

Media Release

The Hon Philip Dalidakis MLC
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade



Friday, 23 June, 2017

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS

The Andrews Labor Government is proudly supporting the 2017 girledworld Leadership Summit to boost gender equality across the workforce and inspire the next generation of female leaders and entrepreneurs.

At the two day summit at the University of Melbourne, girls in years 7 to 12 will hear from female leaders and entrepreneurs about the skills that will be needed to succeed in the future.

A major focus will be careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and there will also be sessions on entrepreneurship, software development and user experience design.

Attendees will hear inspiring keynote speeches from global female leaders and home grown startup founders from companies such as Airbnb, IBM, MYOB, AirWallex and the Government's startup supporter LaunchVic.

Supporting the summit is just one of the ways the Labor Government is working to empower women in the workplace and promote gender equality.

Over the past 12 months, the Government has supported SummerTech LIVE, RoboGals, Go Girl Go For IT, Geek Girl Academy, the League of Extraordinary Women and this year's Tech Diversity Awards.

Earlier this month Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade Philip Dalidakis awarded the inaugural Victorian Diversity iAward as part of the Australian Information Industry Association iAwards program.

The Government is also supporting women in STEM through veski's Inspiring Women program, which delivers fellowships, industry internships and professional development and networking opportunities.

Victoria has a Gender Equality Strategy and last year the Government established the Ministerial Council For Women's Equality to provide expert advice and help implement gender equality across Victoria.

The Labor Government has also delivered on its election commitment to appoint 50 per cent women on all paid government boards.

girledworld is an educational technology startup that is closing the gender gap by inspiring and educating the next generation of female leaders, entrepreneurs and STEM champions. For more information visit girledworld.com.

Quotes attributable to the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade Philip Dalidakis

"We're proud to support this conference and a range of other initiatives that engage, encourage and inspire young women to follow their dreams."

"We're encouraging girls to take up careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and to start the innovative businesses that will fire our future economy and create our future jobs."

Quote attributable to girledworld Co-Founder Madeleine Grummet

"We've designed an event that will inspire and educate girls by teaching them new skills and connecting them with inspiring female trailblazers in the innovation, entrepreneurship and STEM sectors."