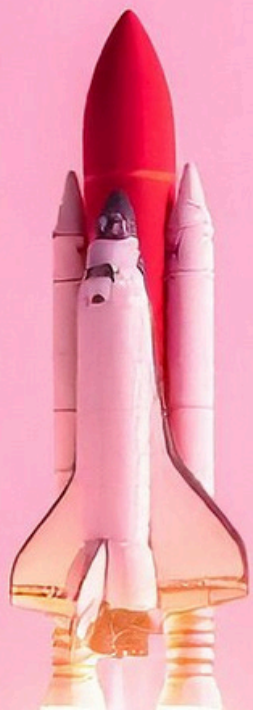
WOMEN IN AVIATION/ AEROSPACE AUSTRALIA

Setting the flightpath for a diverse future



POST EVENT SUMMARY

ADELAIDE SUMMIT 2026

FROM RUNWAY TO BOARDROOM: Women Shaping The Industry

AVIATION/ AEROSPACE AUSTRALIA | WOMEN IN AVIATION/ AEROSPACE AUSTRALIA | AVIATION/ AEROSPACE AUSTRALIA NextGenNetwork | AVIATION/ AEROSPACE AUSTRALIA SKILLS & TRAINING | AVIATION/ AEROSPACE AUSTRALIA GreenSkies

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WA/AA ADELAIDE SUMMIT 2026

Speaker Lineup

The theme of the summit focused on programs and initiatives within organisations that translated words into actions, supporting diversity and inclusion across the sector. Below is the list of speakers on the day.

Summit Facilitator
Alana McKenna, Senior Underwriter, QBE Insurance
Non-Executive Director, Aviation/Aerospace Australia

Welcome to Country
Cliffy Wilson, Kumu Kaaru

Aviation/Aerospace Australia Welcome
Kristen Raby, Director Airborne Solutions & Defence Business Development, Leidos Australia, & Chair at Aviation/Aerospace Australia

Government Address
Claire Clutterham MP, Member for Sturt, Co-Chair Parliamentary Friends of Aviation

Keynote
Rebecca Humble, Chief Executive Officer, Aurizn

Why Nova Systems is investing $1m in a flight to space
Peter Nikoloff, Executive Director & Co-Founder, Nova Systems

Workshop
Christine Khor, CEO & Founder, Peeplcoach & Executive Coach, Board Director, The Hunger Project

WA/AA ADELAIDE SUMMIT 2026

Speaker Lineup

Spotlight On Tech Roles Panel

- Stephanie McCulloch, Project Engineering Manager, BAE Systems Maritime Australia & State Chair for South Australia, Women in Aviation/Aerospace (Moderator)
- Rebecca Basson, Scheduling Supervisor, Leidos Australia
- Alexandra Weir, Program Integration Lead, Boeing Defence Australia
- Yan Yang, Principal Research Engineer, CSIRO
- Candice Jarvis, Manager P-8A Service Delivery, Airbus Australia Pacific
- Olivia Meffan, Manager Heavy Maintenance Planning, Jetstar Airways

Board Discussion: Working Towards Board Roles

- Anntonette Dailey, Chief Executive, Aviation/Aerospace Australia (Moderator)
- Shannon O'Hara, Senior Legal Counsel – Aviation, QBE Insurance Australia Pacific & Deputy Chair, Aviation/Aerospace Australia
- Carissa Prescott, Executive GM Legal & Risk; General Counsel, Royal Flying Doctor Service SA/NT
- Lisa Cook, Founder & Managing Director, Get on Board Australia
- Ida Wong, GAICD, AICD SA Divisional Council

Panel Discussion: Why Wont She Stay?

- Angela Garvey, Founder and Director, Navigating Aviation (Moderator)
- Mikalie Nakos, People Business Partner Corporate and Workforce Projects, Nova Systems
- Sarah Pearn, Production Manager for Precision Electronics in Advanced Manufacturing, BAE Systems
- Louise Glendon, Defence & Aerospace Consultant
- Jeni Langdon, Clinical Psychologist & Director, Psychologists and Counsellors Australia

Fireside Chat

- Sarah McSwiney, Head Of Engineering, Jetstar Airways & Director, Aviation/Aerospace Australia (Moderator)
- Imelda Lynch, Director, Adelaide Crows Foundation
- Linda Fellows, Deputy Chair, Adelaide Football Club

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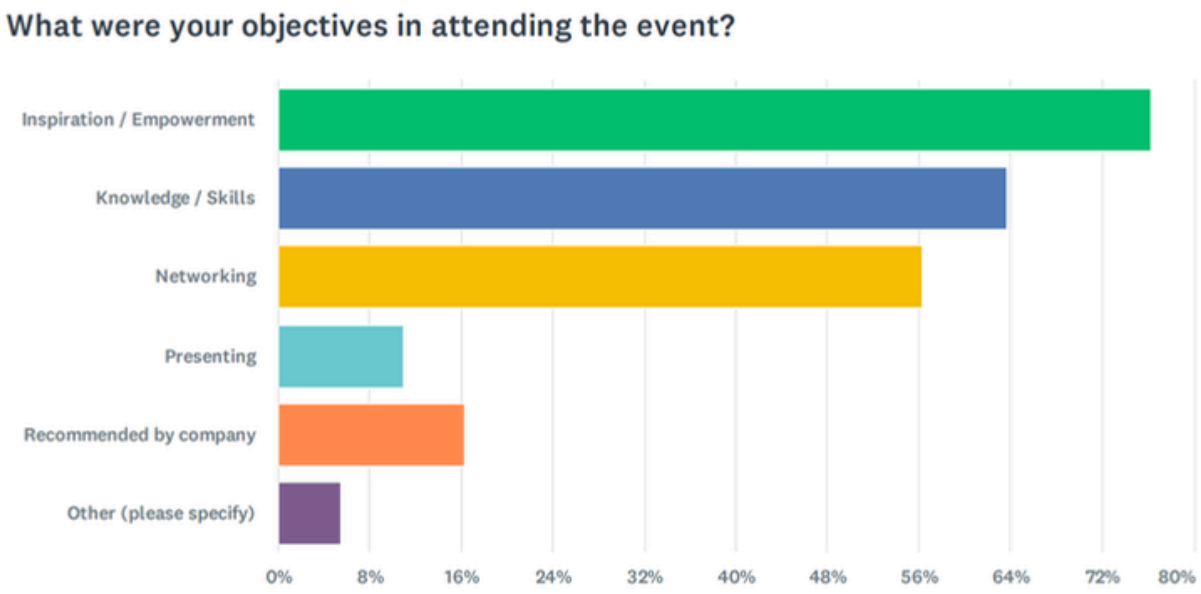
WA/AA ADELAIDE SUMMIT 2026

Post Event Summary

The WA/AA Adelaide Summit 2026 was a successful event that provided an opportunity to bring together professionals from across the aviation, aerospace, defence and space sectors to connect, share knowledge and hear from a diverse range of industry leaders.
Overall attendee feedback was very positive, with the Summit achieving an average rating of 4.19 out of 5. The feedback demonstrates that the event delivered against its core objectives and provided a valuable experience for attendees.

Audience Insights

The primary motivation for attending was inspiration and empowerment, identified by 76% of respondents. This was followed by knowledge and skills development at 64% and networking at 56%. These results demonstrate strong alignment between the purpose of the Summit and the experience attendees were seeking.
The findings reinforce the importance of continuing to provide a balance of inspirational stories, practical professional development and opportunities for meaningful industry connection within future programs.



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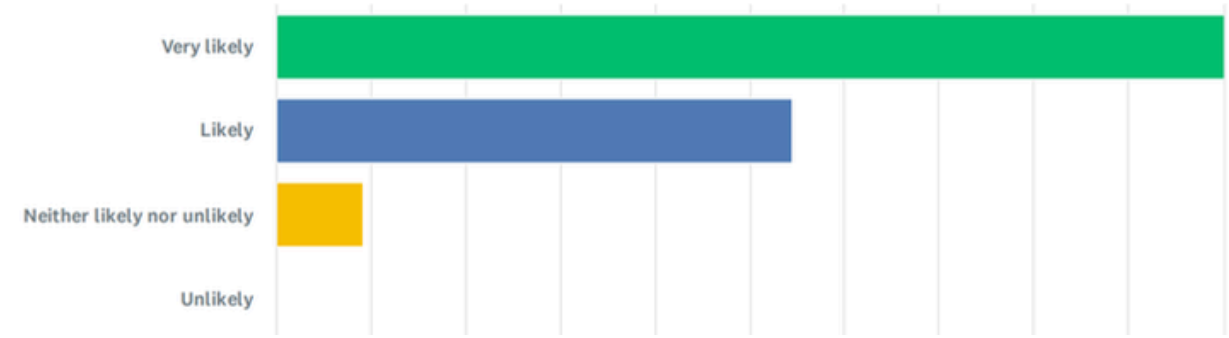
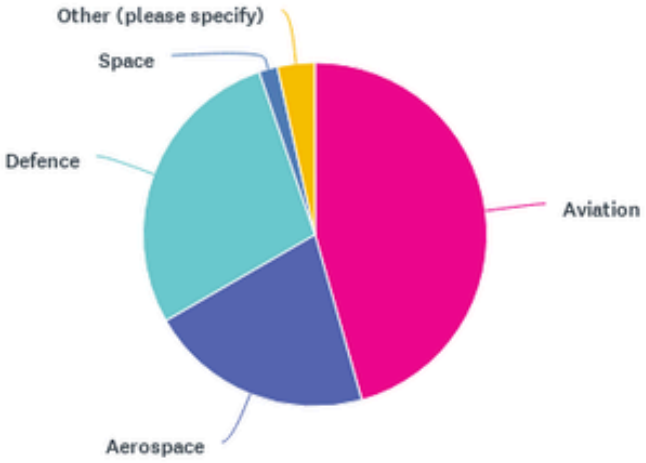
Post Event Summary

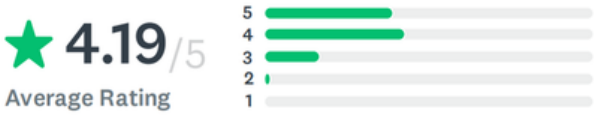
How likely are you to recommend these events?



Which sector do you work in?



Overall, how would you rate the WA/AA Summit?



It was an extremely valuable and inspirational experience

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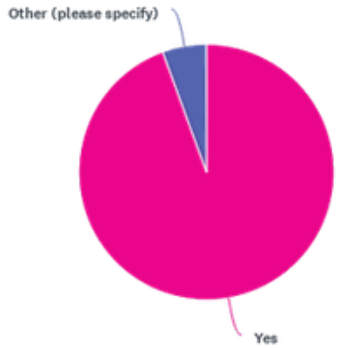
WA/AA ADELAIDE SUMMIT 2026

Post Event Summary

Diversity and Inclusion

The diversity of the speaker line-up was a particular strength, with 95% of respondents indicating that they felt the diversity of speakers was right. No respondents selected “No”, providing strong validation of the approach taken to speaker selection.

Do you think we got the diversity right by the speakers?



Brillliant day! I'll be back in 2027

Thank you so much for organising such an event to motivate young generations.

Overall Conclusion

The WA/AA Adelaide Summit 2026 achieved a strong overall outcome, with positive attendee satisfaction and strong alignment between the event program and attendee expectations. The 4.19/5 overall rating and overwhelmingly positive response to speaker diversity demonstrate the quality and relevance of the event.

Beyond the event itself, the Summit provided A/AA with an opportunity to increase brand awareness, reach new audiences and build a pipeline of future members and engaged industry participants. The feedback provides a strong foundation for future Summit planning and supports the continued delivery of events that connect, inspire and empower women across the aviation, aerospace, defence and space sectors.

WA/AA ADELAIDE SUMMIT 2026

Marketing and Brand Recognition

The event stimulated conversations across social media platforms - from LinkedIn to Instagram - promoting those organisations willing to invest in their workforce, create profile around the initiative, and engage in these significant conversations.

Yan Yang · 2nd
CSIRO Robotics
4d ·

Thanks Aviation/Aerospace Australia for the opportunity to speak to this amazing community!

Aviation/Aerospace Australia
15,534 followers
4d · Edited ·

Amazing to hear first hand accounts from women working in technical roles in a male-dominated areas across defence, aviation, space and aerospace. A really positive and upbeat approach to the challenges and ...more

23 1 repost

Nikki Hodge · 2nd
Executive officer @ ARC Centre of Excellence in Plants for Space | Founder | ...
4d ·

Yesterday I had the pleasure of attending the Women in Aviation/Aerospace Australia Summit. A brilliant day with some equally brilliant women.

A huge thanks to Anntonette Dailey for the invite!

I really enjoyed hearing from Rebecca Humble and her incredible keynote, sharing her journey and rise through the ranks. And Christine Khor's session on leading with courage and communicating with impact.

Great to spend the day with some of my ARC Centre of Excellence in Plants for Space colleagues - Ali Gill, Charlotte Bampton, Mst Irin Parvin & Berber Tolboom.

#WAAASummit

Rebecca Basson · 2nd
Scheduling Supervisor at Leidos Australia
4d ·

I had the privilege of sitting on a Women in Aviation panel today, sharing experiences and perspectives on tech roles, leadership and the opportunities ahead for women in our industry.

We also had some great conversations around STEM and technology roles in the industry, and the incredible range of pathways available beyond the cockpit.

Always inspiring to connect with others in aviation & aerospace and hopefully encourage the next generation to see just how many possibilities are out there.

#WomenInAviation #Aviation #AviationCareers

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WA/AA ADELAIDE SUMMIT 2026

About Aviation/Aerospace Australia

Women in Aviation/Aerospace Australia (WA/AA) is an initiative to promote the issue of gender diversity and the participation of women within the aviation, aerospace and space sector in Australia and a network for women to connect with industry peers, inspire future generations to join the industry, and excel in their chosen careers. A/AA is proud to take a leading role in celebrating and promoting diversity in the workplace generally, and the Women in Aviation/Aerospace Australia program is designed to help the industry change the status quo in relation to the participation of women in this exciting and dynamic sector.

Organisers

The WA/AA Summit is delivered by Aviaiton/Aerospace Australia and the National Committee for Women in Aviation/Aerospace Australia. The Co-Chairs of the Committee are Jen Hill and Alana McKenna. The South Australian State Chair is Stephenie McCulloch.

Get involved

In the coming months, we will continue to engage and deliver initiatives and events that contribute to the sector on a national basis, bringing together organisations and individuals with a passion for creating a sustainable aviation, aerospace and space industry for all.

- Mentoring Program - May to November 2026
- Space Mission 2040 - March - October 2026
- Melbourne WA/AA Summit - 22 October 2026
- Nominations for Airspace Awards - 7 November 2026
- Airspace Awards, Melbourne - 17 November 2026
- Annual General Meeting - 17 November 2026

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