



Hon. Chris Cummins MP  
Member for Kawana



*Minister for Small Business, Information  
Technology Policy, and Multicultural  
Affairs*

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### **Acclaimed Gold Coast software developer to receive grant**

One of the world's rising IT industry stars, Sonja Bernhardt, is set to receive a \$10,000 Queensland Industry and Development Scheme grant for her Gold Coast company Thoughtware Australia Pty Ltd.

Minister for Small Business, IT Policy and Multicultural Affairs Chris Cummins made the announcement today on a visit to the Gold Coast State Development Centre and described Ms Bernhardt as the ultimate ambassador for the 'Smart State'.

"Ms Bernhardt has carved a real niche for herself and she is about to become the first Australian to be inducted into the Women in Technology International Hall of Fame," Mr Cummins said.

"That a considerable achievement for the CEO of a Gold Coast-based business that employs less than 20 people. She'll be flying to Silicon Valley (California) for the ceremony on 8 December."

According to Mr Cummins, Thoughtware specialises in project management, HR systems and implementations, qualitative research and surveys, and software development.

"This grant will go towards the development of new HR productivity software designed especially for professionals running practices, such as doctors, dentists, lawyers and accountants," Mr Cummins said.

Ms Bernhardt, who is also a member of the Minister's ICT Advisory Group, explained that the \$10,000 will enable Thoughtware to conduct its primary market research to identify the major challenges these practices face in the area of HR.

"Our company motto is 'where thinking matters' which translates into putting thoughtful consideration into our software. We are trying to create software that's functional rather than just flashy," Ms Bernhardt said.

"When you are a small business as we are, you have to spend a huge amount of money on research and development before you get to the commercialisation of any product. That's why this grant is such a great help," she said.

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