

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AIIA welcomes \$821.9m boost for Victorian ICT industry

Australia's peak industry representative body for innovation technology, the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA), welcomes the \$821.9m injection into Victoria's ICT industry and offers the Victorian Government its support on how best to implement this investment. These funds will be used to digitise services, provide training and to boost digital skills, improve digital infrastructure and create a digital hub in Cremorne.

The Budget announcement demonstrates Victoria's hunger to be a leader in the ICT space, supporting Victorian's across the state. The funding boost announced today echoes recommendations put forward earlier this year in the AIIA White Paper, titled '[Building Australia's Digital Future in a Post-COVID World](#)'.

The announcement highlights the state's commitment to addressing the skills gap within the ICT industry in Victoria whilst also addressing the greater need for jobs for all Australians. The [\\$195.9m investment to establish Digital Victoria](#) and the [\\$626m investment in digital infrastructure and skills](#) will support the Victorian economy rebound from COVID-19.

The AIIA CEO, Ron Gauci said: "We are pleased to see the Victorian Government invest significantly to grow digital skills within the workforce. The changes we have seen, fast tracked by COVID-19, has demonstrated the need for innovative digital skills and the importance of being able to work remotely. The investments announced today by the Victorian Government positions Victoria on the path to be leaders in the ICT industry.

"There is an urgent need for strong local talent to support the growth of digitisation and innovation across the state. Investing in skills is key to ensuring Victoria contributes to the country's vision of achieving a globally competitive and leading digital economy. Today's announcement of the \$64m Digital Skills and Jobs program will strongly support this.

"We believe the road to economic recovery is long-term and paved with innovation and investment in technology. It is important to consider that the adverse impact of the pandemic on businesses will continue long after restrictions are relaxed. Whilst job growth is critical and much needed, the AIIA also emphasises the need for long-term solutions to build the state's resilience and digital capability," Mr Gauci said.

The AIIA Victorian Council Chair, Warren Hill, said: "With the appointment of Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy Jaala Pulford earlier this year, the AIIA are looking forward to working closely with the government during the state's digital transformation. We are excited to hear that the government sees ICT projects as a significant long-term opportunity to support the rebuild of the Victorian economy. The AIIA looks forward to working with the Victorian Government to successfully implement these programs."



Earlier this year, the AIIA released a White Paper, titled '[Building Australia's Digital Future in a Post-COVID World](#)' which emphasised the need to look beyond traditional infrastructure investment by government with more focus on technology infrastructure.

Mr Gauci continued: "The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a once in lifetime opportunity for major reform and restructure of our economy and society. We have a unique opportunity as a country to build a national digital backbone, to build an Australia that is secure and resilient and harness local skills, businesses and economy to position ourselves as a global leader in technology."

The AIIA is a not-for-profit organisation aimed at fuelling Australia's future social and economic prosperity through technology innovation.

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About AIIA

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) is Australia's peak representative body and advocacy group for those in the digital ecosystem. Since 1978 AIIA has pursued activities to stimulate and grow the digital ecosystem, to create a favourable business environment for members and to contribute to Australia's economic prosperity. We do this by delivering outstanding member value by providing a strong voice of influence; building a sense of community through events and education; enabling a network for collaboration and inspiration; and developing compelling content and relevant and interesting information.