




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Manufacturing Industry

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.44 am): When the pandemic struck, we were the first in Australia to act. We were the first to declare a public health emergency. In May 2020 we announced up to \$50 million in funding to help Queensland manufacturers make essential goods like protective equipment, health consumables and devices. Through the program, we have been working with industry to develop and expand manufacturing and production capacity of essential goods and services.

Whether it is assistance to design, up-tool, reprioritise or pivot production, we have been supporting Queensland businesses. The grants also allow companies to design new products and take them through the clinical approval process. Already we are seeing Queensland companies delivering great products as a result of this assistance. Some of these companies will be here at Parliament House today and are keen to showcase their products to us. In the lunchbreak today here at Parliament House members will be able to see these products and meet these hardworking Queensland companies that have stood up to make a difference in response to the pandemic.

I encourage members to take this opportunity to meet and see firsthand Ellume's COVID-19 home testing kits, produced right here in Brisbane and in hot demand in the United States. AnteoTech, which just last week achieved a vital European registration for its 15-minute COVID-19 antigen rapid test, will be here. Evolve Group will demonstrate their certified P2 masks. WearOptimo's wearable sticker-like health device will be on display. It monitors things like hydration and replaces the need for frequent blood testing. Imaging Solutions will show members their apparel and some innovative core material samples developed with the University of Queensland. MCP will show off their bespoke medical face masks, including face masks for children, and their work to provide innovative solutions for disposable medical gowns, booties and head wear. Cumulatively, these businesses, through this government's assistance, will onshore both technology and products previously made overseas. Many of them are the first in Australia to manufacture their product.

Today I am also pleased to announce that the Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing Hub has been successful through the fund. The hub will work with two businesses, Spinal Life Australia and Consolidated Linen, to develop new technologies. I encourage all members to join us in the parliament's lunchbreak to meet these businesses and show your appreciation for their work in protecting Queenslanders' health and creating jobs here in Queensland.