



MEDIA RELEASE

IAN MACFARLANE

Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources

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AUSTRALIAN COMPANY MAKING WORLD HOSPITALS SAFER

A world-class medical device, developed by the Brisbane company Qlicksmart Pty Ltd, that makes scalpel blades a lot more safer was launched today by Australian Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane.

The device, called the *Sterile Blade Remover*, enables the safe removal, containment and disposal of used scalpel blades from their handles - avoiding the risk and cost of injury and infection to hospital staff.

“The Qlicksmart innovation is a terrific example of an Australian company thinking outside the box to deliver a medical device which has the potential to change safety practices in medical sectors worldwide,” said Mr Macfarlane.

“It’s always pleasing to see a product with such potential come through the entire innovation chain. Qlicksmart has taken a good idea and pushed it through the design, development and manufacture stages to start distribution world-wide.”

“The medical devices sector is worth about \$824 million in exports to Australia annually and employs more than 5500 people so this sort of product realisation is a vital investment in the industry’s future,” he said.

Established in Brisbane in 1994 by Dr Michael Sinnott and Dr Neville Henry AM, Qlicksmart Pty Ltd is a small, cutting-edge medical device company which sells products in more than 43 countries.

Qlicksmart and its products are exciting proof of the success of the Australian Government’s support of Australian innovation. Qlicksmart has been supported by the government’s R&D Tax Concession and an *R&D Start* grant.

Mr Macfarlane used the opportunity to also launch a unique staff and patient safety program at Melbourne’s St Vincents and Mercy Hospital.

The *Show You Care* Program focuses on improving the hospital’s safety culture by increasing reporting of incidents and ‘closing the loop’ by ensuring safety incidents are rectified and procedures changed to ensure it can’t happen again.

“Hospital staff live with the constant threat of “sharps” injuries and anything to reduce the risk of such injury, which in the extreme can be life threatening, gets my vote. I hope other hospitals will look closely at adopting a similar program,” he said.

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