



# Media release

**The Hon Louise Asher MP**

Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business  
Minister for Tourism and Major Events

Thursday 30 June 2011

## **Nominations open for 2011 Victoria Prize and Fellowships**

Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business Louise Asher has urged leading and emerging innovators and researchers in science, engineering and technology to apply for the prestigious Victoria Prize and early-career Victoria Fellowships, which opened today.

"Research and innovation are the foundation from which knowledge-based economies and societies grow. These two award programs are designed to celebrate, nurture and reward talented Victorians," Ms Asher said.

"The \$50,000 Victoria Prize from the Victorian Coalition Government will recognise an individual whose discovery or innovation has significantly advanced knowledge or has the potential to produce commercial and/or community benefits," Ms Asher said.

Past Victoria Prize recipients have been honoured for their contributions such as the world's first zero waste technology for the plastics and car industry, the treatment of heart disease, the discovery of a new class of anti-influenza virus drugs and the development of the world's first plastic bank note.

The research institute supporting the work of the Victoria Prize winner will be recognised through the \$100,000 Anne and Eric Smorgon Memorial Award.

"Our Foundation is proud to continue the association with the Coalition Government in celebrating and supporting excellence in the fields of science, engineering and technology for the benefit of our community and beyond," said Andrew Blode, CEO of the Jack & Robert Smorgon Families Foundation.

"Six Victoria Fellowships worth \$18,000 will also be awarded to early-career professionals to undertake specialist training overseas," Ms Asher said.

Past Victoria Fellowship recipients have worked in many different fields, including health and medicine, food and agriculture, sustainability and environment, fire and blast-resistant engineering, virtual reality technology and robotics.

"The Coalition Government supports discovery and development in research and innovation, and we are eager to ensure Victoria maintains its status as a world-leading centre of innovative excellence," Ms Asher said.

Applications close 3 August 2011. For more information visit [www.business.vic.gov.au/vicprize](http://www.business.vic.gov.au/vicprize) or [www.business.vic.gov.au/vicfellows](http://www.business.vic.gov.au/vicfellows)

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