

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **\$1.4 MILLION FOR PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT MIGRANT AND REFUGEE STARTUPS**

LaunchVic has today unveiled its third round of grant recipients to support first generation migrants and refugees.

Totalling \$1.4 million, the funding round will support organisations to deliver a range of services and programs that encourage migrants and refugees in Victoria to develop their ideas and embed their startup skills.

LaunchVic CEO Dr Kate Cornick said diversity and inclusion is a core focus for LaunchVic and the selected grant recipients will encourage and enable more migrant and refugee entrepreneurs to engage in the Victorian startup ecosystem.

Projects include an incubator program for food entrepreneurship, hackathons for 18-30 year olds, workshops to build startups for problems affecting at risk or disadvantaged; an innovation hub, networking events and education, all based around getting migrants and refugees involved in startups.

Of the five grants, three will be rolled out across regional and rural Victoria for the benefit of migrants and refugees with startup aspirations in these areas.

All grants in this funding round have cash and in-kind investments bringing the total combined investment for this funding round to more than \$2 million.

Research shows that migrants and refugees are twice as likely to start a business as those born locally and are more willing to take business risks – meaning they are perfectly suited to the startup world.

### **Round 3 grant recipients include:**

**Free to Feed** – The Now to Launch incubator will offer 60 startups from Melbourne and regional Victoria the chance to take their dynamic, high growth food startup concepts from now to launch.

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**Enterprising Partnerships** - Cultov8 will run 10 hackathons across the Victoria including Geelong, Shepparton, Ballarat, Broadmeadows and Dandenong and a 12-week pre-accelerator to help migrants and refugees consolidate their startup ideas and teams, learn startup skills, and access free mentoring, business coaching, peer learning and online learning tools.

**YGAP** – expansion of their program to create *YGAP First Gens* to support 36 startups led by new migrants or refugees. This program includes a series of workshops in Melbourne and rural centres to help build startups around problems affecting at risk or disadvantaged refugees and or migrants; an intensive early stage accelerator program; and incubator to provide additional support for ventures.

**Laika Academy** - The Generation Launch, an innovative program to include: knowledge-building workshops that will support startups to launch; build practical skills; run educational programs in collaboration with institutions to embed startup skills; and networking events to encourage and connect startup entrepreneurs into the community.

**Hatch Quarter** - will create a playbook to help first generation migrants and refugees and deliver meetups to build a supportive community for international startup entrepreneurs.

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