

MEDIA RELEASE



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CIVVIC LABS ACCELERATOR INVITES STARTUPS TO APPLY FOR SECOND COHORT

CivVic Labs, Australia's first accelerator designed to help startups gain access to government procurement opportunities, is accepting applications for its next cohort.

Funded by LaunchVic, with additional funding from the Public Sector Innovation Fund, CivVic Labs seeks to connect startups with Victorian Government opportunities to fuel the growth of early-stage ventures.

This round, WorkSafe, the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, Department of Education and Training, Department of Transport and Department of Premier and Cabinet are looking for startups to develop products and solutions to public sector challenges.

[The WorkSafe](#) challenge seeks to explore how emerging technology can help prevent physical and mental injuries in high-risk industries, including agriculture and manufacturing.

With 24 lives lost at work in Victoria in 2017-2018 and many others affected by avoidable injuries, WorkSafe are tapping into startup creativity to help shape how they manage health and safety in the future.

[The Department of Premier and Cabinet](#) challenge seeks to make cybersecurity more accessible and relevant to Victorian Public Sector employees.

Open to new approaches to cybersecurity awareness like EdTech or gamification, the Department of Premier and Cabinet is seeking agile startups able to have a meaningful impact on cybersecurity literacy and resilience in the public sector.

The [Department of Transport](#) is returning to the accelerator after success in the first cohort earlier this year.

This time, the Department of Transport is looking to Victoria's startup community for new ways to understand and enhance user safety, mobility and satisfaction with a focus on making asset management more responsive to the diverse requirements of transport users, particularly the personal safety of women and girls.

Finally, the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions and the Department of Education and Training have joined forces on a challenge looking to encourage Victorian teenagers to engage in physical activity, beyond that of organised sport.

This challenge is a great opportunity to disrupt the way Victorian teens exercise with new innovations from HealthTech and SportsTech, key strengths of the State's startup ecosystem.

These challenges present significant opportunities for startups and founders looking to secure a government customer but unsure about how to navigate the government

procurement process. In the three-month accelerator, startups work directly with a potential government customer on a Minimum Viable Product with the opportunity to secure a \$150k government contract at the end.

Dr Kate Cornick, CEO of LaunchVic, said that "the response from both the startups and government agencies involved in our first cohort has been exceptionally positive".

Sandy Buchanan, General Manager at WeGuide, which participated in the first cohort, said CivVic Labs has been a fantastic inroad into Victoria's public sector, "CivVic Labs has been an amazing side door entry to the public hospital system, and has provided invaluable exposure to the public sector".

Mr Buchanan was also surprised at the appetite for innovation within the system, saying that the CivVic Labs has "demystified the government process".

"Usually the government procurement process means putting forward a solution that can be rolled out across the whole state – this process allows us to test a proof of concept and then explore how we could build it out across the system. This way of thinking is so different from how the public sector usually works, and it's really exciting to be at the forefront of this revolution," he added.

"Every public sector professional we have met through CivVic Labs is highly driven and inspiring to work with. They want to be innovative and provide the best outcome with their patients, but their creativity is hamstrung within existing structures."

Startups are invited to apply at civvic.org.au.

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About LaunchVic

LaunchVic is Victoria's lead startup ecosystem development agency. We invest in organisations and projects that empower entrepreneurs to scale innovative companies and deliver new industry benefits to the Victorian economy.

At LaunchVic, we're fuelling the startup ecosystem by supporting entrepreneurs and investors to sustainably grow and deliver economic and cultural benefits for Victoria.

To find our more, visit www.launchvic.org