Garth Sutherland knew that patients with diabetes could digitally monitor their insulin use and blood sugar levels. So a question troubled him: why didn’t he and other asthma sufferers have equivalent tools to manage their asthma? With a background in electronics and software, he formed Nexus6. Their recent invention, called Smartinhaler, is an Internet-enabled inhaler that digitally records medication use. The data can be uploaded to a web-based asthma application, and allows the user, clinician and researcher to observe and manage health patterns. Based at the ICEHOUSE in Parnell, the company continues to enhance its devices and software, and two thirds of their revenues are from exports.

Photo: Irwin Munro (standing) and Garth Sutherland of Nexus6