

31 January 2019

ADDITIONAL EXPERTS BUILDING STARTUP CAPABILITY IN VICTORIAN COWORKING SPACES

LaunchVic, Victoria's startup development agency, today announced that four more coworking spaces will receive funding under its Expert-In-Residence (EIR) program.

Access to experienced mentors has been identified as an indicator of startup success and under LaunchVic's EIR program, coworking spaces across Melbourne will now be able to provide more startups with access to experienced mentors.

Neighbourhood, WeWork, PathHunting and ReActivate Latrobe Valley have been selected to deliver EIR programs that will provide startup founders and their employees with the mentorship and advice needed to grow and scale. The programs will also support the broader Victorian ecosystem through public talks or mentoring sessions.

"Evidence shows that founders with access to experienced mentors are more likely to succeed. We are delighted to be assisting successful recipients to strengthen the Victorian startup ecosystem by increasing the access startup founders and their employees have to local and international mentor." Dr Kate Cornick, CEO LaunchVic

Victoria is home to approximately 170 coworking spaces, with Startup Genome's 2018 Melbourne's Startup Ecosystem report calling the state the 'coworking capital' of Australia.

Further funding is available through LaunchVic's EIR program for coworking spaces with applications closing at 5pm on 28 February. For more information visit <https://launchvic.org/rounds/round-9-expert-in-residence>

Grant Recipients

Neighbourhood in Fitzroy will host two EIRs. This includes Viki Forrest, CEO of ANZA Technology Network in San Francisco, who has showcased over 200 Australian and New Zealand companies in Silicon Valley and will advise startups looking to balance fast growth alongside a sustainable business model, with focus on entering the US market. Ned Dwyer, founder of Very Labs product incubator in San Francisco and Startmate mentor and investor, will run customer validation, sales, product design and marketing workshops designed to put startups on the path to revenue or acceptance into a top-tier accelerator program.

WeWork, a global shared workspace company supports startups in three locations across Melbourne. Demetrio Zema Founder and Chief Problem Solver from Law Squared will deliver an EIR program, from the William St location, that includes open office hours, founder dinners and public talks. Law Squared is a specialised commercial law and litigation firm which works with entrepreneurs, startups and commercial businesses.

PathHunting, a coworking space in Brunswick East where 80% of members are either running or working in female-led businesses, will host Sam Hemphill, co-founder of Meeum. The program is designed to empower non-technical founders with the technical knowledge and skills needed to prototype their ideas and customer value propositions.

ReActivate Latrobe Valley in Morwell will support the emerging regional startup community by engaging Tom Allen, Founder and CEO of Impact Boom. In a series of social impact startup masterclasses, Tom will be sharing his knowledge with community startups on how to access local, national and global customers.

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