

# Media Release

**The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC**

Minister for Employment

Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy

Minister for Small Business



Friday, 18 March 2022

## **VICTORIA AND ABU DHABI SIGN RESEARCH AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP**

The Andrews Labor Government and The Department of Health – Abu Dhabi has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore opportunities in sharing respective mRNA research.

The MoU was signed virtually by the CEO of mRNA Victoria, Michael Kapel with His Excellency Dr. Jamal Mohammed Al Kaabi, Undersecretary of the Department of Health in Abu Dhabi this week, witnessed by Her Excellency The Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria.

The MoU establishes a relationship between Victoria and Abu Dhabi to progress joint RNA research and investment in building manufacturing capability.

The partnership will involve the exchange of information on RNA industry development strategies and drive the joint development of RNA related therapeutics. mRNA, also known as messenger RNA is a single-stranded RNA molecule complementary a DNA strand of a gene.

Victoria and Abu Dhabi will also work together to progress academic collaborations in early-stage research and identify prospective opportunities for clinical trials.

Through mRNA Victoria the Labor Government is continuing the development of the mRNA and RNA sector in Australia and the Asia-Pacific, by supporting pre and clinical medical research, commercialisation, clinical trials, supply chain development and manufacturing.

This MoU is supported by Austrade and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade post in Dubai, and the Victorian Government Trade and Investment Office, Dubai.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy Jaala Pulford**

*“Victoria continues to lead the way in mRNA biotechnology and this MoU signifies an agreement to share knowledge, information and expertise.”*

*“Sharing research and development for pre and clinical research, commercialisation and manufacturing investments will benefit both Victoria and Abu Dhabi.”*

*“This collaborative MoU reinforces Victoria as a world-class Victorian mRNA and RNA industry ensure more jobs in medical research now and into the future.”*