

2018 VPS Graduate Recruitment and Development Scheme (GRADS)  
WELCOME EVENT

Speech:   
Miles hutchison, GRAS

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*Graduate Recruit Alumni Society (GRAS)*

Congratulations and welcome to the Victorian Public Service and the graduate community.

I’m Miles Hutchison, the President of the Graduate Recruit Alumni Society (GRAS), and I was a graduate in the VPS GRADS in 2014.

GRAS is a non-profit members’ organisation, first established in 1998. We are a community of around 400 past and present graduates, supported by a volunteer committee who work *“to support a stronger social and professional network within the graduate and graduate alumni community.”*

The grad year is an excellent time to learn about the business of government, and about a range of workplace practices and cultures. Your rotations through a range of agencies will give you a strong foothold in the Victorian Public Service.

Particularly, it’s an opportunity to establish a government-wide network of peers, that you will be able to draw on across your public service career. I believe it’s these strong networks that set graduates and ex-graduates apart from their peers as excellent employees, with an ability to tap into our networks and resolve questions about almost any part of Government far faster and more effectively than our peers.

Personally, I built my public service network through GRAS. That included attending social events like picnics, dinners and balls with my colleagues from across the public service.

It included attending networking events and seminars to hear about new skills or issues that were relevant to me as a grad – often presented by former graduates who were happy to share their experiences.

And in the last couple of years it’s involved helping to manage GRAS so it continues to provide these opportunities to both current and past graduates.

If establishing those connections – or if attending or even managing some of the events I’ve mentioned – sound interesting, I encourage you to join GRAS as soon as you land in your departments next year. At the start of the grad year, we will work with the VPSC and your Departments to send you all the relevant details to become GRAS members, and invite you to our annual welcome barbecue function.

For the networking champions among you, there are a few ways to connect with GRAS and start building your public service network before February. In 3 weeks, on Wednesday 13 December, I’d like to invite you to attend an event at DHHS’s offices where past, present, and hopefully future, grads will meet to build and strengthen their networks through a set of coordinated “speed-networking” activities. Please find me after this event to collect some details and registration information if you’re interested.

Any graduates starting in your roles early, please find me after this event, or write to [info@vpsgras.org](mailto:info@vpsgras.org), about signing up early so we can connect you to our other news, PD and social opportunities.

Congratulations again and I look forward to inviting you all into GRAS when you start with your new departments next year.

Please join myself and the GRAS community after tonight’s formal event, at the Imperial Hotel.