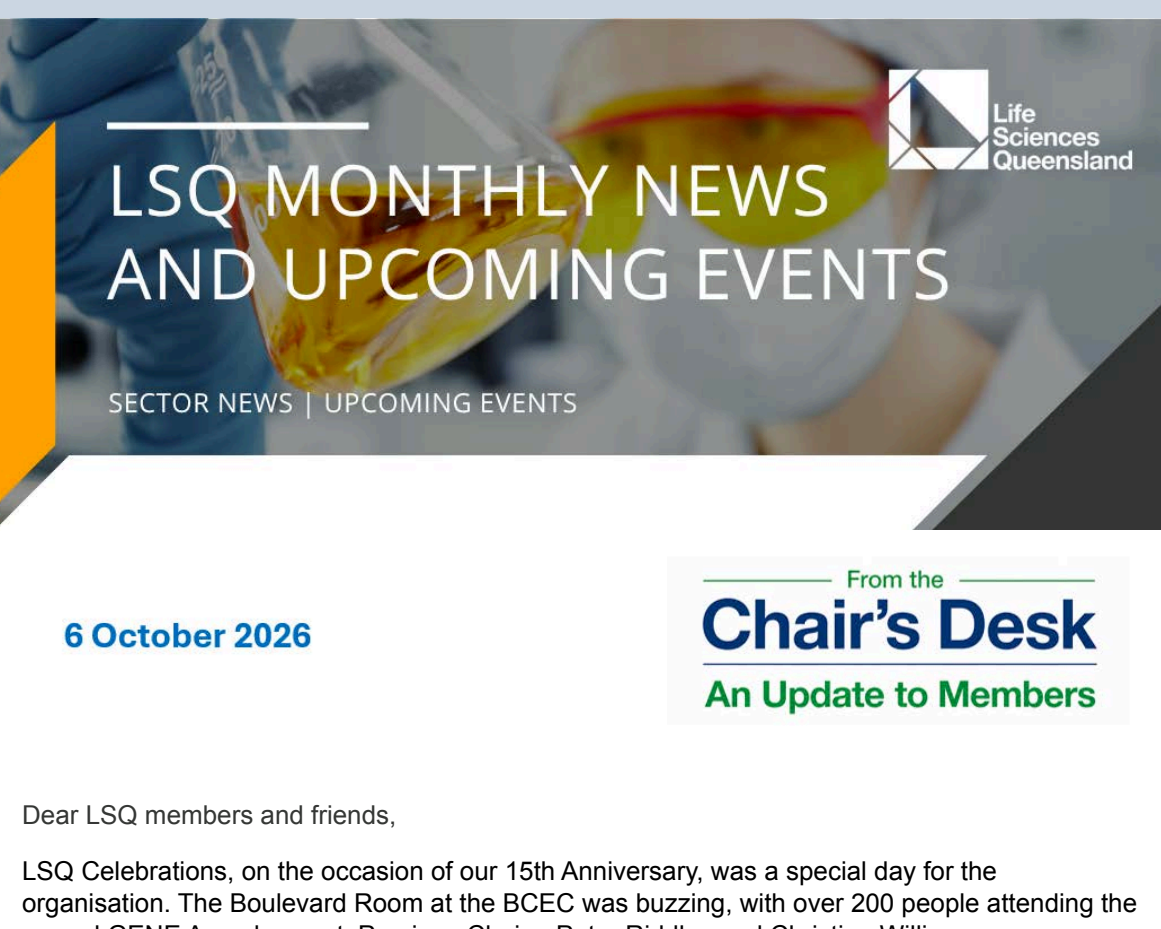




6 October 2026

Chair's Desk

An Update to Members

Dear LSQ members and friends,

LSQ Celebrations, on the occasion of our 15th Anniversary, was a special day for the organisation. The Boulevard Room at the BCEC was buzzing, with over 200 people attending the annual GENE Awards event. Previous Chairs, Peter Riddies and Christine Williams, were present, and Mario Pennisi - a driving force in the creation of LSQ - shared stories about the reasons for the establishment of LSQ. Those reasons remain valid today, and the enthusiastic presence of so many of our members attested to that analysis.

Unfortunately, the State Government has not responded positively to our request for partnership support to deliver the activities that are needed in Queensland. It is ironic that, when speaking at the GENE Awards, I was able to use the action points of the State Government's *Issues to Implementation Strategy* to summarise the current and ongoing activities of LSQ. They are almost identical.

At the GENE Awards lunch (more details below), we also selected the inaugural winner of the BCEC-LSQ Bio-Innovation (early and mid-career researcher (EMCR) Bursary. Generously sponsored by the BCEC as they celebrate their 20-year anniversary, there were 25 extremely high-quality applicants. The special emphasis of this award is on establishing links with industry through the project submitted. It was very promising to see such a strong pipeline of young researchers and diverse topics. This award will be offered again for the next two years, and we look forward to it making a strong impact on the biomedicine and researchers in Queensland.

This is another example of how LSQ continues to make an impact through collaboration. The GENE Awards provided an opportunity for the sector to come together in a convivial atmosphere. We have decided that we should continue to be a catalyst for such interactions by launching the **LSQ Thirsty Third Thursdays (LSQ 3Ts)**, where casual socialising by those in the bio sector can mingle with no speeches, agenda or entry fee. The first of these will be on **15 October** (see below for details).

More seriously, LSQ has engaged actively in the consultation launched by the Federal Treasurer regarding proposed changes to the CGT and R&D Tax Incentive rules. Our submission has been shared with members. In addition, we participated in discussions organised by AusBiotech with similar organisations in other states, and a strong collective response was submitted to the Government.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the **AusBiotech Conference on the Gold Coast from 21-23 October**. As has been the case for many years, and in different locations across Australia, LSQ will once again be creating opportunities for our members to connect throughout the conference.

Both of our networking events will take place on Day 1 - Wednesday 21 October, commencing with our **Networking Breakfast**, in partnership with TRI, followed that evening by our **much-anticipated and always popular Networking Cocktails from 7.30pm** co-sponsored by our great sponsors **360biolabs, Cytiva and Thomsons**.

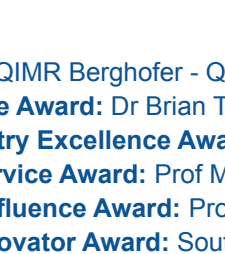
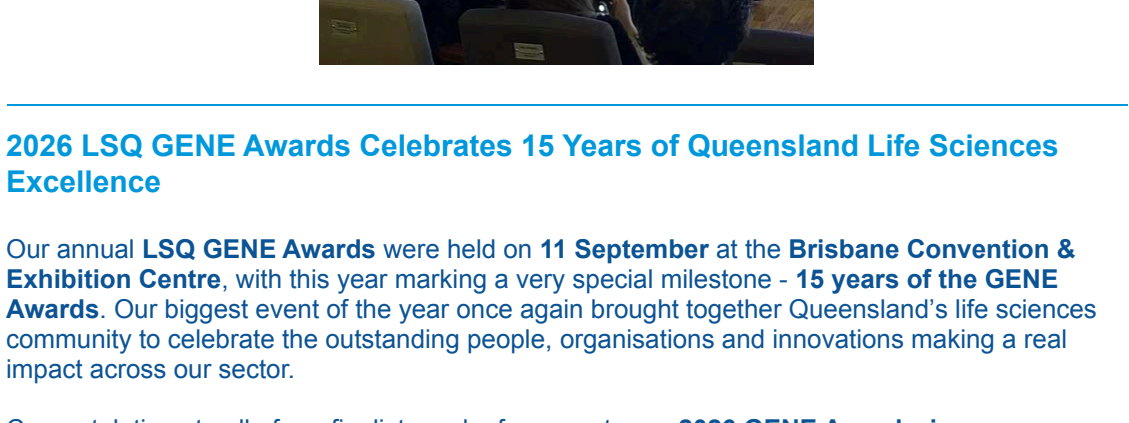
We hope you'll join us for one - or both - and please make sure you drop by the **LSQ Booth #13** and say hello during the conference. You can't miss us - right at the main entry and next to the Old Govt pavilion

Warm regards,
Frank Gannon
Chair



Frank Speaks at the 2026 BridgeTech Symposium and Joins ABC Radio Brisbane Mornings with Steve Austin

Frank was a featured speaker at the 2026 BridgeTech Symposium, on 18 August sharing his insights and experience with researchers, entrepreneurs and emerging leaders across the medtech sector. The QUT BridgeTech Program brings together professionals from across Australia to build knowledge, networks and practical skills to support the commercialisation of medical technologies. Frank's opening address provided valuable perspectives on leadership, resilience and innovation, inspiring the next generation of life sciences and medtech leaders.



Joining Steve Austin on **ABC Radio Brisbane Mornings (612)** on 2 September - Frank discussed LSQ and the current state of Queensland's life sciences sector. It was a great opportunity to highlight the innovation, research and collaboration happening across the life sciences community. [Listen to the Interview here](#) - Frank joins the program at 1:12:28.

DekkoSecure Webinar: The Cyber Risks You Can't See

LSQ recently partnered with new members **DekkoSecure** for an insightful webinar exploring the hidden cyber risks facing life sciences organisations. The session highlighted the growing cyber threats to valuable assets such as research, intellectual property, clinical data and other sensitive information, while providing practical insights into how organisations can strengthen their cybersecurity and better protect critical information. Thank you to **DekkoSecure** and everyone who joined us for this timely and valuable discussion.



LSQ - Charles River NGS Seminar

LSQ was pleased to co-host a timely seminar on **7 September** exploring how Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) is integrated into GMP-regulated environments. NGS expert **Colette Cote** shared practical insights into contamination control, genetic characterisation, validation and bioinformatics, helping attendees better understand how to navigate evolving regulatory requirements and apply NGS with confidence in regulated settings.



2026 LSQ GENE Awards Celebrates 15 Years of Queensland Life Sciences Excellence

Our annual **LSQ GENE Awards** were held on **11 September** at the **Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre**, with this year marking a very special milestone - **15 years of the GENE Awards**. Our biggest event of the year once again brought together Queensland's life sciences community to celebrate the outstanding people, organisations and innovations making a real impact across our sector.

Congratulations to all of our finalists and, of course, to our **2026 GENE Award winners**:

- **Cytiva Company of the Year**: QIMR Berghofer - Q-Gen Cell Therapeutics
- **KE Select Services Excellence Award**: Dr Brian Tse
- **McCullough Robertson Industry Excellence Award**: AI/Prof Jacob Begun
- **Merck Rural and Regional Service Award**: Prof Megan O'Shannessy
- **QIMR Berghofer Woman of Influence Award**: Prof Claudia Vickers
- **Radium Capital Emerging Innovator Award**: Southern RNA

Special thank you to our sponsors, finalists, judges, members and the wider LSQ community for helping us make this milestone celebration such a success. We're proud to have spent 15 years backing Queensland's boldest life sciences minds and look forward to continuing that legacy into the future.



Inaugural BCEC-LSQ Bio-Innovation Bursary Awarded

The inaugural **BCEC-LSQ Bio-Innovation Bursary** was presented at the GENE Awards, marking an exciting new initiative supporting the next generation of Queensland's life sciences researchers.

Established by the **Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC)** as part of its 30th anniversary celebrations, the bursary is a wonderful contribution to Queensland's life sciences sector and will help support the continued development of emerging research talent. Congratulations to **Dr Christopher McMillan** from The University of Queensland (UQ), who was awarded the **\$25,000 Bursary** in recognition of his work and strong collaboration between research and industry.



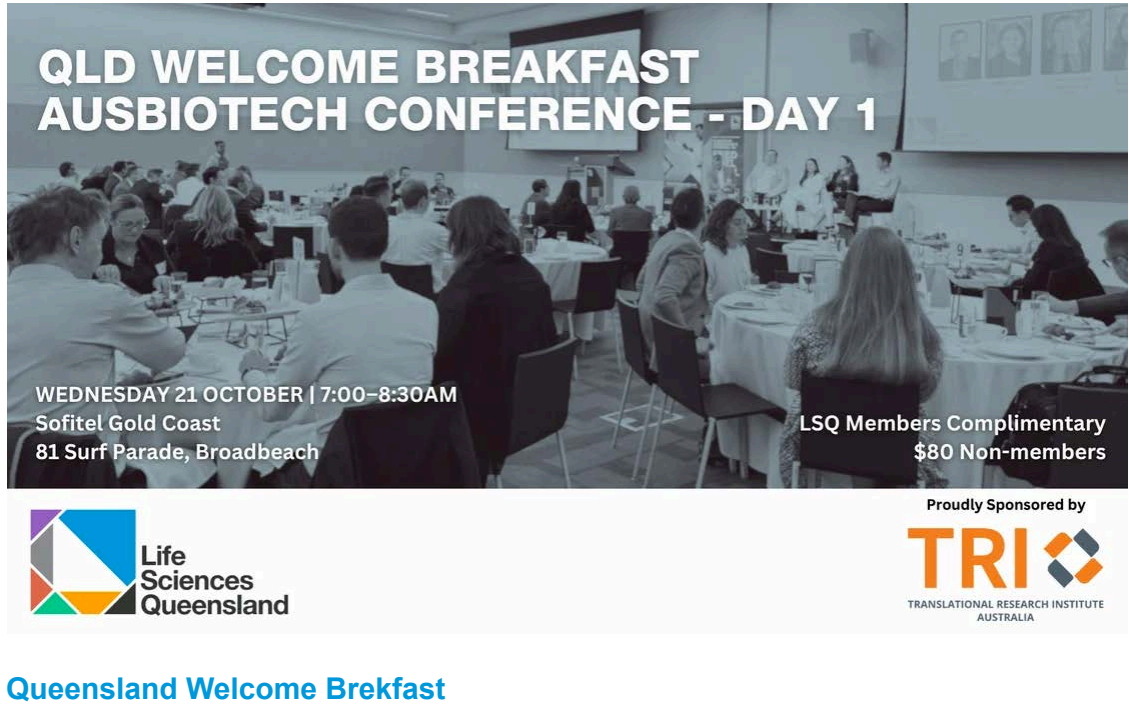
The People, the Awards, the Celebration

Celebrating 15 years of recognising Queensland's life sciences excellence and introducing the newest award - the **BCEC Bio-Innovation Bursary** ... in pictures. [Visit the full gallery here](#)



LSQ at the QMS Symposium

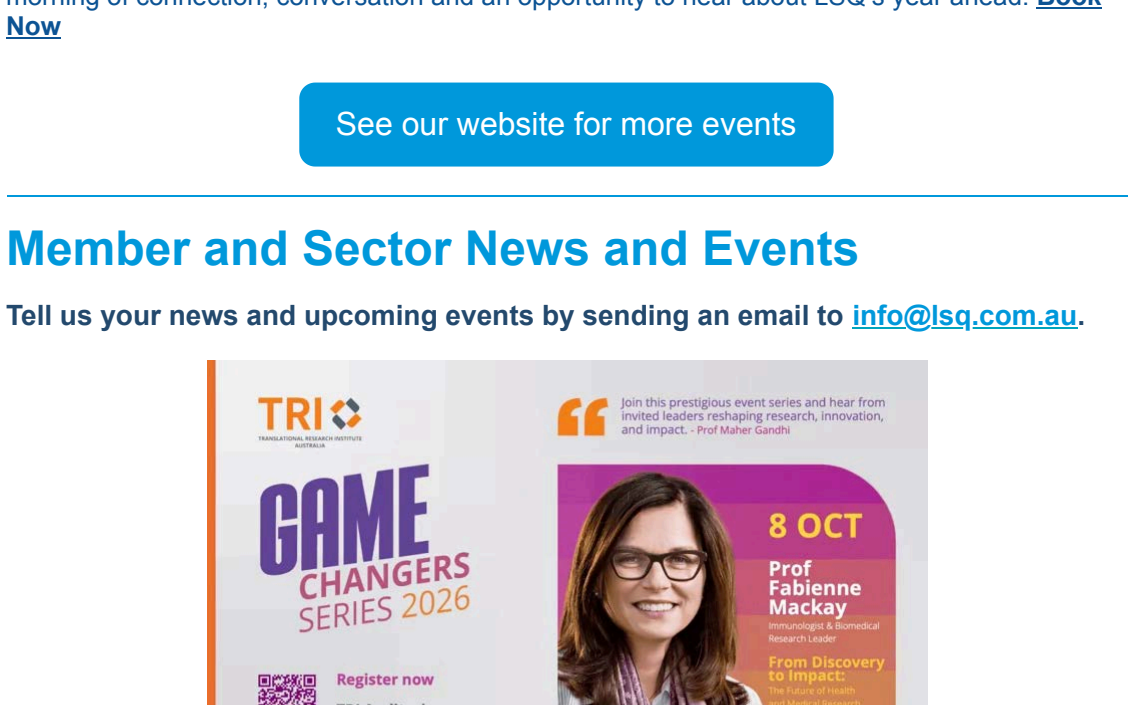
Frank was a featured speaker and panellist at the **From Discovery to Impact: Quality Management Systems - The Academic to Industry Pathway** symposium on **29 September** at the **Frazer Institute, Herston Health Precinct**, sharing his insights alongside industry leaders and experts. Organised by the UQ Centre for Extracellular Vesicle Nanomedicine, the symposium brought together researchers and industry professionals to explore the academic-to-industry pathway, with a focus on quality management systems, translation and commercialisation of research.



LSQ Thirsty Third Thursday - NEW Initiative

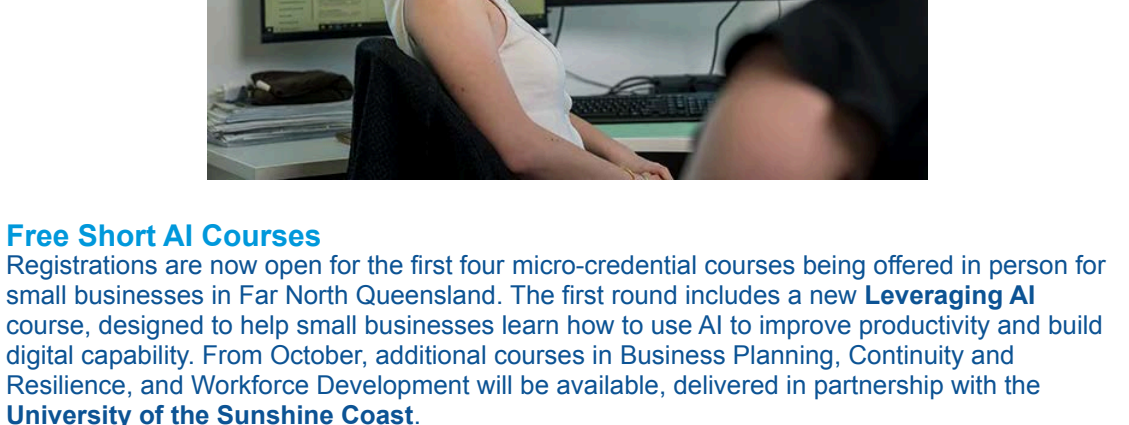
We're launching **LSQ Thirsty Third Thursday (LSQ 3T)** - a relaxed opportunity for Queensland's life sciences community to come together, connect and catch up. **No speeches, no agenda and no entry fee** - just good company and conversation.

Our first LSQ 3Ts will be on **Thursday, 15 October** from **4:30pm** at **Pig 'N' Whistle, Grey Street Southbank**. Come along, meet colleagues from across the sector and help us make this a regular part of the LSQ calendar. [Register Here](#)

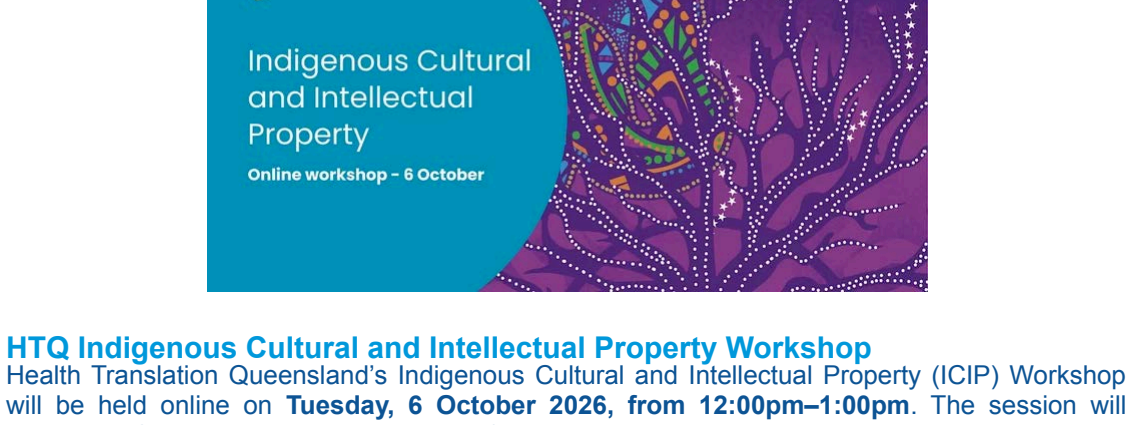


New and Renewing Members

A big thank you to **360biolabs, AdvanCell, Bellberry Limited, Knight Frank, MinterEllison, NuPlant, ProSeek Bio, Radium Capital, Thermo Fisher Scientific and Vaxxas** for your ongoing support. We're thrilled to have you as part of the LSQ community and appreciate your continued commitment to advancing Queensland's life sciences sector.



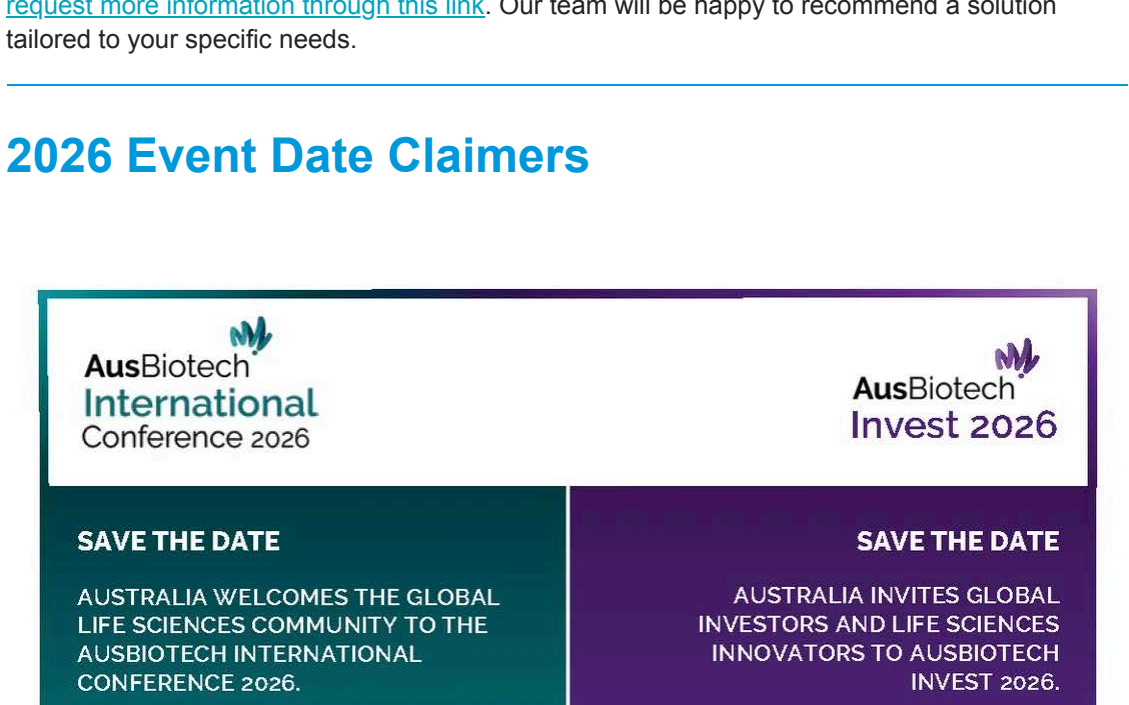
We're also delighted to welcome **Bower Labs, Gelomics, Kings Patent & Trade Marks Attorneys and Vecentra** to the LSQ member family. We look forward to supporting their journey within our network. Click the links to learn more about the valuable work they do.



LSQ Member & Sector Events



Queensland Welcome Breakfast
Join LSQ for an evening of networking and connection at the Queensland Networking Cocktails on **Wednesday, 21 October**, from **7:30pm-10:00pm**. Held alongside the AusBiotech conference, the event brings together researchers, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, investors and life sciences professionals for an opportunity to connect, build relationships and continue conversations in a relaxed and informal setting. [Book Now](#).



2026 LSQ AGM & Networking Breakfast
Join us for the **2026 LSQ Annual General Meeting & Networking Breakfast!** Connect with Queensland's life sciences community at our upcoming AGM and morning networking event, proudly sponsored and hosted by **MinterEllison**. Join us on **Friday 27 November**, from **7:30am-10:00am** at the **MinterEllison offices, Level 22, Waterfront Place, 1 Eagle Street, Brisbane** for a morning of connection, conversation and an opportunity to hear about LSQ's year ahead. [Book Now](#)

[See our website for more events](#)

Member and Sector News and Events

Tell us your news and upcoming events by sending an email to info@lsq.com.au.



TRI Game Changer Seminar Series: Prof Fabienne Mackay
The next **TRI Game Changer Seminar** will be held on **8 October 2026** at the Translational Research Institute. Featuring internationally renowned researcher **Professor Fabienne Mackay**, the seminar will explore the journey from discovery to impact, highlighting the importance of research translation and turning breakthrough discoveries into real-world outcomes for patients, industry and the community. [Read more](#)

DekkoSecure

Mission critical data & file protection.

DekkoSecure Offers LSQ Members FREE Software Trial

With the heightened challenges around protecting sensitive data, DekkoSecure are offering LSQ members a **FREE two-week trial** of its **DEKKOSECURE** solution.

An Australian technology company operating a highly secure platform for sharing sensitive data with external parties is hosted from Australia and IRAP assessed to PROTECTED level.

DekkoCORE runs in your browser alongside existing workflows, and is setup via a 15-minute call. Open to LSQ Members until 31 October.

To get started - email maddie.nelson@dekkosecure.com with "LSQ Trial" in the subject line.



Free Short AI Courses

Registrations are now open for the first four micro-credential courses being offered in person for small businesses in Far North Queensland. The first round includes a new **Leveraging AI** course, designed to help small businesses learn how to use AI to improve productivity and build digital capability. From October, additional courses in **Business Planning, Continuity and Resilience, and Workforce Development** will be available, delivered in partnership with the **University of the Sunshine Coast**. In-person participation also provides an opportunity to connect and network with other local businesses, while small businesses elsewhere in Queensland can participate through **online or self-paced** learning. [Read more](#)

HTQ Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Workshop
Health Translation Queensland's Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) Workshop will be held online on **Tuesday, 6 October 2026**, from **12:00pm-1:00pm** online. The session will provide a foundational understanding of First Nations cultural considerations in health and research, including how to respectfully engage with Indigenous communities, cultural knowledge and data. The workshop is developed by **HTQ** and **Company** and is based on the **Ten True Tracks** Principles for ethical Indigenous engagement. [Read more](#)

HTQ Indigenous Data Sovereignty & Data Governance Workshop
Health Translation Queensland's Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Data Governance Workshop will be held **Tuesday, 13 October 2026**, from **12:00pm-1:00pm** online. The session will explore Indigenous Data Sovereignty in health research and how these principles can be applied through culturally responsive and ethically grounded data governance practices. [Read more](#)

KCA Annual Conference 2026 - Powering the Future Through Value Creation
Join research, industry and government leaders at the **KCA Annual Conference**, taking place **13-16 October 2026** at **Sofitel Brisbane**. The conference will explore innovation, IP, commercialisation and creating real-world value, with networking opportunities across the Australasian sector. [Read more](#)

Google Developer Group DevFest Brisbane 2026 Conference
Join **GDG Brisbane** for a full day exploring **AI, Cloud, security and hands-on technology** at **DevFest Brisbane 2026** on **Saturday, 17 October 2026**, from **9:30am-5:30pm** at **QUT Gardens Point, Brisbane City**. The event will feature practical talks, workshops and community networking around the theme **"Build, Secure, Scale: Developers and Builders in the Agentic Era"**. [Read more](#)

Charles River - New Service Offering

Charles River Microbial Solutions Melbourne is pleased to announce our newly accredited **ISO/IEC 17025 Environmental Monitoring Incubation & Enumeration Service**. This service offering provides incubation, colony enumeration, and reporting for environmental monitoring media plates, helping laboratories improve efficiency, optimize capacity, and maintain confidence in their EM data.

Our **Acquonix® Microbial Identification Services** can now provide seamless support from incubation through identification when microbial growth is detected.

See **EMI Incubation and Enumeration Service notice** to learn more about this new offering or [request more information through this link](#). Our team will be happy to recommend a solution tailored to your specific needs.

2026 Event Date Claimers

AusBiotech International Conference 2026
The AusBiotech International Conference is Australia's largest biotechnology conference and the flagship event of Australia's biggest week in biotech, convening the entire ecosystem and connecting Australian expertise with local and global partnerships.

This year, we will head up the coast as the Conference will take place at the **Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre** on **20 - 23 October**. [Register to attend](#)

ISHCA26: Implementation Science Health Conference Australia
ISHCA is Australia's premier implementation science conference for the health sector, focused on implementing the best evidence in healthcare.

Health Translation Queensland (HTQ) and Tropical Australian Academic Health Centre (TAAHC) together will present the latest advances, expert insights, case studies and results across evidence synthesis, knowledge translation and implementation science.

This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to grow your knowledge, expand your professional networks and gain real-world insights at the nexus of policy, research and practice. It will take place at the **TRI Auditorium** on **26 - 27 November**.

Grants, funding and business opportunities

Biomedical Translational Fund

This fund provides **\$500,000** in venture capital to help develop biomedical discoveries into tangible products, services and outcomes. Discoveries can be therapeutic, medical or pharmaceutical. They can be a product, process, service (including digital health services), technology or procedure. [Read more >>](#)

Austrade Go Global Toolkit

Single-access point for whole-of-government information and advice, providing key market information to potential exporters and those looking to export into new markets. [Read more >>](#)

Dust Diseases Board (DDB) Grants and Awards

Providing \$3.5 million in funding to support innovative research and strengthen emerging and clinical talent focused on the causes, prevention, and management of dust diseases. [Read more >>](#)

For **NHMRC** and **MRFF** grant opportunities visit [GrantConnect](#)

Our foundation supporters and partners

Heartfelt thanks for their impactful support

