

# Media Release

21 November 2016

## AIIA and nbn launch innovation program 2017

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) and **nbn** have joined forces to launch a \$150,000 grants program aimed at fostering innovation across the nation.

Under the *Grow with nbn Program 2017* three major grants of \$25,000 and six minor grants of \$10,000 are on offer, with one of the minor grants recipients in line to receive an additional \$15,000 through an **nbn** staff vote.

The grants program is designed to help promote and support organisations that are innovatively using the **nbn** for their business activities.

In the next three years, nbn will help put Australia among the best countries in the world for high speed, universal broadband access, with broadband anticipated to become a powerful source of competitive advantage for Australia. The *Grow with nbn Program 2017* encourages organisations to look at ways to take advantage of this to transform Australia's businesses, charitable organisations and communities.

Each grant will be awarded to recognise outstanding use of nbn connectivity within the relevant field of business, community or education.

**nbn** Chief Customer Officer John Simon said the grants would be awarded under three different categories, Business, Community and Education.

"This program celebrates the innovation powerhouse that is Australia's small to medium businesses and organisations," Mr Simon said.

"The *Grow with nbn Program* is aimed at further fostering innovation across the entire country," Mr Simon said.

"This is a game of skill, not chance, and the best entry in each category will receive a major grant while two runner-up entries in each category will receive a minor grant.

"I urge all eligible organisations to grab hold of this opportunity to submit a grant application to continue working towards making themselves market leaders in the digital marketplace.

Grants can be used for any range of initiatives to help the successful organisations further their growth.

Chief Executive Officer of the AIIA Rob Fitzpatrick said that AIIA's mission is to unearth great innovations around Australia and add to the story-telling how organisations are using technology to innovate and communicate more effectively.

"Small and medium-sized business and community organisations drive a significant part of our economy and services, and high speed access through the nbn provides them an opportunity to create new business models, improve efficiency, and get closer to the customer.

"We are eager to unearth stories about organisations that are using their nbn connectivity to drive growth, help their communities or improve learning outcomes. By sharing ideas, innovations and

best practices, we can help everyone benefit and improve, which will lead to greater success across the board,” said Mr Fitzpatrick.

Grant entries open at noon on Monday 21 November 2016 and close at midday on Friday 17 February 2017 (AEDT). Winners will be announced in March 2017. To enter, Organisations must register via the program website and platform and complete the application form, which includes recording a series of videos and providing some written responses.

Entry is open to organisations currently using an internet service over the **nbn**<sup>™</sup> network (based on a wholesale speed tier of 25 Mbps or higher), registered and operating in Australia with a valid ABN. Of the three million premises currently with nbn access, 70 per cent are in regional and non-metro Australia.

Organisations must select which category they wish to enter. An organisation may enter this promotion in more than one category by submitting separate entry forms in relation to each applicable category.

For more information, or to submit an application, please visit: [www.growwithnbn.com.au](http://www.growwithnbn.com.au) and <https://nbn.awardsplatform.com>

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