

Growing Together: Western Sydney Connect

ImpactMaker

As part of UNSW Business School's flagship Growing Together: Western Sydney Connect initiative, ImpactMaker is a curated session designed to bring together local councils, community organisations, and UNSW business researchers to spark collaborative projects that deliver meaningful impact for communities across Western Sydney.

Our aim is to work together on real-world problems and develop **research-informed solutions** that deliver meaningful impact in local communities and councils.

How this may benefit you

We will help support, through matching with our researchers and funding, research you want to do but may not have the time, resources, or specialist expertise to undertake on your own. Through a supported partnership with UNSW Business School researchers, you can turn a priority issue into a focused project that generates evidence you can use in practice.

What you can expect

- Funding and academic expertise to scope and deliver a targeted piece of research on your priority issue
- Stronger capability for planning, evaluation, and evidence-informed decision-making
- Practical outputs such as insights, frameworks, tools, or recommendations you can apply
- Be part of a network of community practitioners and researchers who share a commitment to learning from each other and improving outcomes across Western Sydney through collaboration and knowledge sharing.

How it works

We invite community organisations and councils to share priority issues or future challenges and connect with relevant researchers with the right expertise. The matched team will then co-develop a brief proposal, which will be put through a selection process leading to **funding support of up to \$10,000 per project** to kickstart your work as jointly decided by you and the research team.

Applications will be assessed on:

- Research team and partner organisation experience in the topic
- Clarity and justification of the challenge being addressed
- Key activities and feasibility
- Potential for future scaling (e.g. larger projects and partnerships)
- Practical outputs and impact, including societal benefits for partners and Greater Western Sydney

Note: Your organisations will not receive \$10,000 – it will be used to fund the activities you and the matched researcher jointly determine.

Some examples of possible focus areas:

- Economic prosperity and local development
- Digital inclusion, connectivity, and access to services
- Social cohesion, civic participation, and community trust
- Sustainability, climate adaptation, and resilience
- Innovation in service design and delivery and Future of work
- AI and data analysis for advocacy and decision making
- Transport access, Cost of living and Homelessness
- Advocacy on equitable funding from the government
- Sector capacity building through upskilling, service innovation, and improved delivery models

Next steps

- 1) Join our online information session (Q&A) – [Tue 17 Feb 2026, 10-11am](#)

If you have questions about the program, eligibility, or what makes a suitable EOI, you are warmly invited to join a short online information session. We will walk through the process and answer your questions. [Please register via Eventbrite](#) to receive the link and session details.

- 2) Submit your Expression of Interest (EOI) by [Tue, 24 February 2026](#)

To ensure we connect you with the right UNSW researchers, [please submit your priority issue\(s\) using this online form](#). After reviewing EOIs, we may arrange a short conversation in February or March to better understand your local context and needs.

- 3) Join our in-person Roundtable – **27 March 2026, UNSW Sydney CBD campus**

This in-person Roundtable will connect you with UNSW Business School researchers who have indicated interest and have relevant expertise to your project, so you can explore further on your project.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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