



MEDIA RELEASE

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LAUNCHVIC ADDS NEW TALENT TO BOARD

LaunchVic today announced it has appointed two new board members to help guide the startup initiative, which is currently assessing proposals for its second round of funding.

Board Chair, Ahmed Fahour, today welcomed the new appointees, Anne Bennett from NAB and Catriona Larritt from Jetstar Airways, to the LaunchVic team.

The new board members bring more than 30 years of collective experience across financial and tech services in both the corporate and commercial sectors. These skills will be a welcome addition to the board - which made headlines in January this year as the first board in the innovation sector to have more women members than men.

Mr Fahour also thanked outgoing members Jane Martino and Dominique Fisher for their contributions during the establishment of LaunchVic and the startup body's successful allocation of \$6.5 million to 18 projects as part of its first funding round.

"The strength of the LaunchVic board is second to none. We have a wealth of experience and success collectively in both startups and commercial organisations that will ensure LaunchVic continues to provide the best environment for startups in Victoria to grow and thrive," Mr Fahour said.

"I would like to thank our outgoing board members for their contributions to our team while we established this great initiative. Jane has made a lasting impression on LaunchVic but has been presented with an amazing opportunity to lead a startup once again and we wish her well.

"Dominique has also greatly impressed, helping lead the assessment process of our first round of grant applications and will now go on to lead Victoria's Innovation Expert Panel where I'm sure her mix of public and private sector experience will prove instrumental in driving change in public policy.

"I am excited to include on the board Anne and Catriona, and look forward to seeing bigger and better things come out of our second funding round."

The Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade, the Hon Philip Dalidakis, also welcomed the new board appointments and expressed his gratitude to the outgoing board members for their assistance in the successful establishment of LaunchVic.

"I would like to thank Jane and Dominique for their valuable contributions to the establishment of LaunchVic. I wish them well in their future endeavours and am excited for Catriona and Anne to join this talented team," Mr Dalidakis said.

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"There has never been a better time to be a startup in Victoria and these women bring a great mix of technology, innovation and corporate experience which will drive LaunchVic into its next phase of supporting our growing ecosystem and boosting Victoria's reputation as Australia's tech hub."

Mr Fahour also announced that Dr Kate Cornick, recently appointed as LaunchVic's new CEO, officially started in her new role on 24 November 2016. Since she was selected in September, Dr Cornick has been meeting with stakeholders during the workshop consultation period for LaunchVic's second funding round and finishing up her work with recruitment startup Rision.

Full assessment of Round 2 funding applications has begun and announcements will be made in mid to late January after the holiday season is concluded.

About LaunchVic

Victoria's leading startup initiative, LaunchVic, has been set up by the Andrews Government as an independent company whose vision is to make Victoria one of the world's top destinations for entrepreneurs, startups and scaleups.

LaunchVic has been created to be agile and flexible, embodying as much as possible the characteristics of the startup community so that it can be responsive to it.

For more information visit www.launchvic.org.