

ACU Co-Lab Growing a village

Five year report



ACU Co-Lab

Growing a village

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Co-Lab provides and promotes an innovative and entrepreneurial learning environment that connects ACU's strategic and mission priorities with a wide range of industry opportunities, while advancing life-long learning goals.

We are focused on nurturing and accelerating our enterprise community through:

- on-campus co-working hubs at North Sydney and Strathfield
- educational opportunities, including:
 - Launch Plus Program
 - Social Enterprise Series
 - Pitch Plus Awards
 - Social Enterprise Awards
 - Lunch & Learns
- entrepreneurial networking and events, including:
 - Spark Festival
 - EdTech Series
 - North Sydney Council Data Buzz Series
- connection and collaboration with students, research and industry
 - Innovation Districts Challenges with Investment NSW
 - student placements with the Co-Lab entrepreneurial community

Economic impact

For the past five years, Co-Lab's activities have driven real economic impact to both the local and national economies.



380+
jobs created

\$2,400,000+
funding raised by Co-Lab startups



\$58,500
prize money awarded by Co-Lab for new projects

Education and skill development

Our tailored learning programs are aimed at improving graduate outcomes and fostering skill development across the ACU broader community.



148 hours
of entrepreneurial education and skill development



677
ACU students, staff and alumni supported



3045
program attendees

A growing ecosystem

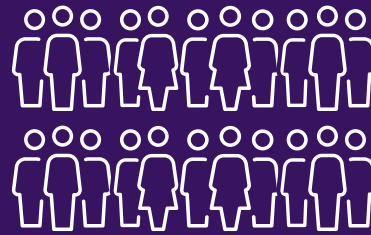
Co-Lab has built, and is growing, an ever stronger enterprising heartbeat through connection and collaboration with students, research and industry.



303
events



330+
entrepreneurs utilised
our innovation hubs



6284
event and
workshop
attendees

80
industry/
university
connections
facilitated



20+
work-
integrated
learning
placements



Sector diversity

Our research and industry collaborations span multiple industry sectors, with an exciting focus on high-growth sectors, including:

- ed tech
- social services
- artificial intelligence
- virtual reality and augmented reality
- marketplace platforms
- health and wellbeing
- clean energy.

Nurturing success

Co-Lab member success stories



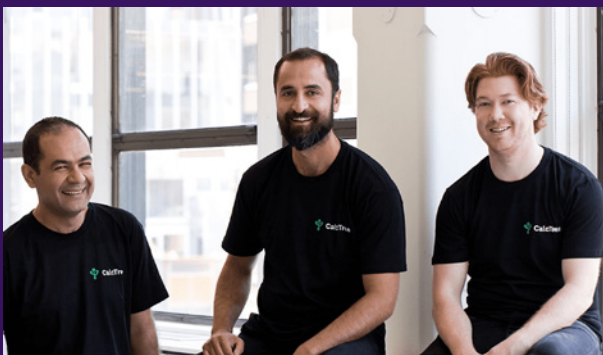
LEOR

In-home childcare and NDIS support provider Leor, founded by ACU student Andrea Christie-David, was acquired by G8 Education for \$9.5 million.



AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL SPORTS ORGANISATION (AUSISO)

Co-founded by ACU alumni Nicholas Toscan and business partner Herman Lotey, AUSISO won a Federal Government grant to deliver sports programs to promote engagement between Chinese-speaking international students and Australia's diverse communities.



CALCTREE

Calctree received VC and investor funding totalling \$800k for the world's first multi-disciplinary calculation management platform.

Nurturing success

ACU's Innovation Districts Challenge winners



MOOVE AND GROOVE

Challenge One winner of the \$10,000 grant was silent disco technology provider Moove and Groove, developed in conjunction with ACU researcher Kirsten Challinor, to better manage challenging dementia behaviours.



STUDYMOVE PTY LTD

Challenge Two winner of the \$10,000 grant was Studymove Pty Ltd, which specialises in the development of data-reporting solutions for educational institutions.



ATONE AUSTRALIA

Challenge Three winner of the \$10,000 grant was AtOne Australia, founded by ACU alumni Edwina Griffin. AtOne helps organisations empower their employees and teams to manage their mental and emotional wellbeing.

Nurturing success

Student pitch winners



ACU Co-Lab's Social Enterprise Award winner

Veteran and Bachelor of Arts student Damian De Pyle was awarded \$10,000, as well as six months of mentoring from ACU's executive team, for his solution to the job crisis that has arisen from the pandemic and future automation.



ACU Co-Lab's Pitch Plus Award winner

Occupational therapy student Jarrad Fisher was awarded \$5,000 in the inaugural ACU Pitch Plus Award. Jarrad pitched a creative solution to the clinical problems associated with capturing accurate and objective data during the assessment process for stroke survivors with an upper limb impairment.



Co-Lab Team

Tayana Grundy (left)

Marketing and Events Officer

Since 2018 Tayana has coordinated marketing, events and partnerships with internal and external stakeholders across our western and northern Sydney hubs.

Anthony Bayss (middle)

Project Officer for Western Sydney

Anthony has coordinated the setup and running of Co-Lab's Western Sydney hub since 2018. His role also includes facilitating connections and collaborations with ACU researchers and industry.

Gina d`Albora (right)

Project Coordinator for Northern Sydney

Gina has coordinated the setup and running of Co-Lab's North Sydney hub since 2017. Her role involves coordinating hub operations, managing the co-working community and facilitating connections and collaborations with ACU academics, researchers and industry.

acu.edu.au/co-lab

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Disclaimer (July 2022): Information correct at time of printing. The University reserves the right to amend, cancel or otherwise modify the content without notice.