

Innovation Acceleration Program regional pilot

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE AND BENDIGO HEALTH

BENDIGO HEALTH SELECTED AS FIRST REGIONAL PILOT FOR HEALTH-LED MANUFACTURING INNOVATION PROGRAM

The Innovation Acceleration Program (IAP) regional pilot will examine a practical model to engage regional healthcare staff in the development of new manufactured medical technologies, particularly for remote monitoring and at home patient care.

Run by the University of Melbourne and regional health network Bendigo Health, the IAP will identify new "ready to go" medtech manufacturing opportunities by encouraging and supporting regional clinicians to understand entrepreneurial thinking, enabling them to translate their ideas into commercially viable and impactful solutions for patients and healthcare providers.

The IAP will aim to open up access to regional clinicals and healthcare settings for local manufacturers and product developers to gain essential market insights, and explore clinical trial and market validation opportunities.

The pilot connects clinicians with a multi-disciplinary team of innovators, engineers and manufacturers to address urgent medical needs. The teams work together to create real-world medtech solutions, alongside other hospital stakeholders, medtech entrepreneurs, investors and mentors.

The 12-month regional pilot will support healthcare professionals to develop their innovative ideas through leadership mentoring and masterclasses in medtech manufacturing, intellectual property and commercialisation pathways.

The IAP was built on the learnings from the McMonty by medihood project, a collaboration between Western Health intensive care specialist Dr Forbes McGain and the University of Melbourne's Head of Mechanical Engineering Dr Jason Monty

HOW IT WORKS

The IAP pilot will support up to eight clinically-led projects with mentoring, business advice, masterclasses, medtech manufacturing introductions, and IP and commercialisation services.

Bendigo Health professionals who have identified an unmet medical need will be matched with University of Melbourne experts, who will work with healthcare staff to develop their innovative ideas into products that are fit-for-purpose, commercially-viable and have a path to procurement.

Each team will conceptualise their solution and address key commercial questions, with the hospital and research leads supported through an entrepreneurial training program to develop their medtech product commercialisation expertise. The pilot will finish in a pitch process to secure up to \$100,000 in seed funding and prototype development.

Successful projects will be connected with small-scale Victorian manufacturers that can help clinicians move from a validated clinical problem to a prototype that can be tested within the health system.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- At least two validated medtech products that can be progressed with local partners.
- Increased engagement with key decision makers within the Victorian healthcare system with insight into the pathway to purchasing and procurement.
- Increased clinician interest in applying outcomes and discoveries to patient treatment.
- A reproducible model and approach to develop, validate and trial technologies for chronic diseases within Victoria.
- A clearer understanding of critical and costly problems for the Victorian healthcare system that could be solved by local medtech innovators.

HEALTH-LED MANUFACTURING INNOVATION PROGRAM

The Health-led Manufacturing Innovation Program (HMIP) program is designed to unlock the potential for new ideas and manufactured solutions within Victoria's healthcare system. It will grow health system-led medtech manufacturing activity in Victoria by testing new ways for entrepreneurial minds to work together to bring their ideas to market.

By trialling new operating models at each stage of the development pathway, AMMC is supporting our partners to uncover new ways to meet clinician needs and get healthcare solutions into use faster, both in Victoria and abroad.

HMIP brings together clinicians, healthcare professionals, medtech innovators, manufacturers, engineers, researchers and commercial expertise to remove barriers and accelerate the introduction of ground-breaking new medical technologies that can transform care.

Over the next 12 months, the HMIP service delivery partners will facilitate different working models to unlock clinical needs and connect with the local medtech manufacturing industry so that more fit-for-purpose and commercially-viable medtech solutions can be developed in Victoria.

The learnings from the working models will inform future approaches and funding models to drive new product development. AMMC will also share this knowledge and understanding of how to validate demand for clinical needs with local manufacturing capabilities across Victoria and more broadly.

PILOT OBJECTIVES

- Identify medical devices that support remote monitoring and improve patient care.
- Identify 'ready-to-go' medtech manufacturing opportunities that are de-risked for companies through extensive healthcare system engagement and clear demand.
- Attract new companies to work in regional communities of Victoria.
- Deliver procurement opportunities for locally manufactured medtech products.
- Retain talented clinical staff with entrepreneurial ambitions.
- Boost entrepreneurship and product commercialisation in regional Victoria.
- Create new, highly skilled jobs.
- Help improve health outcomes for Victorians.

"By supporting opportunities for clinically-focused medtech manufacturing activity in Victoria, AMMC aims to bring to market real-world solutions that solve complex healthcare challenges."

**> SHELLEY JACKSON,
DIRECTOR, AMMC**

AUSTRALIAN MEDTECH MANUFACTURING CENTRE

The Australian Medtech Manufacturing Centre (AMMC) is a \$20 million Victorian Government initiative to support the growth of medical technology manufacturing in Victoria.

In partnerships with health agencies, industry and peak bodies, AMMC is championing Victorian capabilities to help create a burgeoning local medtech manufacturing sector – one that generates jobs, skills and economic activity at home, exports high-quality products to the world, and protects the community's health into the future.

GET IN TOUCH

For more information about HMIP, contact ammc@ecodev.vic.gov.au

www.vic.gov.au/AMMC

