



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$6 MILLION TO BRING MEDICAL DEVICES TO MARKET

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today awarded over \$6 million in grants to innovative organisations for the development of ground breaking medical technologies in the 2014 round of the NSW Government's Medical Devices Fund (MDF).

Mrs Skinner said the grants will enable the four recipients to accelerate their medical devices towards the market, delivering hope for people with a range of medical ailments.

"In its second year, the Medical Devices Fund is going from strength to strength and this year's recipients have developed technologies which will go a long way to improving the lives of patients," Mrs Skinner said.

"From improving knee replacements to faster diagnosis for viral and bacterial meningitis, it's clear the discovery and development of these devices can change the lives of people who face significant health challenges."

The four recipients who will share grants totalling \$6.05 million are:

- **SpeedX Pty Ltd** for a ground-breaking DNA detection technology to develop tests to quickly diagnose diseases like meningitis;
- **Allegra Orthopaedics Limited** for a synthetic bone graft medical device not currently available for orthopaedic patients;
- **Kico Knee Innovation Company Pty Ltd** for technology to enhance knee replacements;
- **Sydney Children's Hospitals Network** for a revolutionary paediatric implant to treat children born with brittle bones or malformed legs.

Mrs Skinner, who announced the recipients at ResMed Ltd, said the Medical Devices Fund was a pre-election commitment of the NSW Liberals & Nationals.

"NSW has long been a world leader in the development of medical devices and we have a lot to be proud of in this space. The fund demonstrates the NSW Government's strong commitment to medical research. It is not an after-thought – medical research is inextricably linked to enhancing our health system and is firmly on the government's agenda," she said.

Mrs Skinner said last year's Medical Devices Fund grant recipients are reaching new milestones in the development of their technologies.

"Last year, Endoluminal received almost \$2.5 million for the development of breakthrough technology for the treatment of failing heart valves.

"I'm pleased to report Endoluminal has now been licensed to Symetis, a Swiss heart valve company that is taking the technology into first-in-human clinical trials for the treatment of aortic valve disease. This is an incredible achievement.

“I’m pleased to see the Medical Devices Fund thriving for the benefit of medical researchers and the third round is set to open for applications at the end of this year,” Mrs Skinner said.

To view the four recipients of the Medical Devices Fund, go to www.health.nsw.gov.au/ohmr/mdf