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Medicinal Agriculture Hub funded



La Trobe University has been recognised as a national leader in the emerging field of medicinal agriculture.

The University has welcomed the news that Australia's first Research Hub for Medicinal Agriculture will be located at its Melbourne campus in Bundoora. The \$27+ million initiative will combine extensive research and industry expertise to create new jobs and drive better health outcomes.

Federal Minister for Education and Training Simon Birmingham today announced almost \$5 million of funding towards the La Trobe-led Australian Research Council (ARC) Industry Transformation Research Hub (ITRH) for Medicinal Agriculture. La Trobe has committed \$10 million, with a commitment of \$6 million from industry partners.

Minister Birmingham said the Hub was a major step forward for Australia's developing medicinal agriculture industry.

"This is about injecting knowledge at all parts of the supply chain from producers to manufacturers and exporters to ensure they have the tools to develop and expand their enterprises," Minister Birmingham said.

La Trobe University Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Dewar, said the Hub would position Australia as a world leader, and aligns with Victoria's strong focus on the emerging medicinal agriculture market.

"The new ARC Research Hub for Medicinal Agriculture will combine La Trobe's exceptional research capabilities in the fields of agricultural and biomedical sciences, with the capabilities of our research and industry partners, to provide a much-needed evidence base around the growth and use of medicinal plants such as cannabis," Professor Dewar said.