Innovation initiative supports world-first virtual vet clinic

29 May 2016

A new, innovative, internet-based veterinary service, i-vet, developed locally with the help of the Northern Territory Government’s Business Innovation Support Initiatives (BISI) is delivering world-first treatment for remote Territorians.

Minister for Business Peter Styles said i-vet provides a platform for online video consultations as well as online booking and payment systems, an emergency on-call vet and instructional videos.

“This initiative is leading the way in its field and is exactly the type of innovation our BISI program is designed to support,” Mr Styles said.

“Its creator, Dr Susanna Samuelsson, was inspired to develop a tool to help remote Territorians and their pets after spending seven years as the local vet in Gove.

“She saw first-hand the difficulty remote Territorians experienced simply getting to the vet and has developed i-vet to help them and their pets.

“This also has the wider potential to assist people isolated not only geographically but by illness and disability as well.”

An NT Government BISI voucher for $24,000 assisted Dr Sue to pilot the system in the Nhulunbuy region with excellent results.

“I’m proud of the difference i-vet has and will make to pet owners,” Dr Samuelsson said.

“It means those disadvantaged by distance, illness or disability will still have access to vet care because i-vet takes it into their homes.

“There are no other virtual vet clinics like i-vet, so we have traversed unchartered waters during our development phase and pilot program.

“Integrating an online appointment system and linking it into our management system was particularly challenging because it was the first of its kind.

“But now we are tried, tested and ready to launch to the world.”
The BISI program is designed to encourage and enable innovation within the Northern Territory business community.

It includes vouchers of up to $25,000 and round-based and competitive grants of up to $60,000 to commercialise innovations.

To find out more about BISI vouchers and grants visit Business Innovation Support Initiatives.

More information can be found at www.i-vet.com.au

Media Contact: Rebecca Barr 0407 284 066