with industry, however there is a lot more that can be done. The NISA will ensure greater collaboration between our research institutions and industry; leading to greater outcomes for commercialisation, and the maximum utility of Australian ideas.

Government as an exemplar

For Government to embrace innovation as a means for economic growth, Government itself must be innovative. Our world is moving faster and faster. We now see greater disruption in both technology and the traditional ways of thinking and doing business. Government must respond to external forces more readily to ensure our nation remains internationally competitive and that Australians have more efficient and effective access to services.



With parliamentary colleagues and Mr Avi Hasson, Chief Scientist of Israel, 25 November 2015.

All of these elements are crucial to creating a healthy and diverse innovation ecosystem in Australia.

I look forward to welcoming the Assistant Minister for Innovation, the Hon. Wyatt Roy MP to Perth next week to discuss PARI's paper and talk about the National Innovation and Science Agenda in greater depth. During the visit, Minister Roy will have the opportunity to meet with a diverse cross section of WA's innovation community and gain a greater understanding of what we are able to achieve here in WA.

Today truly is an exciting time to be a West Australian,

Sincerely,

Senator Linda Reynolds

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