



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

## 2018 Francis Gurry Lecture on Intellectual Property

Melbourne Law School

Public Event

Presented in conjunction with The Institute of Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys of Australia

### Intellectual Property and the Business of Innovation

**Bill Ferris AC**  
Chair, Innovation and Science Australia board

Against the backdrop of over a quarter of a century of uninterrupted growth, and stock markets posting new multi-year highs, it is tempting to conclude that Australian business is in great shape. However, underlying these statistics is a disturbing downward trend in business investment in R&D, and continued lacklustre patenting activity by Australian firms. Meanwhile, on the international scene (and notably not just in the US), we are observing double digit growth rates in platform-based businesses built around breakthrough new technologies. It is also significant that these firms have built up vast intellectual property estates which form a key part of their competitive advantage. In this talk Mr Ferris will explore some of the challenges that he believes Australian firms will need to overcome if they are to compete effectively in the decade to come, and the role that intellectual property can play in assisting them.

#### Generously supported by:



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#### About the speaker

Bill Ferris AC is a 45-year veteran of private equity in Australasia, founding Australia's first venture capital firm in 1970. He has held numerous of directorships, including as chairman, in range of public sector and private sectors organisations, including: Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Accolade Wines Australia and UK, Astar United Communications, Bradken Resources, and Australian Trade Commission.

Mr Ferris was appointed Chair of the Innovation and Science Australia (ISA) Board in November 2015. ISA is an independent board responsible for providing strategic whole-of-government advice on all science, research and innovation matters. In January 2018 ISA released *Australia 2030: Prosperity through Innovation*, a national roadmap for action to strengthen Australia's innovation performance and help put Australia on track to be a top-tier innovation nation by 2030.

Mr Ferris holds an honours degree in Economics from the University of Sydney and a Master of Business Administration from Harvard Business School where he graduated as a Baker Scholar in 1970. He is the author of three books: *Really Making a Difference* (1993), *Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained* (2000), and *Inside Private Equity* (2013).

# IPTA



#### Event details

##### MELBOURNE

**Date:** Tuesday 28 August 2018

**Time:** 6:00pm - 8:00pm

**6:00pm** Pre-lecture refreshments

**6:30pm** Lecture

**Venue:** Melbourne Law School  
185 Pelham Street, Carlton

##### SYDNEY

**Date:** Thursday 30 August 2018

**Time:** 6:00pm - 8:30pm

**6:00pm** Lecture

**7:30pm** Cocktail reception

**Venue:** Customs House  
31 Alfred Street, Sydney

#### Enquiries

03 9035 1111

#### Bookings

Bookings are essential for this free event. Register here:

**MELBOURNE:** [click here](#)

**SYDNEY:** [click here](#)