Media Release

The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC
Minister for Employment
Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy
Minister for Small Business
Minister for Resources

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INNOVATION CHALLENGE TO DRIVE MEDTECH MANUFACTURING

The Andrews Labor Government is improving the lives of people with disabilities and health conditions by backing the state's brightest minds to deliver new locally manufactured medtech.

Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy Jaala Pulford visited Swinburne University today to announce $400,000 in funding for two new innovation challenges to fast-track the development of healthcare products.

The Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery Medtech Challenge and the Swinburne LivingAT Health Innovation Challenge will strengthen ties between allied health workers, researchers, developers and manufacturers while propelling the commercialisation of new ideas.

The Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery Medtech Challenge will focus on creating special equipment to assist people with conditions including type 2 diabetes, osteoarthritis and neurological conditions such as epilepsy.

While customised designs for new mobility aids, like wheelchairs and walkers, are expected to come out of the Swinburne LivingAT Health Innovation Challenge.

The programs are funded by the Australian Medtech Manufacturing Centre – a Labor Government initiative to spearhead the state's push to become a global leader in healthcare design and innovation, while building local manufacturing capability and creating jobs.

Victoria's medtech sector is one of the fastest growing local industries, generating $21.4 billion in revenue and $3.5 billion in exports and supporting more than 31,400 jobs across industries.

The programs complement recent Government investments in medtech which have enabled companies such as Compumedics to make its medical-grade wearable monitoring device in Abbotsford after a decade of manufacturing overseas.

For more information about the Australian Medtech Manufacturing Centre visit djpr.vic.gov.au/ammc.

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

"This program is backing the brightest minds to innovate and design new technologies that will assist people with disabilities or health conditions such as diabetes and osteoarthritis to live more independently and improve their quality of life."

"We're supporting local production of health and medtech products to create new local jobs, reduce our reliance on overseas suppliers and protect us from supply chain disruptions."

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