

MEDIA RELEASE



25 September 2019

NEW WINGS FOR VICTORIAN INVESTORS TO HELP LOCAL STARTUPS FLY

[LaunchVic](#), the state government agency charged with growing Victoria's startup ecosystem, is bolstering the state's startup investor community with funding of \$300,000 for local female-focused Angel Network, [Scale Investors](#) and a call for action to establish more formal Angel Networks.

The funding announcement comes in response to research released today, which highlights critical gaps in Victoria's early-stage and angel investment landscape.

Commissioned by LaunchVic and conducted by globally recognised Venture Capital expert [Dr Josh Lerner](#), the '[Best Practices for Angel Groups](#)' report describes the current 'valley of death' for early-stage startups and highlights that while the dollar value of investments is growing, the total number of deals has stalled.

The report highlights the positive impact of Angels on startup success, with startups that have received Angel support 70% more likely to obtain financing, 20% more likely to hire additional employees and 10% more likely to be involved in a successful exit.

The lack of funding available to startups at early stage, highlighted in the report, prevents many Australian startups from scaling and is why LaunchVic is seeking to provide further support to Angel Investors.

LaunchVic is also releasing an [Expression of Interest](#) for aspiring and existing Angel Networks. The aim of this initiative is to grow the number of formalised Angel Networks in Victoria.

This is on top of last month's announcement of additional supports for Victorian investment capabilities under Round X which included funding for Impact Investment Group to establish the *Impact Angel Network* to connect pre-seed and seed stage impact startups and Melbourne venture capital firm Rampersand to run a program to connect diverse founders with investment opportunities.

Quote attributable to LaunchVic CEO Dr Kate Cornick

"While Victoria is home to some of Australia's best angel investors, the number of angel investors and Angel Networks is substantially below global benchmarks. That is why LaunchVic is investing in building angel investors through supporting new and existing angel groups."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade Martin Pakula

"We want to ensure that our Victorian early-stage startups have access to the funding they need to scale their companies."

"This funding, along with additional work done by LaunchVic, will help build the robust investor community Victoria needs to create the jobs of the future."

Quote attributable to Scale Investors CEO Ariane Barker

Victorian entrepreneurial activity, particularly for impressive emerging female leaders is strong, though the activation of private capital to support early stage business founders continues to present challenges. Scale Investors is well placed to provide the Angel support these founders need to succeed."

NOTES TO EDITORS

About LaunchVic

LaunchVic is Victoria's lead startup ecosystem development agency. We invest in organisations and projects that empower entrepreneurs to scale innovative companies and deliver new industry benefits to the Victorian economy. At LaunchVic, we're fuelling the startup ecosystem by supporting entrepreneurs and investors to sustainably grow and deliver economic and cultural benefits for Victoria. To find out more, visit www.launchvic.org