

Media Release

Mr Tim Pallas MP

Treasurer

Minister for Economic Development

Minister for Industrial Relations



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MONASH No.1 WORLD RANK CONFIRMS VICTORIAN EXCELLENCE

Victoria's excellence in taking world-leading research and developing life-changing medicines has been confirmed in a landmark ranking that names Monash University as the global leader in the field.

Monash University overnight was named as the world's top university in Pharmacy and Pharmacology in the authoritative *QS World University Rankings*.

It is the first time that an Australian university has achieved this rank in life sciences, with Monash topping renowned institutions including the University of Oxford, Harvard University and the University of Cambridge.

Monash's confirmation as the leader in pharmaceutical sciences and drug discovery follows achievements including the development of Australia's first COVID-19 mRNA vaccine, manufactured locally for clinical trials, and the launch of Septerna, a biotech company dedicated to discovering and advancing novel small molecule medicines.

Monash researchers are also developing an inhaled oxytocin powder for postpartum haemorrhage, which could save many lives in developing countries where treatment for this condition is currently hard to obtain.

The Andrews Labor Government backed Victorian universities to continue with their important work through the pandemic when the Commonwealth Government would not – headlined by the \$350 million *Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund* and also through payroll tax deferrals.

Since coming to office in November 2014, the Labor Government has committed more than \$1.3 billion to medical research, ensuring Victoria remains the nation's leading hub for health and medical research, and the benefits are clear in achievements like those of Monash University's global ranking.

Victoria's higher education sector is renowned for producing work-ready graduates, generating about one-third of Australia's graduates from key disciplines including natural and physical sciences, IT, engineering and related technologies, agriculture, education and environment-related studies.

Quotes attributable to Treasurer and Minister for Economic Development Tim Pallas

"When students from around the world are looking for the best place to study pharmacy and pharmacology, these rankings show that they'll find it right here in Melbourne."

"We're proud to back our universities because they produce people and work that make a real difference."

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

"From its mRNA vaccine candidate to a powder to treat postpartum haemorrhage, Monash is leading the world."

"Victorian researchers make life changing discoveries and we are committed to helping them bring these breakthroughs to our community and to people around the world."

Quote attributable to Monash University vice-chancellor Professor Margaret Gardner AC

"This is a proud achievement for Monash. Placing number one in Pharmacy and Pharmacology demonstrates our research and education excellence in this field, which is critical for the future health of our community."

Media contact: Shaun Phillips 0407 553 763 | shaun.phillips@minstaff.vic.gov.au