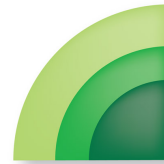




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## Shop around for gas and electricity

A NEW, free service has been launched which can potentially show people how to get cheaper electricity and gas.

The impartial service, called Switchselect.com, allows individuals and families to compare many of the electricity and gas deals now in the marketplace in Victoria.

Through Switchselect.com, consumers can immediately compare the prices of numerous electricity/gas suppliers and then select the one that is the cheapest option.

The creators of the service say it has already helped hundreds and hundreds of people to get cheaper power. Switchselect.com estimates an average four-bedroom home with two adults and two children could be saving up to \$150 a year on its power bills, by comparing the many available deals on their website.

The service comes off the back of concerns about rising power prices following the de-regulation of the power industry in Victoria and reports that electricity prices are set to rise in the coming months. Victorians are estimated to spend over one billion dollars a year on electricity.

Leon Hayes, one of the founders of Switchselect.com, was originally based in the United Kingdom and after de-regulation happened there, services like Switchselect.com started to appear to show consumers how to get a cheaper and better deal.

"Put simply, we show consumers numerous available prices of many suppliers. Then consumers can decide what's best for them and easily switch in less than five minutes. It sounds remarkably simple. It is. We have set up a shop window so that consumers can see many of the deals that are out there," he

said.

Leon Hayes says thousands and thousands of consumers across Australia are, in his view, paying more than they should because they simply don't realise there is cheaper power out there.

To keep the service free for customers, the company gets a small fee from any switching that happens, which is the same fee for all power companies. People wanting to know more should simply call 1800 2 SWITCH (1800 279 482) or visit [www.switchselect.com](http://www.switchselect.com)



**A major new free service has just been launched to potentially show people how to get cheaper electricity and gas. Pictured here are (from left) Leon Hayes and Steven Glover from Switchselect.com**