

# Ministerial Advisory Board meeting – Monday 11 August 2025

## Meeting communique

The Ministerial Advisory Board met in Sydney on Monday 11 August 2025.

The Advisory Board:

- considered the proposed JSA 2025-26 work plan, including the priority cohort and capacity studies. Members endorsed the broad framework of the draft work plan and the proposed governance model to support the delivery of the priority studies.
- noted the release of the first data and findings paper from JSA's Gender Economic Equality Study on 7 August. The Board also noted progress towards the second data and findings paper, scheduled for release in early September, and recommendations in a third paper in late September. The Board noted the significant amount of innovative analysis and stakeholder engagement that has underpinned the Study and provided further advice around the emerging themes for recommendations.
- noted that JSA's Generative AI Capacity Study is nearing release on 14 August. The Board noted the significant amount of innovative analysis and stakeholder engagement, to underpin important whole-of-labour-market findings and recommendations. The study will critically shape a constructive public discussion on Generative AI and the future labour market, including by providing reform options (utilising tripartite actors), informing the development of the National AI Capability Plan, and recommending further research and ongoing monitoring.
- discussed and provided feedback on findings from the Higher Education Students Outcomes project.
- noted the update provided from the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners of Jobs and Skills Australia on current activities.
- received a presentation from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing on the Australian Government's *Disability Strategy 2021-2031*, which provided context to help inform proposed work as part of the JSA work plan.
- supported the inclusion of apprenticeships and traineeships as a priority topic within the 2025-26 work plan. Members provided JSA with suggestions for research questions and opportunities that could be considered for inclusion.
- heard from Manufacturing Industry Skills Alliance on their current strategic activities and its expected impacts on the skills and employment landscape.
- reached an important milestone, marking its first full year of operation. This achievement aligns with the upcoming statutory review of the Jobs and Skills Act 2022, presenting an ideal moment for reflection and strategic adjustment. The Advisory Board had a discussion focussed on strategic direction, with topics including the role of the Advisory Board, utilisation of the tripartite nature of the Advisory Board and ensuring strategic alignment of advice to JSA on project recommendations.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 20 October 2025 in Melbourne.

**Attendees:** Cath Bowtell (Chair); Liam O'Brien (Deputy Chair); Annie Butler; David Henry; Caroline Smith; Lill Healy; Jodie Wallace; Jack Beetson; Rae Cooper; El Gibbs; Hon Andrew Giles MP (part meeting).

**Apologies:** Bran Black (Deputy Chair); Jodie Trembath; Correna Haythorpe; Luke Achterstraat.

**Proxies/Observers:** Pieta Davis (for Bran Black); Sushmitha Kasturi (for Jodie Trembath); Adele Sutton (for Luke Achterstraat).

**JSA:** Barney Glover; David Turvey; Megan Lilly; Trevor Gauld; Bjorn Jarvis; Fan Xiang.

**DEWR:** Natalie James; Anna Faithfull; Ryan Thomas.

**Presenters:** Luke Mansfield, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing; Sharon Robertson and Paul Williams, Manufacturing Industry Skills Alliance.