

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Wednesday, 2 February 2022

SECURING RAPID TESTS AND MAKING THEM IN VICTORIA

The Victorian Government is supporting local manufacturing of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) to help secure critical supplies for the state and create more local jobs in our thriving medical technology sector.

Lumos Diagnostics, together with its delivery partner Planet Innovation, will establish a manufacturing facility and innovation hub in Victoria with support from the Government.

If approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Lumos, who are already making RATs for Canadian and European markets, will produce one million tests a month from April, three million a month after July, with full production from October onwards of up to 50 million RATs each year.

The Government will secure priority supply of several million tests from Lumos to meet demand in the coming months.

The Lumos facility will be able to produce diagnostic tests for infectious diseases, tropical diseases, chronic diseases and reproductive health, in addition to RATs. Through the innovation hub, local start-ups, research and development institutes and small-to-medium businesses will also have access to product development and manufacturing support programs.

The project will create at least 70 ongoing jobs, adding to Victoria's thriving medical and advanced manufacturing sector that already employs thousands of Victorians across the state.

The Government has provided \$268.5 million in funding to accelerate coronavirus treatment research and is supporting the first mRNA vaccine manufacturing facility in the southern hemisphere to be built in Melbourne by 2024.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

"Manufacturing rapid antigen tests in Victoria will protect and secure the state's supply chain and create local jobs."

"Being able to scale up production so quickly shows the strength of Victoria's advanced manufacturing capabilities."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy Jaala Pulford

"School is back, businesses are open and we can spend time with the people we love doing the things we have missed."

"Rapid antigen tests are a big part of living safely and having a secure, locally made supply will serve us incredibly well."

Quote attributable to Lumos Diagnostics Executive Chair Sam Lanyon

"As an organisation founded in Victoria, Lumos Diagnostics is proud to establish a Victorian manufacturing hub for in collaboration with Planet Innovation and with support from the Victorian Government."

Quote attributable to Planet Group Co-CEO Stuart Elliot

"Planet Innovation is delighted to work alongside Lumos Diagnostics and with support from the Victorian Government to locally manufacture a range of diagnostic rapid tests that will support Victoria through the current COVID pandemic and into the future."

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