



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
VICTORIA

## **GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA EXPORT AWARDS 2017**

**Monday 16 October, 2017**

**Mr Michael Gidley MP**, representing **Mr Craig Ondarachie MP**, Shadow Minister for Trade, Investment and Jobs

**The Honourable Ken Smith**, President, Australia China Business Council

**Consuls-General**

**Distinguished guests**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

First, I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land upon which we are gathering and pay my respects to their elders past and present and to any elders here with us this evening.

I am delighted to welcome you all to Government House to celebrate Victoria's successful and innovative exporters.

This is my third year now presenting these awards. Each year I have been impressed by the calibre and ingenuity of the finalists, and this year is certainly no exception. You provide an impressive showcase of our talent.

You are all contributors to Victoria's over \$43 billion earned from exports, an increase of just over \$4 billion dollars from the previous financial year.

We know that goods exports have decreased a little, with our food and fibre market heavily affected by climate and market conditions. And we know of the challenges in transitioning from traditional manufacturing.

Pleasingly, we are rising to those challenges. We recorded a remarkable 169% growth in the export of pharmaceutical products, and education-related travel was also a significant contributor to the increase in the export of our services.

Earlier this year we hosted here, at Government House, a discussion on Industry 4.0, the fourth industrial revolution, which is reframing manufacturing and global supply chains.

It is important to hold these discussions in Victoria. We want to ensure that we continue to lead the way in new market innovations and continue to be at the forefront of new export opportunities.

As we meet with producers and exporters around the State, we do see their emphasis on innovation and, importantly on collaboration, in developing new products, new practices and new processes along the supply chain.

This year we have visited both Indonesia and India, and are conscious of bountiful trade opportunities there, as well as the continuing opportunities in China, and in other parts of the world.

As Patron of these awards, it is a great pleasure to acknowledge the work of all of you who contribute so much to our Victorian exports.

That of course includes those who have supported and been involved in the judging of these awards.

It is clear that we are rising admirably to the opportunities presented by a disrupted and more globalised economy.

I am proud to see that at last year's Australian Export Awards, Victorian companies won the Digital Technology, Health and biotechnology, Minerals Energy and Related services and the Small Business categories, as well as winning the Australian Exporter of the Year, via ENVATO, which has created a platform to connect design services and customers around the world.

I wish this year's winners well for the Australian Export Awards.

I just mentioned that a Victorian company won the Prime Minister's Australian Export of the Year Award. Actually, Victorian companies have won the last four years in a row. So, no pressure on this evening's winners!