

InDaily Briefcase: Business snippets from around SA

By David Simmons
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Cassie Hames has developed the “See Me” app to help visually impaired people use public transport. Photo: supplied

Public transport accessibility app set for trial

A locally developed app designed to support vision-impaired public transport commuters will trial across the country following a \$500,000 investment from the iMOVE Cooperative Research Centre.

“See Me” allows users to alert bus drivers of their presence at a stop and, once onboard, the app notifies users of upcoming stops, limiting the stress and guesswork of independent transit.

The idea was conceived by Adelaide software programmer at SAGE Automation, Cassie Hames, based on her experiences as a legally blind passenger.

“Going out into the community shouldn’t be less of an experience from one person to the next, regardless of ability,” Hames previously told InDaily.

“I wanted to develop a solution that increases accessibility for all people so that everyone can feel comfortable, confident, and safe catching the bus.”

iMOVE CRC managing director Ian Christensen called the innovation “a beacon of hope”.

“We’re proud to back Cassie and SAGE with an initiative that doesn’t just move people, but moves the entire transport industry towards a more inclusive future,” Christensen said.

Limited trials of the app are scheduled for South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales commencing in later in 2023.

Hames was last year awarded the Holman Prize and a \$US25,000 grant from LightHouse for the Blind for “See Me”.