

“Starting Local - Going Global”

*Article from the AICC(WA)’s ECU FutureNOW series sundowner featuring **Dr Charlie Day**, CEO, Innovation & Science Australia, on the topic of “**Western Australia’s role in contributing to the National Innovation and Science Agenda**”. This event was held at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research on 25 July 2018*



From L to R - Mr John Cluer, Chief Executive, Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce (WA), Professor Margaret Jones, Director, Office of Research and Innovation, Edith Cowan University, Dr Charlie Day, Chief Executive Officer, Innovation & Science Australia, Dr Michael Winlo, Chief Executive Officer, Linear Clinical Research Ltd, Ms Joce Young, Chief Executive Officer, RPH Medical Research Foundation and Dr Frank Koentgen, Chief Executive Officer, Ozgene Pty Ltd

Master of Ceremonies, Professor Margaret Jones, Director, Office of Research and Innovation, Edith Cowan University introduced the AICC(WA) FutureNOW sundowner by commending Perth and Western Australia as a City and State of innovators. This set the scene for a robust and optimistic presentation about innovation and future industry development.

Three examples of local innovation capability in the area of medical research which has been successfully commercialised were showcased;

- The [RPH Medical Research Foundation](#) recently appointed CEO, Ms Joce Young, shared examples of research projects in areas such as blood pressure monitoring and implant technology. Since the foundation's establishment in 1983 more than \$30 million has been invested into medical research projects by the independent not-for-profit organisation. The foundation has also sponsored delegates to AICC(WA) Israel trade delegations. Ms Young described the RPH Medical Research Foundation as "one of the best kept secrets of medical innovation funding in WA; but not for much longer".
- Dr Frank Koentgen, Chief Executive Officer, [Ozgene](#) shared his 18 year business development journey in the development of genetically customised mice for medical research. The Perth founded company has licensed patents and developed innovation technology in Germline technology while improving animal welfare. The company now has global reach, with 80% of its sales being international exports. Israeli enterprise is amongst its customer base.
- More than 100 clinicians and staff are involved in medical trials facilitated by [Linear Clinical Research Ltd](#). Dr Michael Winlo, Chief Executive Officer, explained their work in areas such as genomic sequencing and digital technology development to facilitate the transition from animal based medical research to human based trials. The company predominantly supplies to offshore customers.



Professor Margaret Jones, Director, Office of Research and Innovation, Edith Cowan University

Professor Jones drew from these and other prominent examples to note that WA will continue to grow as a beacon for medical research and innovation in the Southern Hemisphere, and particularly as a respected Australian hub.



Dr Frank Koentgen, Chief Executive Officer, Ozgene Pty Ltd (L) and Dr Michael Winlo, Chief Executive Officer, Linear Clinical Research Ltd (R)

As CEO of the Office of Innovation and Science Australia (ISA), Dr Charlie Day also reflected on Western Australian capability, and the economic impact of innovation from the State. The true extent of this is not always noticed on the eastern seaboard. Dr Day quoted science fiction author William Gibson who said “The future is already here. It’s just not evenly distributed”.

Explaining the role of [Innovation and Science Australia](#), to advise the Australian Government about innovation, research and science, the organisation has developed a vision for Australia to drive prosperity through innovation.

The structure of the independent body includes a statutory board of entrepreneurs, investors, researchers and educators. The board has one non-Australian member, being Saul Singer, co-author of the book “[Start-Up Nation](#)” which branded and defined the story of Israel’s economic development.

Dr Day discussed current and future projects of ISA, noting that Australia’s innovation journey is well underway and that successes should be celebrated. He sees the organisation’s role as one to enhance activity to date, as defined by the Performance Review of Australian Innovation, Science and Research undertaken in 2016.

ISA have recently published a plan for Australia to thrive in the global innovation race called “Australia 2030 – Prosperity through Innovation.” This has already been evolved into the forward estimates of the federal budget. Some of the strategies covered by the document were discussed by Dr Day as follows;

- Providing Research and Development incentives within tax structures to stimulate investment in innovation
- Utilising Artificial Intelligence (AI) within business analytics, maintaining global competitiveness in this area, and responding to business changes that evolve due to the application of AI
- Industry 4.0 and smart manufacturing in the value chain through the use of automation and data exchange
- Broadening the Healthcare system and improving digital infrastructure for health. Australia is well placed to deliver implementation of new ideas in this sector.



Dr Charlie Day, Chief Executive Officer, Innovation & Science Australia

Concluding his speech, Dr Day made some observations about the WA Innovation Strategy, its compatibility and relationship to the national agenda, and about the role of all three tiers of Government in Australia needing to engage. “No one level of Government holds all the levers. Too often we think about innovation as taking a product through a technology path. However, we can more broadly think about innovation in terms of people, ideas and place. Innovation at its best is about creating teams and using the role of precinct to develop new concepts”.

Business to Business collaboration, academic sector engagement, and the role of Government were further discussed in the context of a business eco-system and enhancement of export capability.

Dr Day left his audience with a call to action; to work as a community and to make innovation and Australian capability a better export proposition.



From L to R - Dr Charlie Day, Chief Executive Officer, Innovation & Science Australia, Dr Michael Winlo, Chief Executive Officer, Linear Clinical Research Ltd, Ms Joce Young, Chief Executive Officer, RPH Medical Research Foundation and Dr Frank Koentgen, Chief Executive Officer, Ozgene Pty Ltd



Dr Charlie Day, Chief Executive Officer, Innovation & Science Australia

About Dr Charlie Day

Dr Day is the CEO of the Office of Innovation and Science Australia (OISA), an independent statutory board of entrepreneurs, investors, researchers and educators. He brings to the role significant expertise in innovation, business development, technology commercialisation, venture capital and start-up creation. Immediately prior to taking up his role with OISA, Dr Day was the Program Director for the Carlton Connect Initiative, an ambitious project to create Australia's premier STEM innovation precinct anchored by the University of Melbourne.

As CEO, Dr Day leads the Office of Innovation and Science Australia and supports the Innovation and Science Australia (ISA) board's implementation of long-term initiatives to boost Australia's innovation, science and research system.

ISA provides strategic, whole-of-government advice on all science, research and innovation matters. In January 2018 ISA released the Australia 2030: Prosperity through Innovation report, which sets out a path for Australia to become a leading innovation nation by 2030.

Dr Day is passionate about the generation of wealth, in its broadest sense, from knowledge. He is committed to developing a more vibrant and robust innovation ecosystem across the whole Australian continent.

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Professor Lyn Beazley AO, FTSE CIE, Chair, RPH MRF & AICC(WA) Board Member, Dr Rebecca McCrackan, Board Member, RPH MRF, Ms Joce Young, Chief Executive Officer, RPH Medical Research Foundation and Mr Ian Love, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Blockchain Assets Pty Ltd



Dr Michael Winlo, Chief Executive Officer, Linear Clinical Research Ltd, Dr Frank Koentgen, Chief Executive Officer, Ozgene Pty Ltd, Dr Charlie Day, Chief Executive Officer, Innovation & Science Australia and Professor Lyn Beazley AO, FTSE CIE, Chair, RPH MRF & AICC(WA) Board Member



Mr Lauchlan Wallace, General Manager Data Science, Woodside Energy Ltd and Mr Ben Bauert, Chief Executive Officer, Unleashed VR



Mr David Lucido, Managing Director, Sentient Hubs, Mr Tom Goerke, Innovation Centre Director Australia, Cisco Systems Australia Pty Ltd and Mr Peter Kasprzak, Co-Founder and CEO, Innovate Australia

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