

Heidi Victoria MP

Member for Bayswater District

Minister for the Arts

Minister for Women's Affairs

Minister for Consumer Affairs

2/40 Station Street, Bayswater 3153 Ph: 9729 1622 Fax: 9729 0912

E: heid.victoria@parliament.vic.gov.au

www.heidvictoria.com.au



13 May 2013

Coalition awards voucher to encourage local innovation

Bayswater-based microelectronics manufacturing company, Hybrid Electronics Manufacturing, will work with VCAMM to produce a new technology safety switch product – thanks to support from the Victorian Coalition Government.

Hybrid Electronics Manufacturing has received a Business Research and Development (R&D) voucher worth \$25,000 under the Coalition Government's \$5 million Innovation Voucher Program, the Member for Bayswater, Hon Heidi Victoria MP, announced today.

Ms Victoria said the Innovation Voucher Program provides Victorian businesses with access to the external research capability and skills needed to discover, develop and test new ideas.

"Victoria is known for its world-class R&D capability and the Innovation Voucher Program assists businesses to engage with other companies and research organisations to improve their products, processes and services and help them compete globally," Ms Victoria said.

"Hybrid Electronics Manufacturing will use its voucher to work with VCAMM to construct, evaluate and modify a new design of a safety switch that provides reliable residual current detection in difficult environments."

Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business Louise Asher said that through the Innovation Voucher Program, the Coalition Government aims to make it easier for companies to access the know-how they need to innovate.

"The Business R&D vouchers provide a quick and effective method for local and international companies to access the wealth of R&D knowledge available in Victoria," Ms Asher said.

"Applications for the vouchers are open to ensure companies can utilise the program when they need it, without slowing down the innovation process. I look forward to seeing more companies using the vouchers to improve their products and processes and remain competitive in local and global markets."

In addition to the vouchers, as part of the Innovation Voucher Program, a Searchable Directory of Victorian R&D Capabilities and Suppliers has been established, listing companies and organisations that can provide R&D services to industry, including potential voucher applicants.

The directory lists over 110 suppliers that have signed up to participate in the Innovation Voucher Program and enables companies to easily match their R&D needs with supplier capabilities.

For further information about the Innovation Voucher Program visit www.business.vic.gov.au/ivp