



Media Release

Peter Styles
Minister for Business

Entrepreneurs get BISI in the NT

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The Northern Territory Government is giving small business the chance to turn their innovative ideas into reality with grants worth up to \$60,000. Minister for Business Peter Styles is calling for applications for the Government's Business Innovation Support Initiatives (BISI) program.

"Assisting in the commercial realisation of Territorians business ideas is a priority for the Northern Territory Government, by supporting innovative businesses concepts that encourage new partnerships that generate business in the Territory," Minister for Business Peter Styles said.

"The Northern Territory Government established the BISI program, to assist Territory business people to commercialise the solutions they find to problems every day.

"There have been some amazing and really practical business innovations in the Territory over the years – take for example Steven Camilleri who was the successful recipient of 2014-15 grants round."

Steven Camilleri is one of the founders of 'In Motion Technologies' which has subsequently evolved into an international enterprise working with organisations including NASA and Bosch. Steven is now a founding partner in a new company 'Effusion', focusing on 3D printing technology.

"The awarding of the grant and vouchers has allowed us to stretch our personal dollars at a very early stage in developing and commercialising our innovation," said Mr Camilleri.

"It has sped up the process and rather than still being at the talking stage, we are already doing much more technology work. This type of business support is extremely valuable at this early stage for a start-up company, allowing us to retain equity and remain in the Territory, developing our ideas."

Aimed at stimulating, initiating and promoting innovation by assisting businesses to commence research and development projects in the areas of science, engineering, technology and design, the BISI grants could lead to successful new products, processes and services becoming available as a result.

“The program supports NT-based and registered start-ups, micro businesses and SMEs by encouraging creativity, inspiring new ideas and assisting new collaborations to develop new ideas supporting businesses and service providers to commercialise new ideas,” Mr Styles said.

Supported projects include:

- Undertaking feasibility studies
- Building prototypes
- Initiating R&D activities/trials.

Minister Styles said applications are open and submissions need to be in by Tuesday 18 August 2015.

“The competitive BISI grants scheme is now open and provides up to 50% support worth up to \$60,000 to eligible projects, this is a huge hand up to a potential business owner,” he said.

“There is also the Innovation vouchers which are available all year round, and provides up to 60% support for eligible projects, with each voucher worth up to \$25,000.”

The BISI program provides funding in two ways: a voucher scheme that supports contractual agreements between applicant businesses and research service providers, and a grants scheme to support applicant businesses with the in-house capacity to do their own research.

Applicants for the Innovation vouchers who successfully acquit a supported project can apply for additional vouchers to further develop the idea. Multiple applicants seeking the same solution can combine up to four vouchers to support a contract with a single research service provider.

For more information on the BISI program, visit www.dob.nt.gov.au/bisi

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