



# Annual Review

## 2024

Image: Centre for Eye Research Australia





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# Foreword

**In 2024 the Telematics Trust has thrived in its role driving the forefront of technology-enhanced learning. Motivated by a commitment to enrich the cultural, social and environmental access of all Victorians, we fund initiatives that demonstrate pioneering ideas for the use of technology in education and training.**

This is a particularly exciting time for the work we do. Year on year, we see ever greater advancements in Artificial Intelligence technology. Throughout Victoria, each and every industry and educational institute is, in some way, reckoning with AI's transformational potential. AI is inspiring these sectors in their efforts to understand its implications and how it can be integrated moving forward. We have already begun to see distinct trends take hold, including the integration of AI with Medical Research, a pairing that looks set to continue producing exciting results. Indeed, a standout project from the year uses AI to help patients understand complex medical issues, particularly when English is an additional language.

The Trust will continue its Expressions of Interest trial, following the success of this process last year. We are also looking for new and creative ways to offer organisations the best chance possible to communicate the work that sits so close to their hearts. Understanding that applicants are often better able to express themselves verbally, we will continue to provide an opportunity to submit a video component in grant applications.



In our 2024 grant round, the Trustees were delighted to receive a wide range of applications that demonstrated the immeasurable ways innovative education and training can make a lasting impact on people's lives and how important this funding is to visionary organisations looking to make the most out of rapidly emerging technologies.

The Trust has selected 9 projects across areas as diverse as medical case management, agricultural investment education, independent living skills for neurodiverse children and more, granting nearly \$450,000 this year. This brings the total granted by the Trust to the Victorian community to \$15.7 million.

Thank you for your interest in the Telematics Trust and our work over the last 12 months. To get in touch, please contact our Secretariat on the details provided in this report.

### **The Trustees**

Ricci Swart AM

Danny Gorog

Gavin Appel

Claire Murray

***Throughout Victoria, each and every industry and educational institute is, in some way, reckoning with AI's transformational potential.***

# Telematics Trust Vision

## OUR VISION

Our vision is for technology to transform lives through education and training for the cultural, social and economic benefit of Victorians.

## OUR MISSION

**The Trust is committed to funding initiatives that support our vision by demonstrating innovative use of technology through education and training.**

The initiatives demonstrate the innovative use of technology through education and learning, and they aim to measurably improve the well-being of the community and environment.

The Trust provides unique funding opportunities to individuals, educational institutions, government, business, social enterprises and not-for-profit organisations.

The Trust funds initiatives that use technology to reach diverse groups and address important practical problems in our community and environment through education.



## OUR HISTORY

**The Telematics Course Development Fund (Telematics Trust) is a public charitable trust founded on 18 December 1987 by the Hon. John Cain, then Premier of Victoria. The Trust was initially funded with a \$3 million grant by the Victorian State Government over a two-year period, and its corpus has since grown to \$14.8 million.**

The Trust was established for the purposes of public education and training in Victoria, for the promotion of the development, marketing, sale and delivery by 'telematic means' of education and training courses, and for the use of new information technologies for distance learning outside existing educational and training institutions within Victoria.

Since 1988, the Telematics Trust has assisted numerous organisations through the provision of grants, equity and debt investments in projects that the Trustees believe will further or promote technology-based education and training in Victoria.

The Telematics Trust is committed to the development and use of new information and communication technologies (ICT) that support innovative educational initiatives within Victoria and as such provides unique funding opportunities to individuals, educational institutes, business and not-for-profit organisations that are exploring the possibilities of using information and communications technology for educational purposes.

The Trust is particularly interested in targeting and funding the application of information and communications technology to learning processes and projects that are:

- in need of special attention
- would be assisted by seeding grants
- are not within the province of other funding bodies.

# Telematics Trust Funding

## SINCE INCEPTION

Grants

**498**

Individual organisations  
or departments

**323**

**\$16.15  
million**

## OUR GRANTING IN 2024

In the 2024 calendar year, the Telematics Trust supported nine projects with one-off grants of up to \$50,000 across four focus areas.

Grants approved

**9**

Total value of grants

**\$450,000**

Focus areas

- E-Learning Platforms
- Artificial Intelligence Technology
- Augmented / Virtual Reality
- Smart Phone App





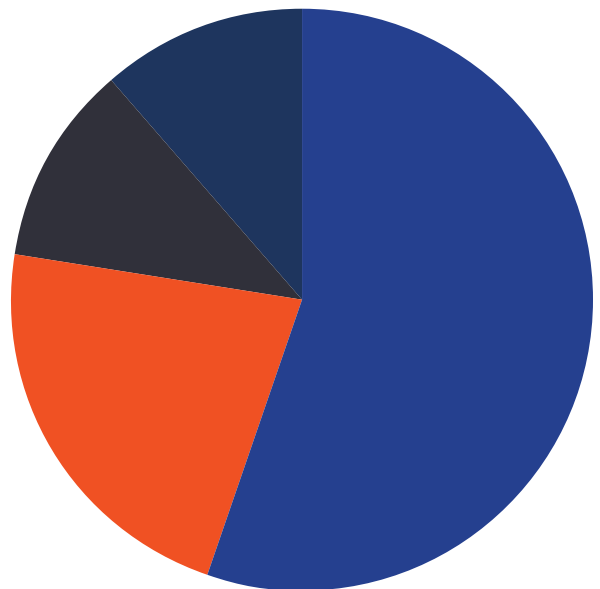
## FUNDING TOTAL BY FOCUS AREA

E-Learning Platforms | \$249,817

Artificial Intelligence Technology | \$100,000

Augmented / Virtual Reality | \$50,000

Smart Phone App | \$50,000

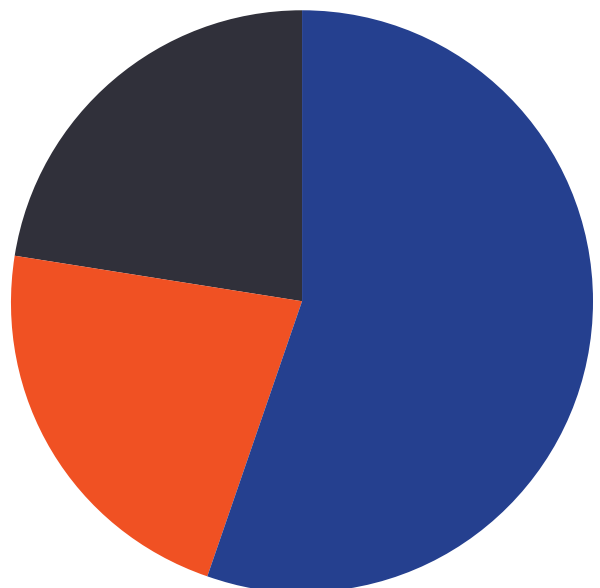


## FUNDING BY TARGET POPULATION GROUP

People with a disability, illness or disease | \$249,817

Asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and people from CALD backgrounds | \$100,000

General population | \$100,000



# Grantees for 2024

## E-LEARNING PLATFORM

Grants Approved

5

Value of Grants

\$249,817

Percentage \$ of total Grants 56%

### Centre for Eye Research Australia | \$49,817.00

The Centre for Eye Research Australia is internationally renowned as a leader in the field of vision research. They are an independent medical research institute, closely affiliated with the University of Melbourne Department of Surgery. They strive to eliminate the major eye diseases that cause vision loss and blindness and reduce their impact in the community.

#### **Improving Access to Blindness Treatments Through Digital Education**

Inherited Retinal Diseases (IRDs) are the primary cause of blindness in working-aged Australians. By developing a digital education tool using 3D software, the Centre for Eye Research Australia will educate patients and clinicians on the diseases and their treatment options. This project is in partnership with Retina Australia.

### Wellsprings for Women | \$50,000

Wellsprings was established in 1994 to support isolated women from migrant and refugee backgrounds in Dandenong and its surrounding areas. Their vision is 'All Women Shaping their Own Lives.' Each week, over 750 women access their services. They come from 39 countries of birth, speak 33 languages, and identify with a wide range of religious faiths. At Wellsprings, these women learn English, build digital and financial literacy and employability skills, and engage in social, cultural, and health programs.

#### **Shaping Attitudes of What's Ok Online with Intimate Partners – A Demonstration Project for Dari Speaking Women Using Interactive Digital Resources.**

This project aims to prevent the victimisation of migrant and refugee women through technology-facilitated abuse (TFA). Wellspring for Women will develop interactive digital resources through a co-design approach, working with Dari-speaking women. This novel educational tool will support Afghan women to identify unacceptable online behaviour and engage interactive resources and strategies to receive culturally competent support.



### **The Jreissati Pancreatic Centre | \$50,000**

The Jreissati Pancreatic Centre at Epworth is the only specialist centre in Australia exclusively dedicated to pancreatic disease. They put 100% of their funding directly into research and clinical care. This includes ensuring patients see a specialist within 72 hours of their referral, providing patients with their own pancreatic nurse, empowering GPs with tools and resources, providing current, easy to understand information on pancreatic cancer for patients and carers, and pioneering new diagnosis and treatment options.

#### ***An Interactive Clinical Decision Support Tool to Help General Practitioners Diagnose Pancreatic Cancer Earlier***

Pancreatic cancer is the third-leading cause of cancer-related death in Australia and has the worst survival rate of any cancer at 13%. To support early diagnosis, the Jreissati Pancreatic Centre will develop the world's first interactive web-based clinical tool to help GPs stratify, investigate, and diagnose pancreatic cancer quickly and accurately. Using a framework established by Australian experts, the tool identifies patients requiring urgent investigation based on a tiered list of symptoms and risk factors, then guides GPs through the appropriate diagnostic pathway to minimise delays.

### **IIFed | \$50,000**

Food security critically impacts communities in Victoria, across Australia, and globally. As climate volatility increases, so does the need for robust agricultural production to meet consumer demands. IIF is a world-first approach to investing in agriculture that enables ordinary people to financially back the industry that feeds them. Using a smartphone, anyone can invest in farming production cycles of anywhere between 3 to 12 months, buying cattle, crops, oysters or beehives, and watching their investments grow.

#### ***IIFed***

IIFed is the educational version of the IIF app, where students invest in real farm assets, using virtual money. Investing at the start of a growing cycle, students engage with farmers through real-time updates, and “share in the profit” when their product is harvested and sold. Not every school has the space or resources to run a dedicated agricultural program. With IIFed, every school can put a farm in every classroom.

### Monash Lung & Sleep Institute | \$50,000

The Monash Lung & Sleep Institute (MLSI) is a not-for-profit organisation that provides world class research into respiratory diseases. The institute works in tandem with Monash Health and the Monash Lung & Sleep Department. Their goal is to improve the lives of patients through innovative research projects, funding, educational support and mentorships.

#### ***Lung Cancer Conversational Landing Page for Culturally Linguistic and Diverse (CALD) Patients***

Lung cancer was the fourth most diagnosed cancer and the most common cause of cancer-related deaths in Victoria in 2022, and there is a higher incidence rate of lung cancer in migrant groups. With this project, MLSI will provide digital access to a conversational landing page for CALD lung cancer patients to receive medical information in their native language. By improving the CALD patient's health literacy and sense of support during this stressful and vulnerable time, MLSI expects patients will become more actively involved in their treatment decision making, leading to better health outcomes.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TECHNOLOGY

Grants Approved

1

Value of Grants

\$50,000

Percentage \$ of total Grants

11%

### Baker Heart And Diabetes Institute | \$50,000

For 98 years, the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute has improved and saved the lives of millions of people in Australia and around the globe. Their mission is to reduce death and disability from cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and other related health disorders. Their vision is to personalise medicine for heart disease and diabetes so that they can predict an individual's health risk, intervene, and prevent the onset of disease and its complications years before it strikes.

### **Transforming Diabetes Management Using Artificial Intelligence**

Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute's goal is to develop an AI diabetes management platform that has the capability to directly interact with patients, develop management plans and frequently review outcomes. They plan to provide this as an online service with clinician oversight and, as an academic institution, train the algorithm, test it in their large patient population and publish their findings. This project will particularly benefit economically and geographically disadvantaged people, who are most impacted by the burden of diabetes.

## **AUGMENTED / VIRTUAL REALITY**

**Grants Approved**

**1**

**Value of Grants**

**\$50,000**

**Percentage \$ of total Grants**

**11%**

### **Education Network Group | \$50,000**

Education Network Group (ENG) specialise in software design and development. For over 20 years ENG has developed successful, internationally award-winning educational games and socially responsible software. ENG's mission is to enrich life through wonderful design, build communities, and ethically create engaging and emotive experiences.

#### **Whizkid Games**

Whizkid Games is a scientifically tested program of therapeutic animations and computer games that help autistic children develop independent living skills. Co-designed with autistic children, parents and specialists, the games address some of the areas of greatest need: recognising emotions, coping with change and making eye contact. Accessible via a VR-capable app, the games combine engaging design with powerful feedback metrics to effect real-world behavioural change.

## SMART PHONE APP

Grants Approved

2

Value of Grants

\$100,000

Percentage \$ of total Grants 22%

### Western Health Foundation | \$50,000

The Western Health Foundation is dedicated to supporting Western Health as it grows and transforms healthcare in Melbourne's west. Their mission is to provide the best healthcare for the people of the West, while embodying the values of Compassion, Accountability, Respect, Excellence and Safety (CARES). Their community, while proudly diverse, experiences a higher burden of disease and challenging socioeconomic circumstances, which, for some, are barriers to access and equity in healthcare.

***ChemoRight: Reducing chemotherapy overdosing and toxicity by improving understanding of patients and clinicians of safe dosages based on unique body composition***

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second-leading cause of cancer-related death in Australia. Western Health Foundation has a world-first clinical tool that accurately predicts chemotherapy dosing requirements that is under provisional patent. While this work is progressing, they want to develop an easy-to-use app, ChemoRight, that translates chemotherapy dosage data into a guidance tool for clinicians and patients, clearly and simply indicating safe, understandable dosing regimens.



### **Jewish Museum of Australia | \$50,000**

The Jewish Museum of Australia's (JMA) mission is to illuminate Jewish life. At the intersection of art and Jewish culture, the JMA is a place for all people to share in the Australian Jewish experience. JMA designs compelling entry points for Jewish and non-Jewish audiences of all ages and backgrounds, activating storytelling across three key platforms – onsite, offsite and outreach – ensuring that their offer is always interactive, inclusive, and audience-centred.

### ***Illuminating the Jewish Museum of Australia (JMA): Virtual Tours***

The JMA's suite of exhibitions is currently only viewable in person. Partnering with Bloomberg Connects and using their visionary technology, JMA will expand access to their exhibitions to more of the Victorian community – those who have accessibility or economic barriers, or reside outside of metro Melbourne. Expert curated and guided video and audio content will be accessible via a multilingual app, which will also be used to enrich the experience of in-person visitors with expanded commentary and content.

# Our Trustees

## **RICCI SWART AM (CHAIR)**

Ricci Swart was appointed to the Board in December 2009 and has been Chair since 2018. She has over 30 years' experience in film and new media, producing several award-winning documentaries and feature films. Her previous board appointments have included Koorie Heritage Trust, ACMI (Australian Centre for the Moving Image), and the Centre for Adolescent Health at the Royal Children's Hospital and Haifa University.

## **DANNY GOROG**

Danny is the CEO of Snap Send Solve ([www.snapsendsolve.com](http://www.snapsendsolve.com)), the go-to-platform for communities to improve shared spaces - everywhere. Snap Send Solve is a free app that works Australia-wide and allows anyone to report community issues such as potholes and signage issues to local councils and government departments. Large organisations like Telstra, nbn and Australia Post also receive reports for relevant issues.

Danny co-founded Outware Mobile ([outware.com.au](http://outware.com.au)), Australia's leading mobile app development in 2009. Outware developed apps for ASX 100 including ANZ, Coles, NAB, NIB, Qantas, RACV, Seek and Telstra. Danny sold Outware to Melbourne IT (ASX: MLB) in 2015.

Danny is passionate about supporting the education and the arts, as a trustee of Telematics Trust and a former board member of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.



## **GAVIN APPEL**

Gavin Appel was appointed in January 2019. Gavin is a startup adviser and tech investor with 25 years of global operational and investing experience in the technology industry spanning startups, corporates and venture capital. Prior to founding startup advisory firm Ignition Lane, Gavin was one of the first employees and CTO at Hitwise (acquired for US\$240 million), SVP at Experian and VC Partner at Square Peg.

## **CLAIRE MURRAY**

Claire Murray was appointed in January 2021. Claire is a consultant and advisor with over 25 years of diverse experience in the innovation, science, technology, education and creative industries. Claire has advised federal and state government clients, government departments, publicly funded entities and private sector organisations in strategy, policy and evaluation, often through a technology and change lens. Claire is a member of the council of the Brotherhood of St Laurence's David Scott School.



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Updates:


- Flowering Finished
- Shipping Shallots
- Ginger's growth
- Pink Ladies Sold





**Telematics Trust**

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