

# Media Release



**The Hon Philip Dalidakis MLC**

Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade

Acting Minister for Tourism and Major Events

Acting Minister for Veterans

Friday, 7 October, 2016

## **SOCIAL MEDIA STARTUP WINS TOP BUSINESS EXPORT AWARD**

The fastest growing social media startup in Australia, based in Kew, has won the top award for business services at the prestigious 37<sup>th</sup> Governor of Victoria Export Awards (GOVEA) held at Government House last night.

The online marketplace, Shopping Links, connects bloggers and social influencers with brands to reach new audiences and was presented with the esteemed award in recognition of its international success in professional business services.

Exports have been the driving force behind Shopping Links' revenue, with international collaborations making up 70 per cent of the company's revenue and export sales accounting for 94 per cent of its overall sales in the last year.

More than 50 businesses entered this year's awards, designed to recognise the hard-work and economic contributions exporters make to Victoria, boosting the state's business profile locally and internationally.

For the last three years running, a GOVEA winner has gone on to win the Australian Exporter of the Year award cementing Victoria's reputation as the country's leading exporter.

Victorian exports make a crucial contribution to the economy with total exports of goods and services in 2014-15 rising 4.8 per cent to a record \$39.4 billion.

The patron of the Governor of Victoria Export Awards is the Honourable Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria.

### **Quotes attributable to the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade Philip Dalidakis**

*"These awards are a great way to recognise the hard work of our exporting businesses throughout a range of different industries across the state."*

*"We're leading the country in small business growth and startups. These awards give us the opportunity to provide local businesses, like Shopping Links, the recognition they deserve for taking the very best of Victoria to the world."*

## Full list of 2016 Governor of Victoria Export Award Winners:

Regional Exporter Award

*Australian Premier Dried Fruits* – Merbein South

Creative Industries Award

*League of Geeks* – Southbank

Environmental Solutions Award

*Geofabrics Australasia* – Braeside

Small Business Award

*Cornerstone Solutions* – Watsonia

Agribusiness Award

*Schreurs & Sons* - Clyde

Manufacturing Award

*A.W. Bell* – Dandenong South

Minerals, Energy and Related Services Award

*Gekko Systems* – Ballarat

Business Services Award

*Shopping Links* – Kew East

E-Commerce Award

*Swisse Wellness* - Collingwood

Health & Biotechnology

*Ego Pharmaceuticals* – Braeside

*IDT Australia* (Commendation) – Boronia

Education and Training Award

*Deakin University* - Geelong

Digital Technology Award

*Envato* - Melbourne

Victorian Women in International Business Award

*Cyan Ta'eed* (Envato) – Melbourne

Victorian Exporter of the Year

*Ego Pharmaceuticals* – Braeside

Victorian Export Award for Innovation Excellence

*Wordpoly* – Lynbrook