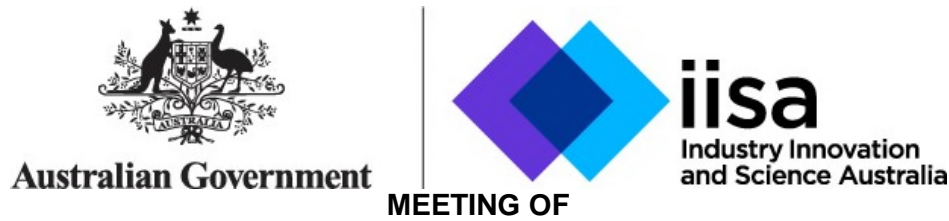


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**MEETING OF
Entrepreneurs' Programme Committee****17 September 2021****FOR FOR NOTING**

Presented by: Incubator Support Initiative Program Management

Recommendations

1. The Committee note the report.

This paper provides a summary of the grants approved to date, sector detail, approval rates and other updates for the Incubator Support Initiative.

Incubator Support Initiative

The Incubator Support Initiative (ISI) was launched on 20 September 2016, as an element of the Entrepreneurs' Programme. Initially, funded through to 2019-20, the ISI provides grant assistance to new and existing incubators delivering high quality services to Australian start-ups to help increase their chances of achieving commercial success in international markets and assist them to realise their economic potential faster than they otherwise would.

It also provides incubators with access to top quality research, managerial and technical talent through incoming and outgoing secondments of national or international experts.

Funding is provided through two funding components, New and Existing Incubators (NEI) (up to \$250,000 grants) and Expert-in-Residence (EIR) (up to \$100,000 grants).

During the 2019 Federal Election campaign, the Government announced a \$5 million new funding commitment to support first generation migrant and refugee start-up entrepreneurs through the ISI. Program funding has been committed over four years, commencing in 2019-20.

Migrants and refugees are recognised as important contributors to the start-up ecosystem and are known for establishing innovative new businesses and undertaking entrepreneurial pursuits. The expanded initiative will focus on developing the capabilities of first generation migrant and refugee founders to assist them to realise their economic potential in international markets. The expansion was launched on 4 February 2020.

As part of the 2021-22 Federal Budget measures announced on 11 May 2021, the Australian Government advised that the ISI funding is to be reduced. The department closed applications on 12 May 2021. The Entrepreneurs' Programme is committed to supporting existing ISI grantees until the end of their grant – these end progressively over the next two years.

The 17 September 2021 EPC meeting is the final meeting that will consider NEI applications; applications considered at this meeting were either received prior to 12 May 2021, or result from EOIs that were submitted prior to 12 May 2021.

Key Statistics

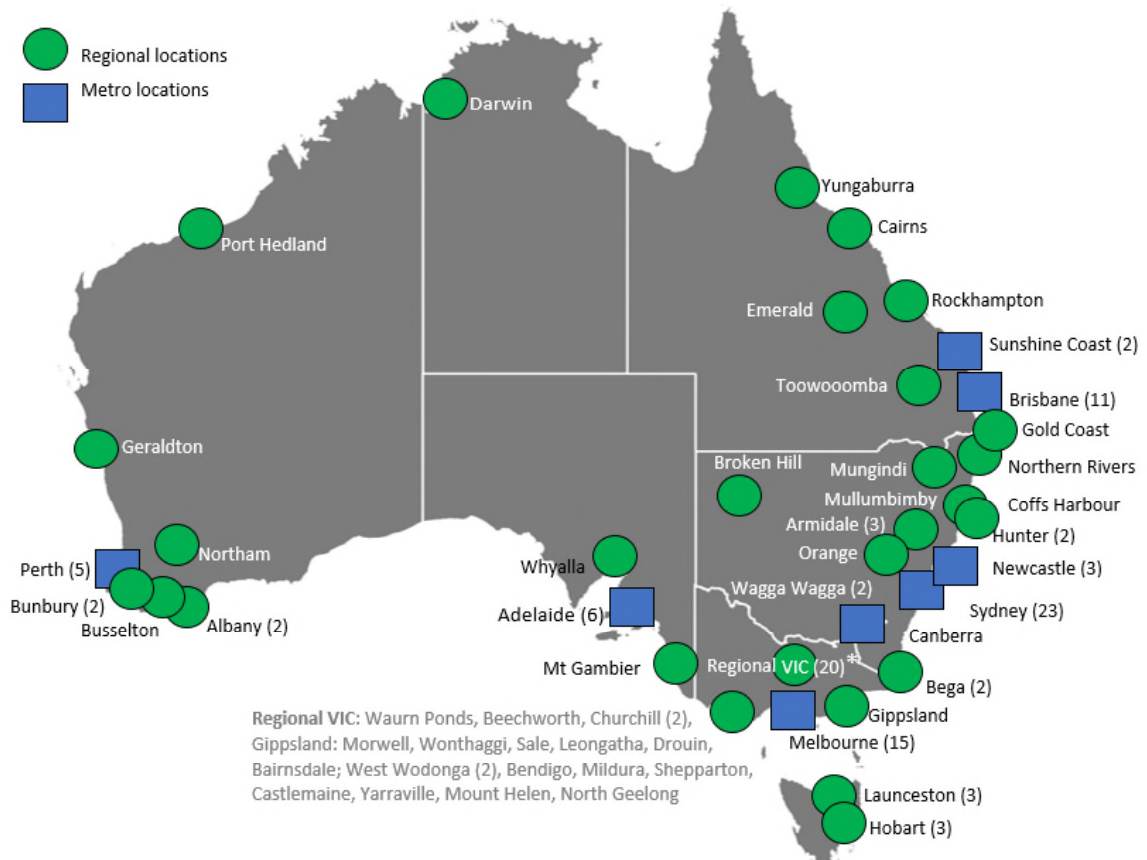
As at 22 July 2021, 200 ISI grants worth a total of more than \$29.5 million have been approved:

New and Existing Incubators (NEI) grants

- 71 projects worth over \$24 million approved.
- NEI projects funded to date will support more than 1500 Australian start-ups.
- Leading sectors: food/agtech (13), medtech/biotech (10), hardware/advanced manufacturing (7), tech (8), **first generation migrant and refugee (6)**, media (2), energy (2), space technologies (2) and social (1).

NEI project locations

- 24 of the 71 approved projects are being delivered in regional Australia.
[Note that many projects are being delivered in multiple locations]



Expert in Residence (EIR)

EIR applications are assessed by the department. Applications up to and including \$50,000 are assessed against eligibility criteria only, whereas applications greater than \$50,000 are additionally assessed against Merit Criterion 2.

EIR grants

- 129 applications worth over \$5 million approved.
- More than 200 experts have been seconded into Australian incubators.
- Approximately two thirds of the experts have been seconded internationally, from countries including the USA, UK, Israel, Singapore, China, Malaysia, Spain, Netherlands, India, Turkey, Germany, Sweden, North America, Bosnia and France.
- Four experts from Australian incubators have travelled overseas to gain new skills and experience. They have visited incubator partners in the US, Spain, Belgium and Singapore.