

Information about GRAS for new graduates

The Graduate Recruit Alumni Society (GRAS) is not-for-profit organisation of over 500 past and present graduates from graduate programs across the public sector in Victoria. Our volunteer committee works for and with our members to support a strong social, well-being and professional network through a range of events and initiatives.

On 2 February 2019, GRAS welcomed incoming 2019 graduates at our annual **Welcome BBQ** with over 100 graduates and alumni in attendance. This event was open to graduates and alumni from all graduate programs across the Victorian Public Sector (VPS) and provided attendees with a great opportunity to meet and develop connections across the VPS. If you were unable to attend the Welcome BBQ, you can sign up online (vpsgras.org/membership) and begin receiving our weekly bulletin, which includes details about our weekly Friday Night Drinks (these take place at a different location each week).

This year, GRAS is actively targeting our events to all public sector graduate programs. We are currently scoping a professional networking event tailored to all graduate programs in April 2019 once all the graduate programs have commenced. We would also like your input about which social and professional development events GRAS should organise in the coming year through completing a quick survey (bit.ly/grassurvey).

To provide you with a snapshot of the kinds of events and initiatives GRAS organises, in 2018 we had:

- seminars on 'Diverse Women in Leadership', 'Election Year and the Public Service', 'Career Progression beyond the graduate year' and 'Mental Health and Wellbeing in the workplace'
- weekly Friday Night Drinks and Monthly Alumni Meet Ups
- social events including a ski trip, end of rotation drinks, Christmas in July, Halloween event and our Annual GRAS Ball
- professional networking events such as our 20th anniversary event at Queens Hall (attended by over 300 graduates and alumni) and a 'Mingle and Jingle' themed Networking event in December
- a monthly **Coffee Roulette** program - an opt-in networking opportunity where we connect you with another GRAS member each month by email, through which you can build your professional network with people from across the public sector
- opportunities such as the LIVE mentoring initiative organised by Study Melbourne.

You can find out more about our upcoming and past events by following the news and events section of our website: vpsgras.org/newsandevents.

Joining GRAS

GRAS members receive free or discounted access to all our social and professional development events. We are an independent group, funded through a lifetime membership fee paid by incoming members. For new members in their first year in the public service, **this is \$30**.

Please visit vpsgras.org/membership and fill out the [membership form](#) online and pay the \$30 fee by bank transfer (VPS GRAS, BSB - 063 012, ACC - 1078 9272). Please let us know by [email](#) once you have made the bank transfer.

After we have received the membership fee, we will subscribe you to our weekly bulletin. Our weekly bulletin provides current information on upcoming GRAS events, and other public-sector related news and events. For more information, please visit our website (vpsgras.org) or contact us by email (info@vpsgras.org).