



**Australian Institute
of International Affairs**
Victoria

Realising Victoria's Potential in the Global Economy

Panel Discussion

Thursday 19 September 2024: 5:30pm for 6 – 7pm Level 13, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Victoria has a highly diverse and skilled workforce, a favourable R&D environment and advanced manufacturing activities in the health and tech sectors. Melbourne is projected to become the largest city in Australia by 2031 and is a world city by many measures.



The City of Melbourne's own [international engagement strategy](#) aims to support a strong economy, innovation, sustainability, and resilient, thriving communities.

But how do we overcome the challenges of ensuring the skilling initiatives, conducive industry policy environment, collaboration channels and attractiveness to foreign investors to allow the Victorian economy to realise its immense potential?

This event is intended to frame AIIA Victoria's *Corporate Engagement* series which was launched with a highly successful and well-attended event on defence manufacturing earlier this year. AIIA Victoria's corporate engagement events and roundtables bring closer focus on topics such as innovation, investment, skills and ecosystems, essential for Victoria to position itself as a global as well as Australian hub for growth, jobs and dynamism.

Join us for a panel discussion moderated by Mohammad Chowdhury, featuring the Hon Jaala Pulford, former Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy in the Victorian Government, and Prof. Edward Buckingham, Professor of Management at Monash Business School.

Please note that this event will be held under the Chatham House Rule and is in-person only.

BOOK ONLINE HERE

AIIA Victoria gratefully acknowledges the Walter Mangold Trust Fund for its ongoing support of our young members.

In-person: AIIA Premium and Young Professionals members free. AIIA Members \$20. Non-Members \$30. Student Non-Members \$10



The Honourable Jaala Pulford is a Vice Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Melbourne, Chair of MTP Connect, Australia's life sciences innovation centre, and Chair of the Children's Cancer Foundation. Over the first two terms of the Andrews Victorian State Government (2014-22), Jaala was the first woman to serve as Minister for Agriculture, and was Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Roads, Road Safety and the TAC, Minister for Fishing and Boating, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Resources, Minister for Employment, and Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy. She served as Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council from 2014-2018. Jaala was elected to the Victorian Parliament in 2006 as Member for Western Victoria. She was re-elected in 2010, 2014 and 2018, and left politics at the 2022 Victorian state election to seek out new challenges.



Professor Edward Buckingham is Professor of Management at Monash Business School in Melbourne and Program Director of the Masters in Business Innovation, Monash Indonesia. Edward graduated with a BSc in Materials Science and a BA (Hons) in Indonesian Literature from Monash University. He began his career with the Boston Consulting Group in Shanghai where he advised multinational corporations and state-owned enterprises. After completing his MBA at INSEAD he ran the French manufacturing subsidiaries of Sud Chemie (now Clariant) which specialised in pharmaceutical and medical device packaging. His areas of expertise include strategy, business model design, international business and operations management. He has extensive experience as an educator in leadership and board level roles. His industry interests include agribusiness, manufacturing, education and natural resources.



Mohammad Chowdhury (Moderator) is the Founder and CEO of Long Street Advisors, and a Council Member at AIIA Victoria. Mohammad has worked in over 80 countries and focuses on the digital economy, digitisation in industries and regions and digital inclusion. Mohammad is a Trustee of the UK's Institute for the Future of Work and chairs its Finance Committee, has written for Forbes, the Sydney Morning Herald and the FT and serves the board of a technology company in Bangladesh. He works in this sector because he cares about opportunity, equality and inclusion. He is the author of [*Border Crossings: My Journey as an Outsider*](#) (NewSouth Books, July 2023).