MEDIA RELEASE

21 October 2015

**VicHealth CEO wins Telstra Victoria Business Woman of the Year Award**

VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter has won a prestigious Telstra Victoria Business Woman of the Year Award for her extensive leadership experience across government and the not-for-profit sector.

Ms Rechter was named winner of the Government and Academia category at the 21st Telstra Victoria Business Woman of the Year Awards at Crown Melbourne on Tuesday 20 October 2015.

Ms Rechter was among six women recognised at this year’s event. Judges praised her tenacious attitude when challenging the norm and her bigger picture outlook. All six winners will now compete in the national finals on 18 November 2015.

Ms Rechter was appointed CEO of VicHealth in 2012. Her current Ministerial appointments include membership of the Liquor Control Advisory Council, the Advisory Panel for the Inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation and Chair of Victoria’s Justice Health Ministerial Advisory Council. Previous appointments include various state and federal committees in the areas of community, arts and health. Ms Rechter is also a World Health Organization Advisor and the current chair of the International Network of Health Promotion Foundations.

Accepting her Telstra Victoria Business Woman of the Year Award, Ms Rechter thanked the Board and staff of VicHealth for their ongoing support. “I work with a wonderful team of skilled and committed people at VicHealth so I really want to acknowledge them. I want to thank the Board of VicHealth who is not afraid of taking risks, not afraid of stepping out in front of tough, complex issues and supporting the innovative work we produce each and every day. I’m extremely proud to lead such a progressive organisation.”

VicHealth Chair Professor Emeritus John Catford said Ms Rechter’s award is well deserved. “In the three years since her appointment as CEO, Jerril has positioned VicHealth as a global leader in health promotion with a clear 10-year plan to help one million more Victorians live healthier and happier lives. As a result of her vision, VicHealth was named the World Health Organization’s first Collaborating Centre for Leadership in Health Promotion. Jerril is an outstanding leader and mentor who has helped VicHealth foster deeper ties with stakeholders across politics, health, sports, research, education and the broader community.”

**-ends-**

**Note to editors**

For information on the 2015 Telstra Victoria Business Woman of the Year Awards, visit <https://www.telstrabusinesswomensawards.com/news/2015/e-commerce-network-co-founder-crowned-victorias-top-business-woman-new-news/>