

FOR RELEASE
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Victorian AIIA Awards showcases outstanding Australian technology innovations

Australia's peak industry representative body for innovation technology, the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) is proud to announce the Victorian winners of the 2020 iAwards. The awards unearth, recognise and reward excellence in Australian innovation.

The iAwards are Australia's longest running and most broadly scoped innovation recognition program, promoting excellence in the Australian digital technology ecosystem.

The 27th annual ceremony took place on 12 October at its first ever fully virtual award ceremony. Entry for the iAwards changed significantly in 2020, with entrants submitting a three-minute pitch along with their entry, for what was called "The Biggest Pitch". They demonstrated the incredible ways that businesses, government departments, startups and not-for-profit organisations have adapted to a COVID-19 world.

Victorian Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy, Jaala Pulford, said: "Congratulations to all of today's winners. There is no doubt 2020 has presented us with enormous economic and social challenges, but it has also demonstrated the strength of our local innovation community. These awards celebrate our talented technologists and innovators who have played a huge role in connecting Victorians to each other and keeping our economy moving.

"The Victorian Government is proud to have supported the AIIA to host this great event and to host the National iAwards here in Melbourne since 2008."

AIIA CEO, Ron Gauci, said: "The calibre of entrants we saw this year was astonishing. We are proud to recognise all our entrants, and in particular, the winners as they are a demonstration of companies who are making a difference in the world and have the potential to create positive change for the community – whether this be at home, in the office or on a global scale. The competition once again, has showcased the innovation technology talent Australia has to offer. With entrants of this calibre, the Australian economy has a bright future.

"Australians have faced many challenges in 2020 but with that comes the opportunity for more innovation and digital transformation as it paves the way to Australia's economic recovery. There is a need for strong domestic skills and an innovation ecosystem which will allow Australia to compete more competitively on the global scale. Combined with the investments in digital infrastructure and capability and the changes made to R&DTI by the Commonwealth Government in its budget recently, there is a real opportunity right now for innovators in this country. We believe our winners are reflective of what Australia has to offer to the world," Mr Gauci said.

The Victorian iAwards are presented in six categories to showcase the breadth of innovation and technology across multiple sectors.

The Victorian AIIA iAwards winners for 2020 by Category are:

- **Technology Platforms** - [BrykID](#) allows you to verify your identity by combining 3D facial authentication against your government issued ID documents using a smartphone or webcam in real-time.
- **Government** - [NBN Broadband Service Demand Forecast](#) helps forecast the region-wide technical workforce needed to connect end customers.
- **Education** - [GLOBE Grocery Tracker](#) provides public health researchers a platform capable of collecting data with bespoke research questions such as 'has your purchasing budget been impacted by COVID-19'.
- **Not-For-Profit** - [Ted the AI avatar living with dementia](#). Dementia Australia collaborated with The Applied Artificial Intelligence Institute (A2I2) at Deakin University to develop Ted, who helps care workers to learn good communication skills for people living with dementia.
- **Start-Ups** - [BLEAT for industry](#) provides a digitised solution for construction projects that run over budget and are delayed.
- **Industry Solutions** - [eScripts](#) enables patients to access their medication in a paperless way, through new delivery models and telehealth, including the same way they always have. eg via SMS, WhatsApp, and email.

Further detail on each of our winners can be found below.

Each of the Victorian Winners will now compete for the coveted National iAwards title which will be announced at the Gala virtual event on 17 November. The AIIA iAwards are supported by the Victorian Government, NBN Co, Queensland University, Holding Redlich, Civica, Servicenow, and SYPAQ. The AIIA thanks them for their commitment to supporting the tech sector.

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

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[AIIA Victorian iAwards - About the Winners](#)

Technology Platforms Category Winner - BrykID

The ability to transact and prove your identity in an increasingly digital world is becoming progressively more important. Yet this must also be done in an age where cyber security, fraud, terrorism, money laundering, identity theft and the need to maintain social distances due to COVID-19 are very real challenges.

The BrykID platform provides digital Identity Proofing & Corroboration (IPC). BrykID allows you to verify your identity by combining 3D facial authentication against your government issued ID documents using a smartphone or webcam in real-time. This enables a 100-point identification check as well as eSignature, payments and other capabilities to happen via a quick and efficient user experience.

Government Category Winner - NBN Broadband Service Demand Forecast

As NBN rolls out its network, there is a need to forecast the orders received over time from each region of about 300-3000 premises. This order forecast helps plan the region-wide technical workforce needed to connect end customers.

Accurate matching of demand not only leads to better utilisation of the workforce but also reduces the 'time-to-connect' for new customers. The order prediction is applied to new roll out regions to precisely allocate workforce and resources, and is being integrated to NBN's roll out team's workforce planning model, which drives the workforce and resource allocation for new areas. Moreover, the model also provides insights into the demographic profiles of the regions with higher than average or lower than average take-up. These insights have helped tweak the products and services that NBN offers to meet any unmet market demand and to protect existing market share from competitive erosion.

Understanding customers' expectations on services is the key for NBN not only before but also after service roll out. For existing service regions, NBN aims to maintain top-tier customer service and sustainable revenue.

Education Category Winner - GLOBE Grocery Tracker

Grocery Tracker enables public health researchers a platform capable of collecting data with bespoke research questions such as 'has your purchasing budget been impacted by COVID-19' - ensuring the platform is dynamic and flexible enough to be useful in unpredictable circumstances.

For study participants, the app enables them to receive ongoing feedback relating to their food and beverage purchases and can easily track budgets and expenditure. The data collected will critically support public health policy development and evaluation so that more Australians consume a healthy diet.

Not-For-Profit Category Winner - Ted the AI avatar living with dementia

Dementia Australia collaborated with The Applied Artificial Intelligence Institute (A2I2) at Deakin University to develop their newest learning tool; Ted the artificially intelligent avatar living with dementia.

In Australia there are currently over 459,000 people living with dementia. Currently there are no effective medical treatments for Dementia and all medical trials with a potential cure in the past 10 years have failed.

Rather than telling care workers what good principals of communication are for a person living with dementia, they experience the principals of good communication through trial and error in conversation with Ted. The user is able to learn in a safe and encouraging learning experience.

Start-Ups Category Winner - BLEAT for industry

Created by construction technology startup Ynomia, BLEAT for Industry looks to provide a digitised solution for construction projects that run over budget and are delayed. Currently the most commonly used method for tracking assets on a construction site is with pen and paper. GPS tracking on assets exists, however its limits include constant power, expensive set-up, 2-D location and inaccuracy allowances.

The BLEAT solution can provide low-cost, real-time 3-axis location that is significantly cheaper to set-up and operate throughout the life of a project. Individual GPS trackers are priced upwards of \$100 whereas one of our BLEAT tags would cost a quarter of the cost and provide better value. The BLEAT solution has proven its viability on our first project tracking large 660L bins on construction sites (The Aurora, Melbourne Central).

Industry Solutions Category Winner - eScripts

The ePrescribing solution gives all Australians the opportunity to access their medicines in new and innovative ways. With eScripts, patients can access their medication through new delivery models and telehealth, including the same way they always have. eg via SMS, WhatsApp, and email.

The ePrescription solution finally gets rid of the paper legal scripts that underpinned all these systems previously and allows for even more innovation to happen without the need for paper.

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.