



veski

Inspiring
Innovation

**JULY 2016 /
JUNE 2017**

annual review

Approved by the **veski** board of directors
20 September 2017





at a glance



August 2016

veski provided a unique opportunity for students from diverse backgrounds to network with industry partners and **veski** fellows during the Graeme Clark Oration dinner.

veski inspiring women industry interns Daniela Nikolic, Bipasha Kashyap and Lekhani Dasanayake developed their networking skills at the Tech Diversity Gala dinner.

A **veski** conversation allowed industry stakeholders to discuss how Australia could support greater SME engagement with our universities and research sector to encourage and drive innovation.

October

Mr Amir Eldad, an entrepreneurial ecosystem builder, delivered a keynote address - Melbourne: A Leading Global Entrepreneurship Hub. The **veski** event at Deakin Edge, Federation Square attracted more than 100 of the brightest minds in Melbourne including entrepreneurs, industry, government, academia, and media.



November

The 2016 Victoria Prize for Science and Innovation and Victoria Fellowships were announced by Hon Philip Dalidakis MP, Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade. The top honours were presented to Professors Jamie Rossjohn, James McCluskey and Min Gu.

In recognition of **veski's** role in raising the profile of the City of Melbourne over the past 12 years, **veski** was named as a 2016 Melbourne Awards finalist.

Deputy Vice-Chancellors of Research from all Victorian universities gathered at a **veski** conversation to discuss how an Interface-style model could be implemented to benefit engagement of SMEs and universities.

During a **veski** senior leadership luncheon, Professor Edwina Cornish, retiring Provost and Senior Vice-President, Monash University talked about strategies for changing the system from within and building greater leadership opportunities for women.



February 2017

A series of videos showcased the **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowship program providing an insight into the exciting work of our inaugural fellows.

veski opened a second round of sustainable agriculture fellowships at an event attended by more than 60 industry representatives, farmers and academics. The event profiled how the first round of **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships are transforming ideas into opportunities for pear and wine industries.

The Hon. Philip Dalidakis MP announced the 25th **veski** innovation fellow, Dr Vihandha Wickramasinghe, at an event held at Peter Mac. The event was attended by more than 60 national and international leaders from research, industry and government partners. Vihandha has returned to Victoria to take up the position as Head of the RNA Biology and Cancer Laboratory at Peter Mac after 13 years at Cambridge University.



March 2017

veski hosted a **veski** conversation with Professor Andrew Maas, project coordinator of CENTER TBI, on international traumatic brain injury and neurosciences best practice and the importance of collaboration in addressing TBI. It was attended by 27 representatives including AFL, ARU, Jockey's Association, Professional Footballers Australia, NRL, TAC and Veterans Affairs.

A **veski** kickstart, attended by 100 Victorian PhD and early-career STEM researchers, focused on 'Insights from academia to industry- supporting students on the move' with speakers and panelists from a range of industries.

A **veski** masterclass with Professor Andrew Maas, provided the opportunity for eight senior and mid-career researchers, including **veski** innovation fellows, **veski** inspiring women fellows and Victoria Fellows, to grow their leadership and enterprise skills, and position them for future management opportunities.

RMIT University, Ernst & Young and **veski** introduced a revived Business Innovation Series (previously known as the Business Lecture Series). The first panel provided an overview of trends and recent developments in the Victorian entrepreneurial landscape.

April

The Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research, delivered by **veski**, was announced by The Hon Jill Hennessy at Melbourne Museum.

May

veski curated a showcase of Melbourne's best and brightest Innovators - **veski** fast smarts as part of Melbourne Knowledge Week 2017 with an audience of 200 members of the **veski** connection and broader Melbourne public.

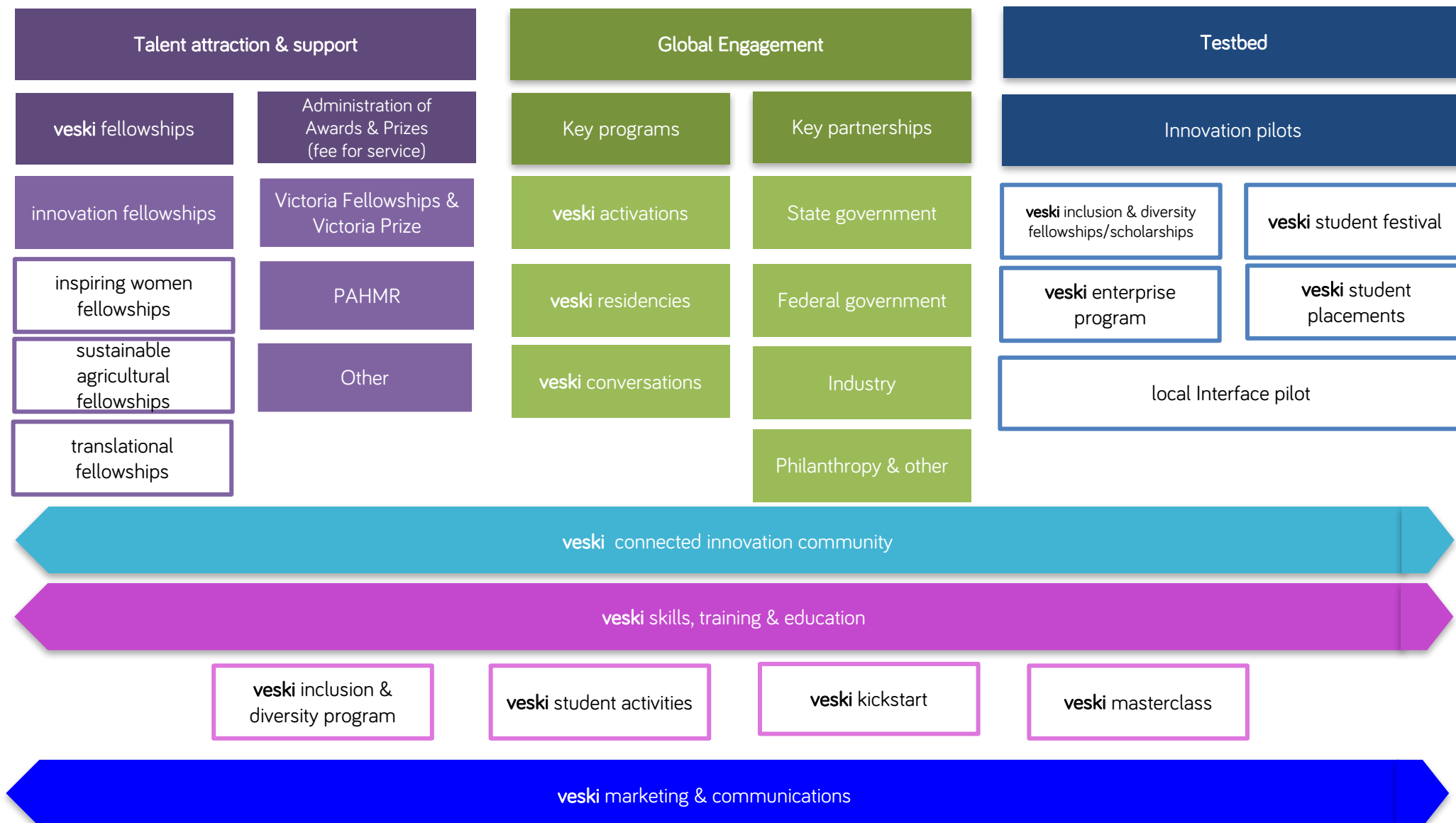
June

A video was released to highlight the success and importance of the **veski** inspiring women fellowship program, featuring the **veski** inspiring women fellows talking about how the fellowships are assisting them.

The Governor of Victoria announced the 2017 **veski** inspiring women fellows at Government House.

veski attended the BioMelbourne Network 9th Annual Connecting Women in Biotech luncheon where **veski** hosted new **veski** connection members.

veski strategic framework 2016-2017





Pictured - standing

1. Mr Greg Sword AM
2. Ms Sue MacLeman (appointed July 2017)
3. Mr Mark Cassar (appointed November 2016)
4. Dr Jane Ryan, Deputy Chair
5. Mr Ron Douglas

6. Ms Anna Burke (appointed June 2017)

7. Ms Julia Page, chief executive and MD (appointed March 2017)

Pictured - seated

8. Dr Keith McLean
9. Professor Tiffany Walsh (appointed November 2016)
10. Professor Ian Smith, Chair

Not pictured

- Ms Patricia O'Rourke (retired in March 2017)
- Dr Mark Shackleton (retired in November 2016)

chair's report

There is no doubt **veski** has established an enviable reputation for delivering world-class fellowship programs and activities. However, it's our unique ability to bring people together and shape discussions that allows us to truly inspire innovation.



Mr Amir Eldad with **veski** board members Professor Ian Smith and Ms Julia L Page, along with event partner Professor Gary Egan from Monash University

With the support of our **veski** connection, a community of like-minded innovators, **veski** is fostering global collaborations, encouraging cross-sector discussions, and supporting knowledge exchange between established and emerging leaders.

We also continue to focus on bringing the right people together to address major issues facing the state, the country and the world. By attracting globally competitive innovators to our shores, we thus in some senses, hold the key to answering many of the 'wicked' problems facing society.

Leading the way are our **veski** innovation fellows who continue to advance the global thinking around important areas ranging from human well-being to the health of our environment. What's truly exciting is their role in the

development of new, tangible products which, even a few years back would have been unimaginable.

Our **veski** innovation fellows are helping solve a range of problems, from the mundane to the downright dangerous. At Peter Mac, Drs Mark and Sarah Jane Dawson have developed a simple blood test that could eliminate the need for invasive and costly bone marrow and lymph node biopsies for people with blood cancers. At the University of Melbourne, Dr Luke Connal has manufactured enzyme mimics that may boost the efficiency of cold water laundry powders and neutralise poisonous gases. These are just a few examples where **veski** has enabled innovation and discovery in Victoria.

While we're excited by these incredible developments, we know solutions are not delivered by individuals alone.

To develop the solutions, we need multi-disciplinary teams, working across institutions approaching problems from a wide range of perspectives, and, as with our inspiring women fellows, we need to ensure they can continue to work whenever and wherever.

Our first-ever **veski** fast smarts event was an excellent example of this collaborative approach to innovation. Sitting alongside the Minister for Innovation, I watched as innovators of all ages, from school students, established researchers and industry leaders, brought their new perspectives to the table.

What struck me most was the conversations the event sparked in the hours and days following the presentations. New connections were made, new ideas were formed and new iterations of potential solutions were developed, thus helping to build an even stronger entrepreneurial culture.

I salute **veski's** chief executive officer, Julia Page, and her team on developing such an engaging and thought-provoking event. I also thank the many industry leaders who gave their time and experience to participate in this event.

While there is a growing appetite for more programs and activities like **veski** fast smarts and our fellowships, we face the challenge of many organisations in the science and innovation space dealing with ever-shrinking funding allocations.

With the continued support of our founding partner the Victorian Government, along with additional support from corporate and philanthropic sources, we have maintained a

strong, and relatively full program. This is in no small part due to our well-developed processes and an extremely supportive community, allowing us to leverage minimal investment for maximum outcome.

Most recently, our deep connections in Australia's innovation and research communities enabled us to play a critical role in bringing together leaders in traumatic brain injury for a **veski** conversation with Professor Andrew Maas. Working in partnership with Neurosciences Victoria, Monash University and the University of Melbourne, we facilitated a discussion between the nation's top sports, veterans' affairs, traffic accident, industry and academic leaders.

It's events like our **veski** conversations which truly demonstrate the value of our **veski** connection.

With a clear understanding of the role we can and do play in supporting innovation in Australia, the board has been paying considerable attention to ensuring the sustainability and growth of the organisation. Acknowledging an ever-changing landscape and developing a clear understanding of the challenges and opportunities we will face, we can help develop a clear understanding of how we may address them.

Over the past 12 months we have also invested considerable effort into ensuring our board reflects the diversity of our modern society. As well as bringing fresh national and international connections to the organisation, we have made a series of new appointments which significantly improve the gender diversity of the **veski** board with 50 per cent

of the directors now being female. This is a direct result of **veski's** program of inspiring women resources, events and fellowships.

Along with the three new additions to our board, we are fortunate to have many leaders with local and international experience in science, academia, industry, and private and public sector management. Leaders who generously donate and contribute their time and energy to inspiring innovation.

Among these leaders are two retiring members, Ms Patricia O'Rourke and Dr Mark Shackleton, who have recently retired from the board after several years of dedicated service to **veski** and innovation in Australia. On behalf of the board I would like to personally thank them for their service and welcome their continued involvement through our **veski** connection.

With our sights firmly on the future, **veski** is working closely with Australian states and the federal government, industry and academia to ensure our organisation remains highly relevant while ensuring its ongoing sustainability.

Professor Ian Smith
veski chairman

chief executive officer's report

Thirteen years on, **veski's** brand remains synonymous with innovation in Australia. At the same time, our organisation has developed a unique ability to identify and attract world leading researchers and innovators to continue their work in Victoria.

With numerous awards, media attention and countless international accolades, our **veski** innovation fellows continue to exceed our expectations. They are also continuing to return considerable value to the state; not only through their knowledge and networks but also attracting funding via multi-million dollar international grants and lucrative commercial arrangements, and, most importantly, delivering solutions to a range of problems facing modern society.

With this strong track record, we have been able to draw on the systems and processes from our prestigious **veski** innovation fellowship program to develop additional schemes in emerging areas including sustainable agriculture and diversity and inclusion.

From product innovations which will benefit the Victorian wine industry, to processing improvements which can be translated across multiple sectors, our **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships are delivering transformational technological solutions. Beyond these fellowships, the program has also encouraged discussion and information sharing across sectors.

With the support of our philanthropic partner, the John T Reid Charitable Trusts, we have been able to open a second round of **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships. This call resulted in an increased number of high-quality applications from across Australia; further proof of its timeliness and need.

Our inaugural **veski** inspiring women fellows have reinforced the critical need to think outside the box in terms of supporting women in STEM. Each of our inaugural fellows have managed to stay connected with their research – and achieve significant professional success – while managing the day to day demands of their carer commitments.

This has been achieved by using innovative processes that encourage host organisations to 'lock in' their support for fellows as well as allow them to direct funds to areas, such as childcare, conference attendance and international travel, which will have the most impact.

Unlike many fellowship and award programs, **veski** prides itself on delivering funds in the most appropriate way to support our researchers.

At the announcement of the latest two exceptional women to receive the flexible funding under the **veski** inspiring women fellowships, countless men and women remarked on how valuable this program would have been for them. It is testament to the hard work and foresight of our board and our original **veski** inspiring women advisory group.

As these new programs continue to flourish, the **veski** team has remained focused on building capacity to deliver a wide range of programs in the future. With new issues emerging on an almost daily basis, **veski** prides itself on its ability to respond to opportunities and develop new programs to support its stakeholders.

An excellent example is the **veski** kickstart activities, designed to inspire students to engage and network with experienced industry leaders and discover career opportunities that go beyond the lab.

The focus of the **veski** kickstart in March 2017 was 'Insights from academia to industry- supporting students on the move' with speakers and panelists from a range of industries.

During the **veski** kickstart session students networked with industry representatives across: Big Pharma, Medical Technologies & Devices, Engineering, Government Policy, Professional Services, IT and the Environment.

Another excellent example was our **veski** fast smarts event at Federation Square in May 2017. A key event of Melbourne Knowledge Week, **veski** fast smarts saw 11 innovators deliver short presentations and receive direct feedback from a range of sector leaders.

Our aim with all **veski** events is to provide opportunities for knowledge sharing, networking and inspiration. From the feedback we receive, these events are addressing a major gap in Victoria's science and innovation communities.

As part of our continuous improvement we have been looking nationally and globally for examples of best practice and ideas for future programs. We have also continued to review our own programs to ensure they align with the needs of the state and the country.



veski chief executive officer Ms Julia L Page (left) watches as the 25th **veski** innovation fellow, Dr Vihandha Wickramasinghe, provides feedback during **veski** fast smarts

As part of our ongoing relationship with the State Government, **veski** continues to be a key partner for a range of Victorian fellowships, awards and prizes including the prestigious Premier's Award for Health & Medical Research and the Victoria Prize for Science and Innovation.

While these programs benefit from **veski's** well-defined processes and strong networks; the recipients are the ultimate beneficiaries of this ongoing partnership. Along with the **veski** innovation fellows, inspiring women fellows, and sustainable agriculture fellows, all recipients from these Victorian Government programs become part of the **veski** connection.

With a strong and growing **veski** connection, a dynamic program of new events and activities in the pipeline, **veski** is well positioned to continue inspiring innovation in Victoria, Australia and beyond.

Julia L Page
veski chief executive officer

veski operations

veski continues to adapt its operations to deliver a growing program of fellowships, events and activities across talent attraction and support; global engagement; as well as our test bed environments.

veski funding

veski continues to benefit from tax concession charity status on the grounds that it is a charitable institution.

In 2016/17 **veski** received funding from the State Government of Victoria through the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources to deliver its core activities including the **veski** innovation fellowship program.

veski gratefully acknowledges the support of its founding partner the State Government of Victoria.



Other support

veski continues to develop its relationship with the philanthropic and business sectors and is constantly pursuing opportunities to secure collaborative funding for our activities.

For the 2016/17 financial year, **veski** would like to thank all organisations, including host organisations, for their financial and in-kind support and continued encouragement of **veski** and its programs.

veski foundation trust

In 2016/17, the **veski** foundation trust continued to operate as a deductible gift recipient (DGR) fund that can receive tax deductible gifts from philanthropic organisations and private donors.

A generous contribution from the John T Reid Charitable Trusts in previous financial years supported the establishment of the **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships.



veski staff

veski's chief executive officer receives support from a small, dedicated team of staff with specific skills in administration, finance, events and project management. The team supports the **veski** chief executive officer in managing the **veski** innovation fellowship program along with a range of other activities and events delivered by **veski**.



Catherine Satzke
@CSatzke

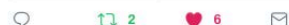
Following

Thanks to [@veskiorg](#) and [@VicGovAu](#) for supporting our research into childhood pneumonia [@MCRI_for_kids](#)



11:00 PM - 24 Jun 2017

2 Retweets 6 Likes



veski marketing and communications

veski continues to embrace digital communications as its primary avenue for communication with its growing audience. Key channels include a regular newsletter, **veski** highlights; regular articles via its website [veski.org.au](#); articles in online media and an active share of the social media conversation about #innovation.

Social media @veskiorg

In the past 12 months, **veski** has almost doubled its community of Twitter followers from 1,000 to 1800. **veski's** exclusive LinkedIn group for members of the **veski** connection has also grown and has been used to promote a range of **veski** events and broader innovation activities.

Media coverage of fellowship recipients

From leading a discussion about innovation in agriculture, to celebrating the successes of our **veski** innovation fellows, **veski** has continued to attract significant media attention.

veski coverage is regularly collated on the **veski** website under the **veski** in the media section.



read what our **veski**
innovation fellows
are saying in the media on
page 18

veski youtube channel

Videos have always played an important role in the promotion of **veski** and our **veski** innovation fellows. In 2016/17, **veski** developed a number of videos to showcase other programs run by the organisation including the **veski** inspiring women fellowships and the **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships. These videos have been shared on YouTube and across social media and celebrate the outcomes of these innovative programs.



visit the **veski** youtube
channel for videos about **veski**
programs and activities

veski website

veski's website continues to provide a platform for showcasing the work of **veski** and members of the **veski** connection. **veski** has also continued to publish regular **veski** highlights, with the subscription list growing substantially in the past 12 months.



veski innovation fellows
Professor Andrew Holmes AC,
Professor Colette McKay and
Associate Professor Christopher
McNeill at the **veski** connection
event at Federation Square



Panelists from a range of industries speak at the **veski** kickstart:
'Insights from academia to industry – supporting students on the move'

veski connection members including The Hon Philip Dalidakis, Minister for Small Business Innovation & Trade, Ms Lina Caneva and Professor Ian Smith provide feedback at the **veski** fast smarts event in May



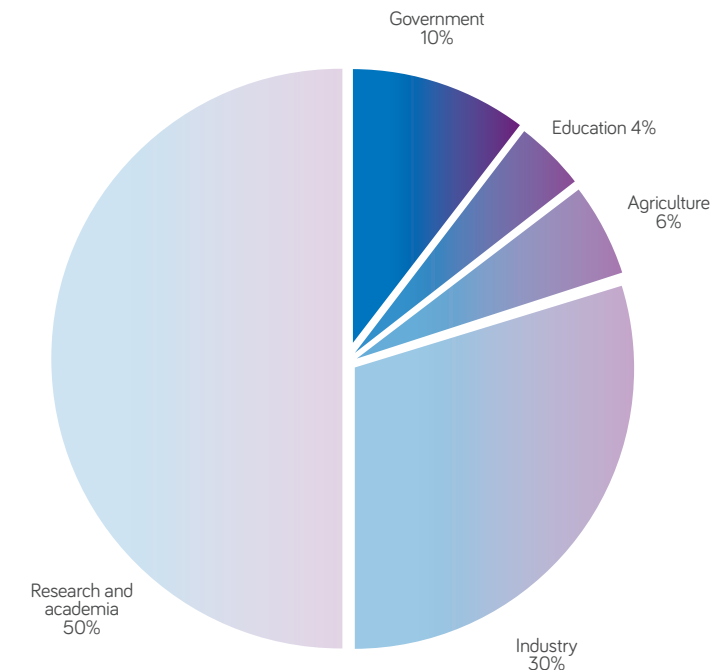
veski connection

The **veski** connection is a prestigious group of the brightest minds, thought leaders and innovators from academia, research, industry, media, philanthropy and governments.

The group now includes more than 350 members of the national and international science and innovation communities representing a range of sectors.

During 2016/17, as part of our ongoing commitment to the **veski** connection, **veski** hosted a number of events to encourage collaboration and networking among peers, like-minded colleagues, VIPs, and key policy makers, including:

- a special event with Mr Amir Eldad of A2E Partners, an entrepreneurial ecosystem builder
- hosted tables at the Connecting Women in Biotech luncheon, which included the BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership awards profiling outstanding women in biotech; The Sisterhood for St Vincent's Ladies Charity luncheon for mental health; and the Tech Diversity Gala dinner
- **veski** in the community events including the RMIT Business Innovation series supported by **veski** and Ernst & Young
- regular **veski** conversations.



Breakdown of **veski** connection members by sector

veski fellowships



veski delivers a number of Victoria's most prestigious fellowship programs including the **veski** innovation fellowships which bring world-leading scientists and researchers to Victoria.

During 2016 / 2017, veski announced:

25th veski innovation fellow

Over the 13 year period in which **veski** has been awarding **veski** innovation fellowships, collectively, the innovation fellows have leveraged additional funds to the State of Victoria in excess of 18.4:1 to support their research efforts from federal and international funding bodies. That's a little under \$68.2 million in return for a modest \$4.15 million investment in Victorian research^.

veski's calls for applications for the innovation fellowships continue to attract large numbers of applications. The move to a year-round open call for fellowships resulted in an even greater number of high quality applications from around the world.

The 25th **veski** innovation fellow was welcomed by the Minister for Innovation The Hon Philip Dalidakis MP at an event attended by representatives of business, government and the science and innovation communities at Peter Mac

^Figures based on an independent review in 2015.

Second round of veski inspiring women fellowships

In 2016/17, the Governor of Victoria announced two further **veski** inspiring women fellowships.

Second call for veski sustainable agriculture fellowships

In 2017, **veski** offered two further **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships. These will be announced in December 2017.

Other fellowships

veski also administered a number of fellowship and award programs on behalf of the Victorian Government. These included the Victoria Prize for Science & Innovation, the Victoria Fellowships and the Premier's Award for Health & Medical Research.



read more about all the
fellowships delivered and
administered by veski

2016/17 veski innovation fellow

Dr Vihandha Wickramasinghe

Awarded a veski innovation fellowship worth \$150,000 over three years for “Targeting the mRNA processing machinery in cancer” at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

Dr Vihandha Wickramasinghe's paradigm-shifting research focuses on understanding the fundamental biology of gene expression and how it is altered in the development of cancer cells. His goal is to find new ways to intervene when normal quality control processes within the cell don't function.

At the world class Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Dr Wickramasinghe leads the RNA Biology and Cancer Laboratory where he investigates the molecular basis of how mRNA is selectively processed and exported from the nucleus into the cytoplasm and its emerging links to cancer.

Dr Wickramasinghe's research will use state of the art genomic, molecular and cell biological approaches developed during his time at the University of Cambridge with some of the most renowned experts in molecular biology and cancer research, Professor Ron Laskey, FRS, CBE, FMedSci, and Professor Ashok Venkitaraman, FMedSci.

Enabled by the **veski** innovation fellowship, Dr Wickramasinghe's expertise in molecular biology establishes a new field of research in RNA Biology, based in Victoria. The Wickramasinghe laboratory provides a new platform to enhance the knowledge economy in Victoria through the attraction and training of promising cell biologists and translational researchers.

One of Dr Wickramasinghe's key projects, researching the mechanisms of regulating gene expression via selective messenger RNA (mRNA) is seen as a critical step in the gene expression pathway, which is altered in cancer. Through this research, Dr Wickramasinghe and his team have demonstrated that mRNA export is not constitutive, but is highly selective and can regulate distinct biological processes through poorly understood mechanisms.

His second project is researching the effect of alternative mRNA splicing on the human proteome, which has emerged as a key mechanism for enabling biological complexity within the human genome. However, the extent to which this increased genomic complexity contributes to the generation of proteomic diversity is largely unknown. Dr Wickramasinghe and his team have identified this fundamental biological question as one of critical importance to human health, given the recent identification of perturbed RNA splicing as causative factor in cancer.

The Cancer Council of Australia estimates that 134,000 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in Australia in 2017, rising to 150,000 by 2020. Cancer is a leading cause of death in Australia (more than 44,000 people died from cancer in 2014) and, having lost his mother to breast cancer when he was 18, Dr Wickramasinghe is deeply passionate about the importance of his work and translating research into potential new, novel targets for cancer therapy.



“Investing in fundamental biological research is critical to ensure that scientific breakthroughs can be directly translated into novel therapeutics for a disease as prevalent as cancer”



watch Vihandha talk about the benefits of being part of the veski connection

veski fellows in the media

veski innovation fellows

Cameron Simmons	Dengue fever cases hit 20-year high in Australia	17-Jan-17	The Herald
Andrew Holmes AC	Leading chemist's Australia Day honour a 'recognition of science'	26-Jan-17	The Guardian
Roger Pocock	Worm brain could help science think of new way to tackle obesity	14-Feb-17	The Sydney Morning Herald
Vihandha Wickramasinghe	Cancer Research back home	6-Mar-17	Herald Sun
Mark and Sarah Jane Dawson	Simple test could replace invasive biopsies for people with blood cancer	18-Mar-17	ABC News
Mark Dawson / Seth Masters	Philanthropies Select 41 Scientists as International Research Scholars	9-May-17	Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Luke Connal	From laundry to weapon disposal - the role of enzyme mimics	12-May-17	Pursuit, The University of Melbourne
Luke Connal	How objects could soon 'heal' themselves	13-Jul-17	Pursuit, The University of Melbourne
Mark Dawson	Research Genes in the family	15-Jul-16	Herald Sun / PeterMac

veski inspiring women fellows

Natalie Hannan	A cure for pre-eclampsia might be already in our medicine cabinet	9-Feb-17	ABC Radio Melbourne
Catherine Satzke	Dr Catherine Satzke wins prestigious Frank Fenner award	2-Jun-17	Murdoch Children's Research Institute

veski sustainable agriculture fellows

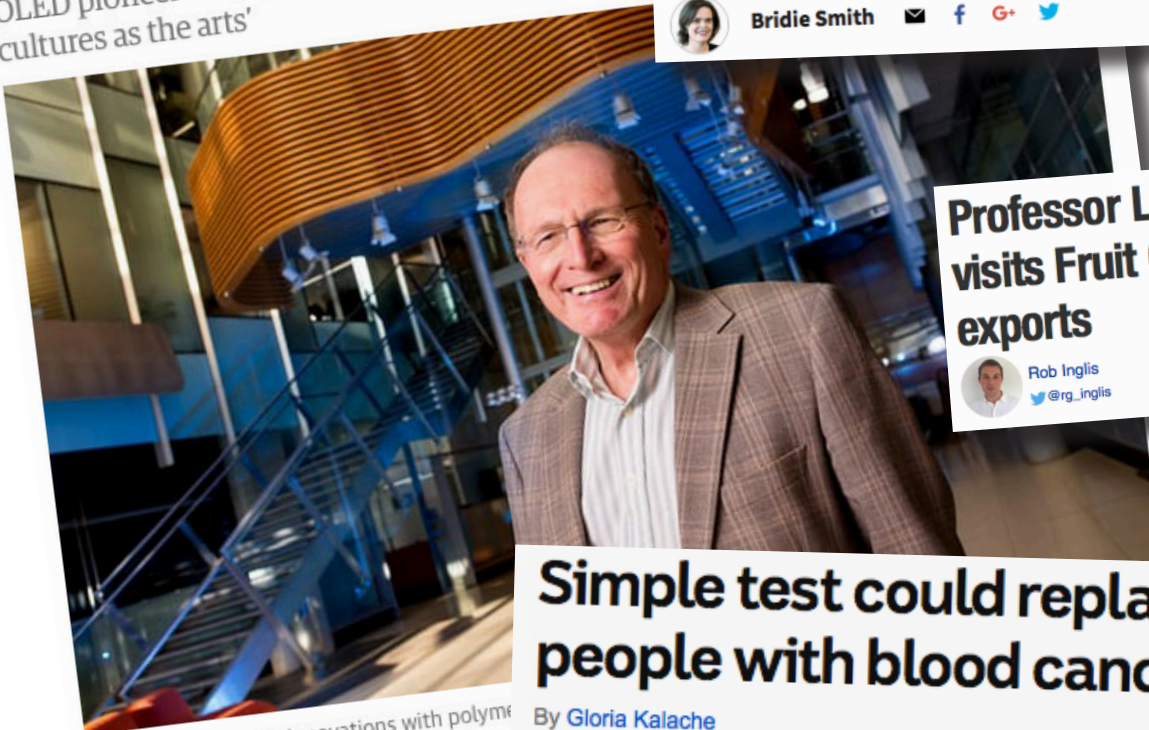
Luca Corelli Grapedelli	International scientist boosts Goulburn Valley pear research	13-Feb-17	Horticulture Industry Network
Luca Corelli Grapedelli	Professor Grappadelli visits Fruit Growers Tasmania to discuss state's fruit exports	15-Feb-17	The Advocate
Luca Corelli Grapedelli	Better fruit sough	14-Mar-17	Shepparton News
Pangzhen Zhang	Research into wine, the experience of Pange	7-Apr-17	Wine Australia

A cure for pre-eclampsia might be already in our medicine cabinet

By Penny Johnston (Babytalk)

Leading chemist's Australia Day honour a 'recognition of science'

OLED pioneer Andrew Holmes says science and the arts are 'cultures as the arts'



Andrew Holmes's innovations with polymers
Photograph: Peter Casamento

Worm brain could help science think of new way to tackle obesity



Bridie Smith



Professor Luca Corelli Grappadelli of University of Bologna visits Fruit Growers Tasmania to discuss state's fruit exports



Rob Inglis
@rg_inglis

Simple test could replace invasive biopsies for people with blood cancer

By Gloria Kalache

veski sustainable agriculture fellowships

The **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships have already brought transformational approaches to Victoria; allowing global researchers to apply emerging technologies to support Australian primary industries as they transition for future markets and growth economies.



During 2016/17, the **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships selection panel comprised Ms Julia L Page (**veski** chief executive officer); Mr Andrew McKenzie (Trustee, John T Reid Charitable Trusts); Ms Alana Johnson (Director, Goulburn-Murray Water); Professor Snow Barlow (**veski** sustainable agriculture selection panel chair); Ms Susan Findlay-Tickner, (Senior Policy Officer, Agriculture Victoria DEDJTR); Mr Greg Sword AM (**veski** director); and Dr Ron Prestidge (Director, AgInsight)

With input from industry, farmers, community groups, government and academics, the **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships are continuing to address key challenges facing regional Australia.

The inaugural **veski** sustainable agriculture fellows, funded by the John T Reid Charitable Trusts, have already delivered transformational outcomes. These were showcased at the **veski** sustainable agriculture Innovation Update in February 2017 attended by more than 50 key people from the agriculture industry, academia, government, with strong audience engagement and interest in the fellowships.

Following an Innovation Update event in February 2017, key stakeholders including our **veski** sustainable agriculture fellows featured in a video shared via Twitter and available at: veski.org.au/agri-video

The **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships also received media attention with interviews featured in Country News, ABC radio and 3HM Hamilton.

Following the success of the first round of fellowships, **veski** opened a second round which attracted 30 expressions of interest. Following interviews by the **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships selection panel, **veski** will announce two fellowships in December 2017.



Dr Pangzhen Zhang with Mr Damien Sheehan from winery Mount Langi Ghiran



Professor Snow Barlow, Professor Luca Corelli Grappadelli, Mr Greg Sword AM and Ms Julia L Page at the Innovation Update

Defining the distinctiveness of Victorian wine using quality markers and climate modelling: now and into the future

Dr Pangzhen Zhang from the University of Melbourne, who commenced his fellowship in January 2016, has been able to establish a wide and close collaboration with the Victorian wine industry.

His current research project is one of the most widely supported wine research projects by the Victorian wine industry, with local industry providing wine samples, including some rare wines from older vintage. By participating in this project, they have increased their understanding of the chemical profile of their wine products and gained insights into the quality and factors affecting it.

Through his climate database, Dr Zhang is better able to understand the differences in climate in individual wine regions and even subregions in Victoria. He has looked at the effects of environmental and viticulture management practices on rotundone accumulation in Shiraz grapes, trying to relate rotundone concentration and the peppery aroma. This provides local wine producers with the scientific basis to differentiate their products from other regions in the world, and market their wine at a much higher price. This also delivers higher tax income for the State of Victoria.

Dr Zhang has participated in several conferences including the Australian wine industry technical conference and contributed to several journal publications, periodicals and newsletters.

Throughout the remainder of 2017, Dr Zhang plans to complete the development of a smartphone app with the first LITE version scheduled for release in the coming months.

Meeting the demand of fresh fruit in Asia utilising new and emerging sensor technologies

Professor Luca Corelli Grappadelli, hosted by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, spent six-month in Melbourne applying emerging sensor technologies and knowledge from the University of Bologna, to determine if the Deliza and PIQA pear varieties in Northern Victoria are suited to Asian consumer expectations.

During his visit, Professor Corelli Grappadelli also shared his knowledge with the broader Australian horticulture industry to revitalise the declining Australian pear industry. The decline, also linked to high production costs, has resulted in over supply and price reductions and poses a significant threat to the survival of many growers, particularly in the Goulburn Valley with impacts for the regional economy, community health and wellbeing.

During 2017, Luca engaged in orchard walks, grower's meetings, press and regional radio interviews including presentation at the Apple and pear post-harvest seminar, held at the BioSA Conference Centre (TechInSA), Adelaide.

Prof Corelli Grappadelli is now working remotely from Bologna and continues to correspond with many of the connections from the Australian horticulture community. He is also continuing discussions with CSIRO Manufacturing about ideas for future joint research opportunities, following a first meeting in Tatura where they discussed innovative materials for novel sensors, image analysis and alternative energy sources. We are hopeful of Prof Grappadelli returning to Victoria at the end of the program.

veski inspiring women fellowships

The **veski** inspiring women fellowships form part of **veski's** broad range of activities to build diversity in innovation and to promote people from diverse backgrounds into senior roles.



veski chair Professor Ian Smith, 2017 **veski** inspiring women fellow Dr Cara Doherty, Her Excellency the Hon Linda Dessau AC, Mr Anthony Howard QC, Victorian Lead Scientist Dr Amanda Caples, and 2017 **veski** inspiring women fellow Dr Emma Sciberras

In June 2017, the Victorian innovation community gathered at Government House to recognise and celebrate two exceptional women researchers, Dr Emma Sciberras and Dr Cara Doherty, who were presented with **veski** inspiring women fellowships by the Governor of Victoria.

The flexible funding of up to \$150,000 each over three years, as well as financial support from their institutions and a commitment from management to support their leadership potential, will allow these women to juggle their work and family lives for a higher purpose.

The **veski** inspiring women fellowships are unique, enabling recipients to choose exactly how to allocate their funds to maximise career opportunities and ensure greater connection with their research while taking career-breaks and returning to work. The **veski** inspiring women fellowships may fund a research assistant, PhD scholarships or support for relevant enabling technologies, and for research-related travel, giving these women the ability to participate in important international conferences with the support of carers for young children or respite care.

veski inspiring women fellows

Dr Cara Doherty CSIRO

Through the synthesis, engineering and analysis of smart porous materials, Dr Cara Doherty from CSIRO Materials Science & Engineering has achieved significant breakthroughs in energy production, water purification, gas separation and device fabrication.

While pregnant and on maternity leave, Dr Doherty published several high impact and highly cited review papers in the field of Metal Organic Framework research. However due to time away from the laboratory while having her two children, Dr Doherty has been restricted in the amount of new results she can produce. Particularly as her research involves working with radiation and various chemicals that are not safe for pregnant women to be exposed to.

The **veski** inspiring women fellowship will significantly enhance Dr Doherty's competitiveness in the Metal Organic Frameworks research field by allowing her to take on a PhD student and intern to accelerate her discoveries.

The fellowship will enable Dr Doherty to learn from internationally renowned scientists, through travel to international laboratories in Japan and ongoing collaboration in France.

Dr Doherty will also be able to return to work full-time in 2018 with childcare support for her two children.

Dr Emma Sciberras Deakin University

Dr Emma Sciberras will remain connected with her work on the complex problem of Attention-Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), which affects around 300,000 young people in Australia.

Dr Sciberras is internationally renowned and sought after as a dedicated and enthusiastic research collaborator. Her research has already informed the development of two new interventions for children with ADHD focused on managing sleep problems and anxiety.

Dr Sciberras also plans to attend a leading international conference in her field in 2018. The **veski** inspiring women fellowship will allow Dr Sciberras to travel with a family member who can care for her baby.

Not only will the **veski** inspiring women fellowship support Dr Sciberras to establish her own ADHD research lab across two institutions, but it will also enable her to foster the career development of 20 early career researchers working across this research program.

As a researcher and clinical psychologist, Dr Sciberras' program has a strong translational focus. The support of the **veski** inspiring women fellowship will ensure that Victoria, and Australia more broadly, remain at the forefront of research into ADHD, particularly life course epidemiology and psychological interventions.



veski chief executive officer Ms Julia L Page (far left) and **veski** chair Professor Ian Smith (far right) with the 2017 **veski** inspiring women fellows Dr Emma Sciberras and Dr Cara Doherty

veski inspiring women



The **veski** chief executive officer and **veski** chair with the six **veski** inspiring women fellows

Dr Emily Nicholson

Deakin University

Dr Emily Nicholson has used her inspiring women fellowship to support her working part-time at Deakin University's School of Life and Environmental Sciences. In the past 12 months, she has been able to attract a number of researchers to join her team. She has also been invited to speak at a number of high profile conferences including as a plenary speaker, Symposium: Space – the final frontier for biodiversity monitoring - Zoological Society London. Dr Nicholson has also attracted additional funding for her research.

Dr Natalie Hannan

University of Melbourne

Dr Natalie Hannan has been able to continue her work at The University of Melbourne's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. With the flexible funding of the **veski** inspiring women fellowships, Dr Hannan has been able to organise childcare support to allow her to present at various national and international conferences. Among these she was invited to present on developing novel small molecule and nanoparticle approaches to treat or prevent preeclampsia. Faculty of Medicine, University of the Andes, Chile. October 2016.

Dr Maria Liaskos

La Trobe University

During the past 12 months, Dr Maria Liaskos was appointed Senior Lecturer and Group Leader within the College of Science, Health and Engineering at La Trobe University. She has been able to maintain her career development while meeting her carer responsibilities for a young family, and has already established a new laboratory at the Bundoora Campus. Dr Liaskos was also awarded a Victorian Young Tall Poppy Award in December 2016.

Dr Catherine Satzke

Deakin University

Dr Catherine Satzke has continued to manage an active research program at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute while managing her carer responsibilities. Dr Satzke received the prestigious Frank Fenner award from the Australian Society for Microbiology in June 2017. She has also attracted additional funding for her research. Dr Satzke has been involved in a number of collaborations including playing a key role in the successful bid to host the premier international pneumococcal conference in Melbourne 2018.

veski senior womens leadership luncheon

Changing the system from within

As part of **veski's** inspiring women program, **veski** hosted an exclusive inspiring women luncheon for senior female leaders (senior executives and directors from some of Australia's most innovative organisations), as part of an approach to support and empower our future female leaders to excel in their careers.

This event included a keynote address, titled 'Changing the system from within' by Professor Edwina Cornish, retiring Provost and Senior Vice President, Monash University.

This event also included a special conversation hosted by ABC News Breakfast's Del Irani with Professor Cornish and Amanda Bartley on secondment from PwC to the Australian Human Rights Commission.



discover how the flexible funding helped the
inaugural inspiring women fellows in these
short videos



At a **veski** senior womens leadership luncheon, ABC News Breakfast's Del Irani hosted a special conversation with three leading Victorian women.



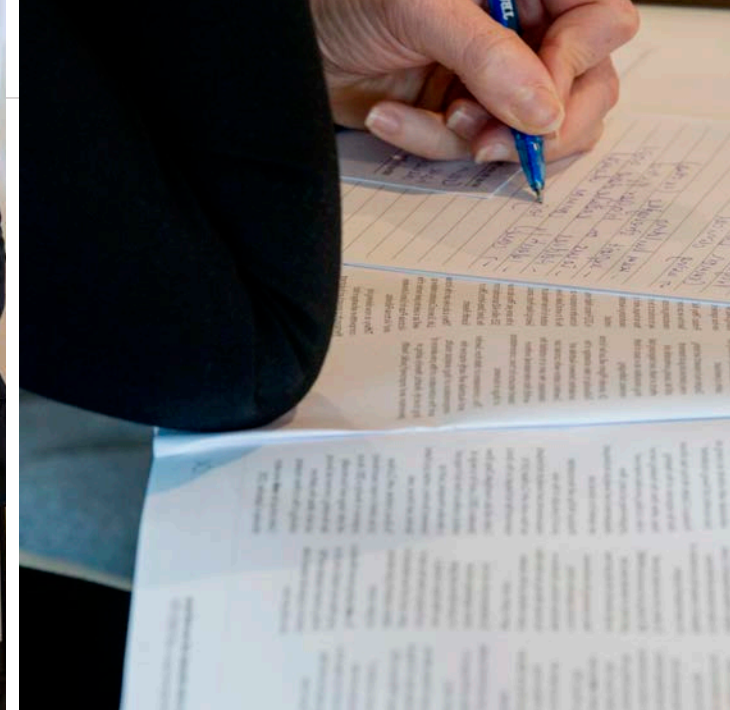
veski connection members attend the announcement of the 2017 **veski** inspiring women fellows



Professor Edwina Cornish delivers a keynote address at a **veski** senior womens leadership luncheon



veski kickstart panel featuring industry representatives across: Big Pharma, Medical Technologies & Devices, Engineering, Government Policy, Professional Services, IT and the Environment



veski connection members attended a special masterclass with Professor Andrew Maas



veski kickstart networking session with industry representatives

veski skills, training and education

veski's skills, training and education program fosters a culture of innovation across Victoria from school students to higher education students and beyond.

veski masterclass

Professor Andrew Maas, with the support of **veski**, Monash University and the University of Melbourne, visited Melbourne in March 2017 and delivered a **veski** masterclass for senior and mid-level researchers interested in growing their leadership and enterprise skills.

inspiring students at the Graeme Clark Oration

As part of **veski's** ongoing support of the Graeme Clark Oration, **veski** hosted undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds and business and innovation leaders at the 2016 Graeme Clark Oration and Dinner on 30 August, at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

For the past five years, **veski** has hosted high school students and their teachers from regional Victoria to attend a day of inspiring activities.

This year, **veski** invited tertiary students from refugee, Indigenous and culturally diverse backgrounds to attend the Oration delivered by Dr Thomas Insel, a neuroscientist and psychiatrist at Verily Life Sciences. The former Director of the National Institute of Mental Health presented an update on what we know about mental illness and how convergent technologies have the potential to support affected people and save lives.

veski kickstart

veski kickstart is a program of activities designed to inspire students to engage and network with experienced leaders and discover career opportunities that go beyond the lab.

Every **veski** kickstart activity is tailored to suit the specific needs of the audience with industry leaders sharing their experiences, and panels of specialists providing unique insights, and facilitated networking sessions.

Insights from academia to industry – supporting students on the move

The focus of the **veski** kickstart on Friday, 24 March 2017 was 'Insights from academia to industry – supporting students on the move' with speakers and panelists from a range of industries.

During the **veski** kickstart session students networked with industry representatives across: Big Pharma, Medical Technologies & Devices, Engineering, Government Policy, Professional Services, IT and the Environment.

veski global engagement

veski conversations and activations

veski conversations stimulate discussion and debate by bringing together the brightest minds from overseas, around the country and locally for the benefit of the State of Victoria.

These activities also provide an opportunity to engage the **veski** connection.

In 2016/17 **veski** delivered a number of **veski** conversations and activations, with key national and international leaders and commentators.

- Interface-style program conversation with Deputy Vice Chancellors for Research
- Professor Andrew Maas visit in partnership with Neurosciences Victoria, Monash University and the University of Melbourne
- Industry discussion focused on engagement of SMEs and universities for research
- senior women leadership luncheon
- a **veski** conversation with **veski** connection members

veski fast smarts

Headlining these new activities was the **veski** fast smarts event at Federation Square in May 2017. A key event of Melbourne Knowledge Week, **veski** fast smarts saw 11 innovators deliver short presentations and receive direct feedback from a range of sector leaders.

Topics covered **living**, **working** and **playing** and the winning presentation, as judged by the audience through real-time voting, was The Cricket Effect. Not only did hundreds of people at the event benefit from listening to these ideas, the **veski** website now hosts the presentations on our YouTube channel to continue inspiring innovation for years to come.

While **veski** fast smarts provided an ideal platform for these young innovators to share their new research and ideas, it also provided an opportunity for the **veski** connection to come together and 'compare notes' on the many areas of innovation they are exploring.

veski partnered events

veski, RMIT University and Ernst & Young introduced a new and revived Business Innovation Series (previously known as the Business Lecture Series). This series focuses on innovation and collaboration between business and Universities.

The first event, on 22 March, featured Georgia Beattie, CEO of Startup Victoria, Jason Lim, General Manager of York Butter Factory and Kerri Lee Sinclair, Chief Investment Officer of Kin Group and Victorian Executive Committee Chair and Board Member of Springboard. Each provided an overview of trends and recent developments in the Victorian innovation landscape.

The second event, on 18 July, brought together representatives from RMIT University, Monash University and their industry partners to discuss their experiences of innovation and collaboration between universities and local businesses.



veski conversation brings together the nation's top sports, veterans' affairs, traffic accident, industry and academic leaders.



Innovators after delivering their first veski fast smarts



The recipients of the inaugural veski fast smarts event.



veski connection members participate in a veski conversation on much needed support, discussion topics and networking opportunities pertinent to Australia

statement of financial position

	Consolidated entity		Parent entity	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	2,921,899	2,556,519	2,648,299	2,145,876
Receivables	2,853	670,333	2,853	670,333
Other assets	17,077	3,141	31,532	17,596
Total current assets	2,941,829	3,229,993	2,682,684	2,833,805
Non-current assets				
Investment in related entity	-	-	2	2
Property, plant and equipment	22,594	22,817	22,594	22,817
Total non-current assets	22,594	22,817	22,596	22,819
Total assets	2,964,423	3,252,810	2,705,280	2,856,624
Current liabilities				
Payables	35,662	83,673	35,367	93,192
Provisions	89,295	93,403	89,295	93,403
Other liabilities	2,503,740	2,605,213	2,503,740	2,605,213
Total current liabilities	2,628,697	2,782,289	2,628,402	2,791,808
Non-current liabilities				
Provisions	2,496	2,564	2,496	2,564
Total non-current liabilities	2,496	2,564	2,496	2,564
Total liabilities	2,631,193	2,784,853	2,630,898	2,794,372
Net assets	333,230	467,957	74,382	62,252
Equity				
Accumulated surplus	333,230	467,957	74,382	62,252
Total equity	333,230	467,957	74,382	62,252

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veski and its controlled entities as at
30 June 2017
ABN 93 104 711 275

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Where necessary,
comparative information
has been reclassified
and repositioned for
consistency with current
year disclosures.

inspiring innovation since 2004





veski

Inspiring
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