

# MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 31 August 2016

## LAUNCHVIC'S NEW CEO ANNOUNCED

Chair of LaunchVic, Ahmed Fahour, today announced Dr Kate Cornick as the new CEO of the Victorian Government's \$60m startup initiative.

Mr Fahour said Dr Cornick, recently Managing Director of ASX-listed workforce software firm Rision Limited, would bring significant experience to the CEO role.

"With LaunchVic now firmly established, the time is right for a CEO who comes from within the startup sector to lead the entity into its next phase," Mr Fahour said.

The announcement comes just days after Mr Fahour joined Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade Philip Dalidakis in unveiling a \$6.5 million boost to Victoria's startup ecosystem, with the first round of LaunchVic grants and funding for 18 projects across the state.

Dr Cornick will succeed Dr Pradeep Philip, who has served as interim CEO since LaunchVic's inception. Dr Philip oversaw the establishment of LaunchVic by the Victorian Government as an independent company, and used his extensive experience to ensure the entity's governance and processes were sound.

The Board of LaunchVic would like to thank Dr Philip for his hard work in getting LaunchVic, itself an innovative organisation, off the ground. Through the dedication of Dr Philip and his team, many worthy organisations will now receive their first round of funding and their innovations will contribute to the growth of the Victorian economy.

Dr Cornick is a renowned entrepreneur, with vast experience across the innovation and technology sectors. Prior to joining Rision she was the Director of Industry Engagement and Innovation at the University of Melbourne. Dr Cornick also currently holds a position on the Victorian Government's Innovation Expert Panel and will continue to do so in her new capacity.

### **About LaunchVic**

Victoria's nation 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](http://www.launchvic.org), [facebook.com/LaunchVIC](https://facebook.com/LaunchVIC) or @launchvic*