RMIT activator

Annual Report 2025

RMIT activator

Table of Contents

About Us

Annual Snapshot: 2025

Startup Alumni Success Stories

FounderHUB

LaunchHUB

VentureHUB

Residency

APEC Women's Business Accelerator

[Re]Launch

GPG-Berrybank

RMIT activator

About Us

At RMIT Activator, our mission is to ignite social & economic progress by equipping founders, ventures and strategic partners with the tools, resources, and knowledge needed to create scalable, transformative impact.

This report reflects our unwavering commitment to empowering those who are shaping the future. Through deep collaboration and support, we help founders unlock their potential, enabling them to drive lasting, meaningful change in the world.

As we look ahead, we are inspired by the ever-growing opportunities to amplify our impact. Together, we are not just building startups, we are nurturing a movement of innovators dedicated to driving systemic change.

We hope this report not only informs, but also inspires you to join us in this exciting journey towards a better, more sustainable future.

Annual Snapshot: 2025

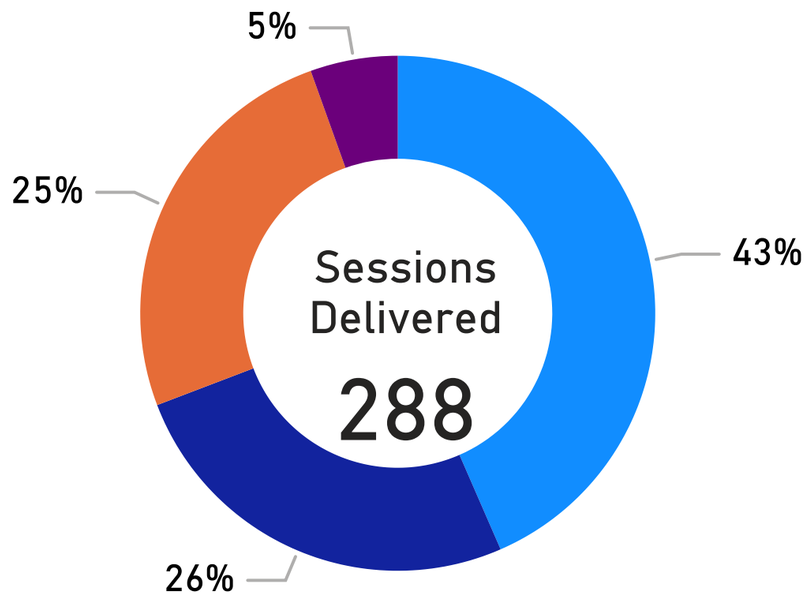
Total Submitted Applications

1149

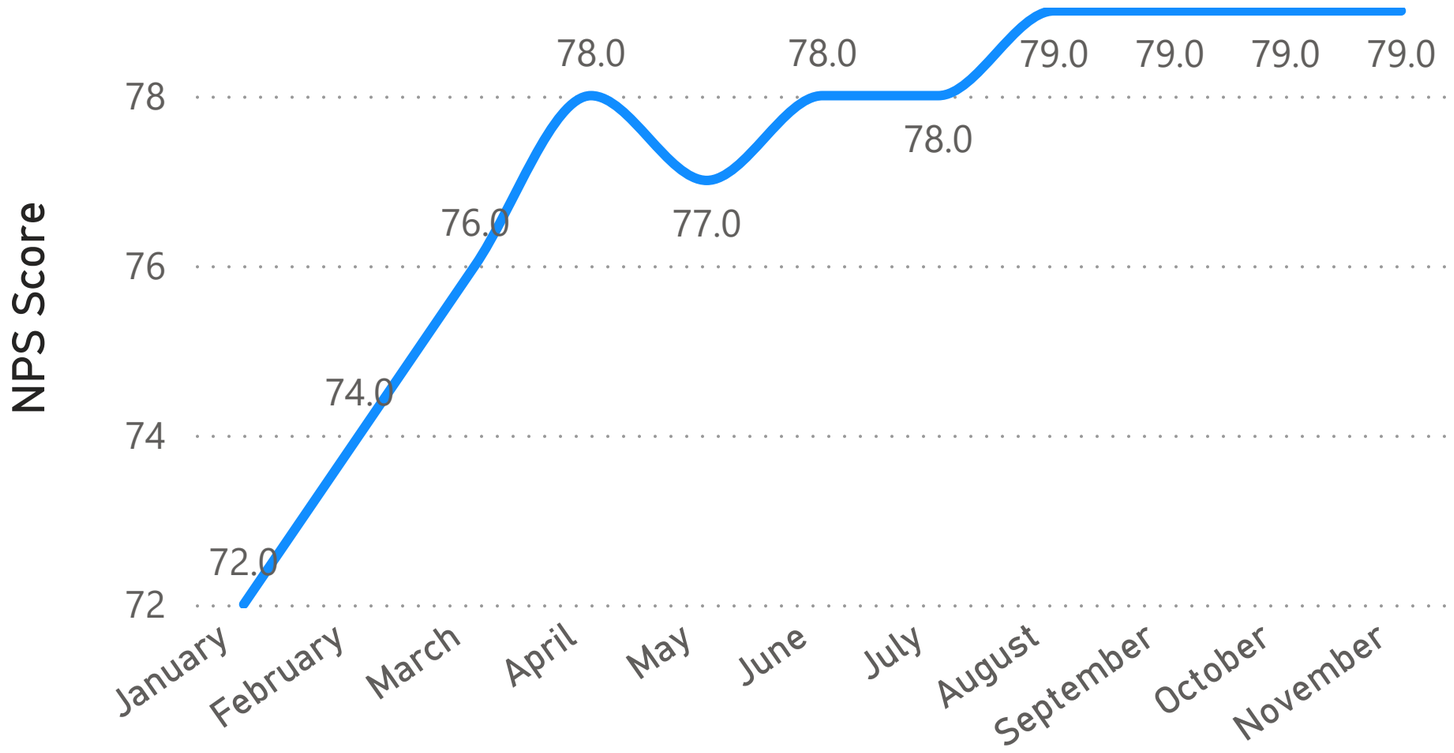
Total Accepted Applications

233

Sessions Delivered

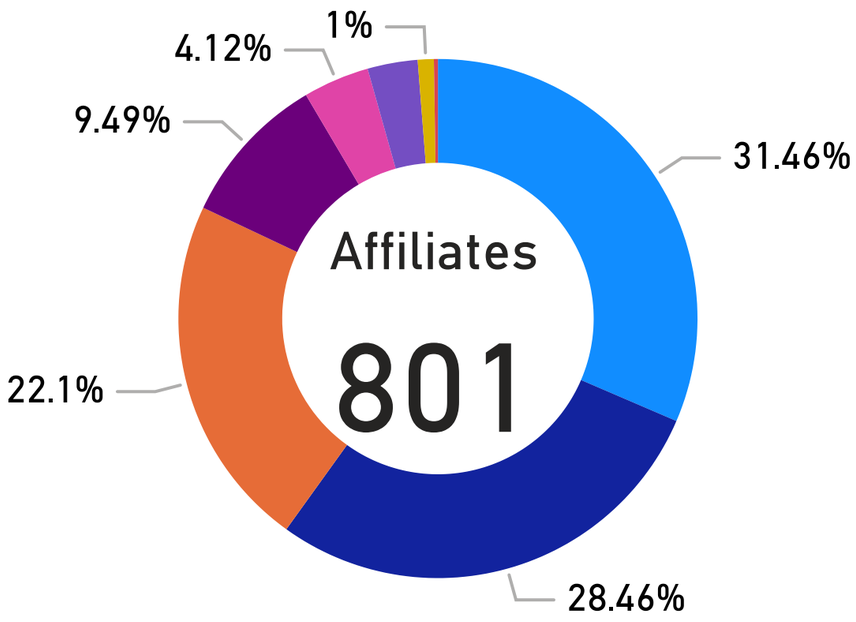


NPS Score Through the year



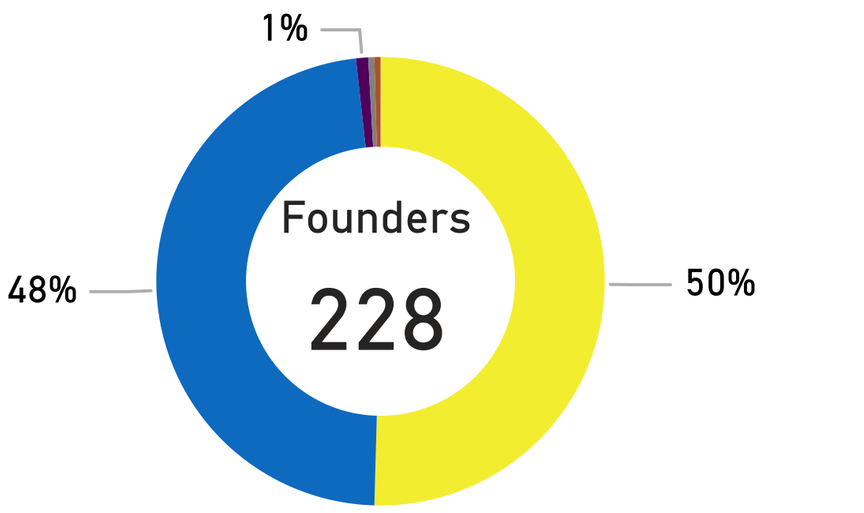
RMIT Affiliated

Accepted Applications



Genders Represented

Accepted Applications



Aligned SDG's



100%

of **Accepted** Applications align to 1 or more SDGs

Startup Alumni Success Stories

Bionica - *https://bionica.au*

Bionica has gained strong recognition for its innovation and impact. The company was featured in the *Australian Financial Review* and named 'Most Investible Start-Up' at the [Re]Launch Pitch Night, receiving support from the Activator Capital Fund. In a major international milestone, Bionica was one of only four teams worldwide invited to present at the prestigious Annual Nobel Laureates Meeting in Lindau. The *AFR* also spotlighted Bionica in July 2025 as an AgTech start-up to watch, with funding potential exceeding $1 million.

Featured in Australian Financial Review- link here.



Bionica co-founders JJ Richardson and Robert Mond

Ludis - *www.ludis.com.au*

Ludis has achieved a series of significant milestones this year, winning the People's Choice Award at the [Re]Launch Pitch Night and securing $22,000 in funding from the Activator Capital Fund. It accelerated the development of its MVP, established commercial traction through partnerships with six footwear brands, and was shortlisted for the prestigious Australian Open Startup Accelerator Program.



Ludis at [Re]Launch Pitch Night 2025

The Good Sort - *https://thegoodsort.com.au*

Award-winning at [Re]Launch Pitch Night with the 'Circular Excellence Award,' secured $10,000 from Activator Capital Fund, attracted interest from multiple councils, and launched a targeted pilot with a composting processor to transform organic waste into impact.



The Good Sort at [Re]Launch Pitch Night 2025

IDA Sports- *www.idasports.com.au*

Activator alumni IDA Sports teamed up with Guinness to launch the groundbreaking "Never Settle" Cleat – the first-ever soft-ground cleat designed specifically for female athletes. Debuting exclusively at the 2025 Women's Six Nations, this cleat addressed the need for better-fitting footwear, empowered women, and championed gender equality in rugby.

See press release here.



IDA Sports co-founders, Ben Sandhu and Laura Youngson

Griffin Research
https://griffinresearch.au

Following the [Re]Launch program, Griffin Research continued to build momentum. The team participated in the CSIRO Innovate to Grow Program and secured CSIRO KickStart R&D funding to advance its technology. In July 2025, Griffin Research reached the Australian National Finals, earning the opportunity to represent Australia at the Asia Pacific Regional Finals, where it was named the Asia Pacific Winner. This achievement led to its selection to represent the region at the ClimateLaunchpad Global Cleantech Business Idea Competition in Vienna, Austria, on 24 October 2025.



Griffin Research co-founder James Chong

FounderHUB Incubator

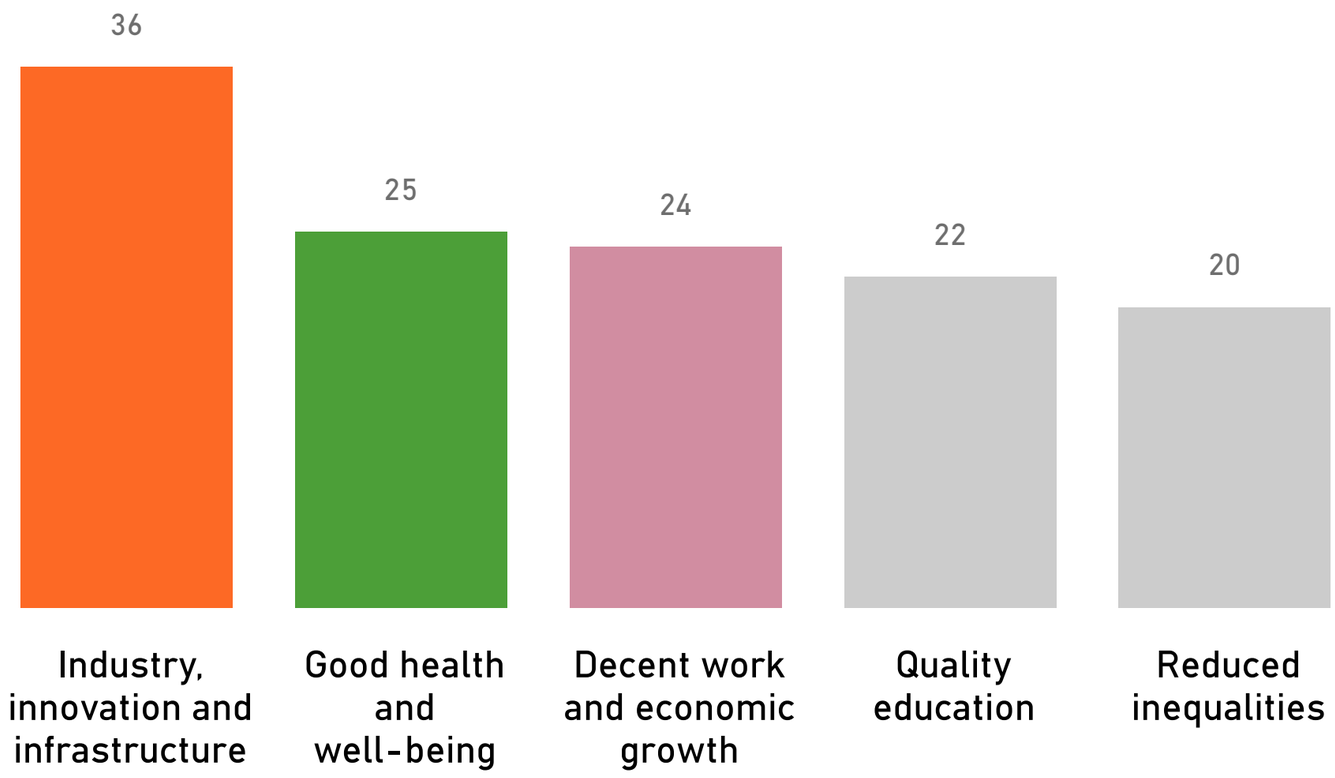
FounderHUB is a 4-week incubator program designed to support early-stage founders develop impactful startup ideas to solve problems that matter.

99%

of **Accepted** Applications align to 1 or more SGDs

Top 5 Aligned SDG's

(Accepted Applications)



173

Submitted Applications

70

Accepted Applications

29

Female Founders/Co

78.02

NPS Score

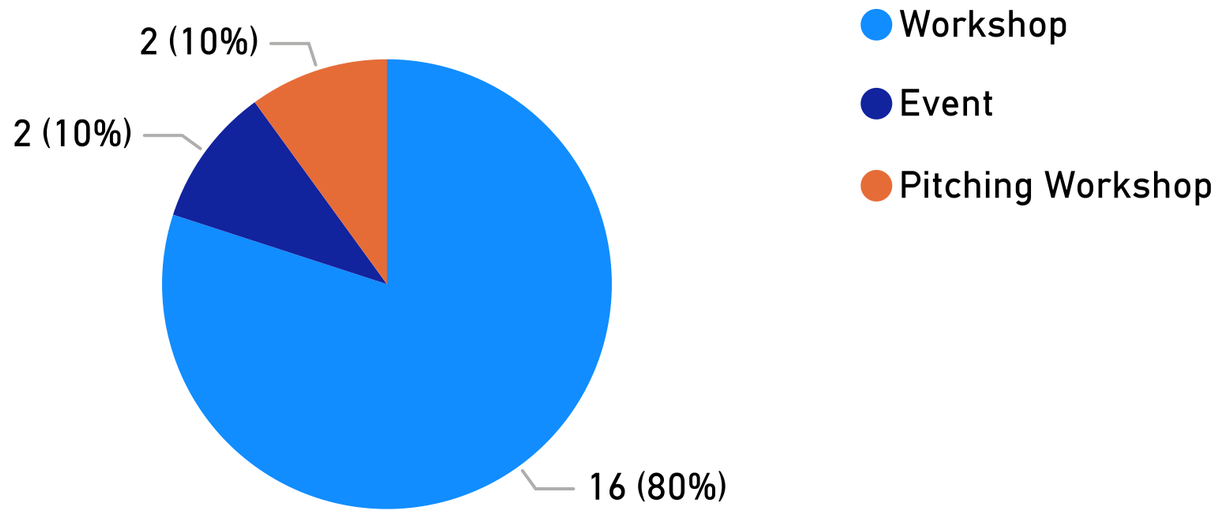
Program Highlights

This year, we delivered 2 cohorts with approximately 80+ applications per cohort. The participants had come from diverse affiliations with the university, from alumni had already launched their ideas to students and researchers who had just started and were looking to commercialise their ideas.

20

Sessions Delivered in Total

Sessions Delivered



"RMIT FounderHUB has been a wonderful experience. The support and resources provided have been game-changers for my startup journey. The opportunity to network with like-minded entrepreneurs have been invaluable. FounderHUb's workshops gave me practical insights into pitching, business development, and scaling that I could immediately apply.

The community atmosphere is inspiring and motivating, and being surrounded by other passionate founders helped me stay focused and enthusiastic about my goals. Thanks to RMIT FounderHUB, I now feel more confident in my business strategy, and my startup is gaining traction faster as a result!"

Suzie Celotti, Co-founder of Celotti Group
FounderHUB #7 Alumni

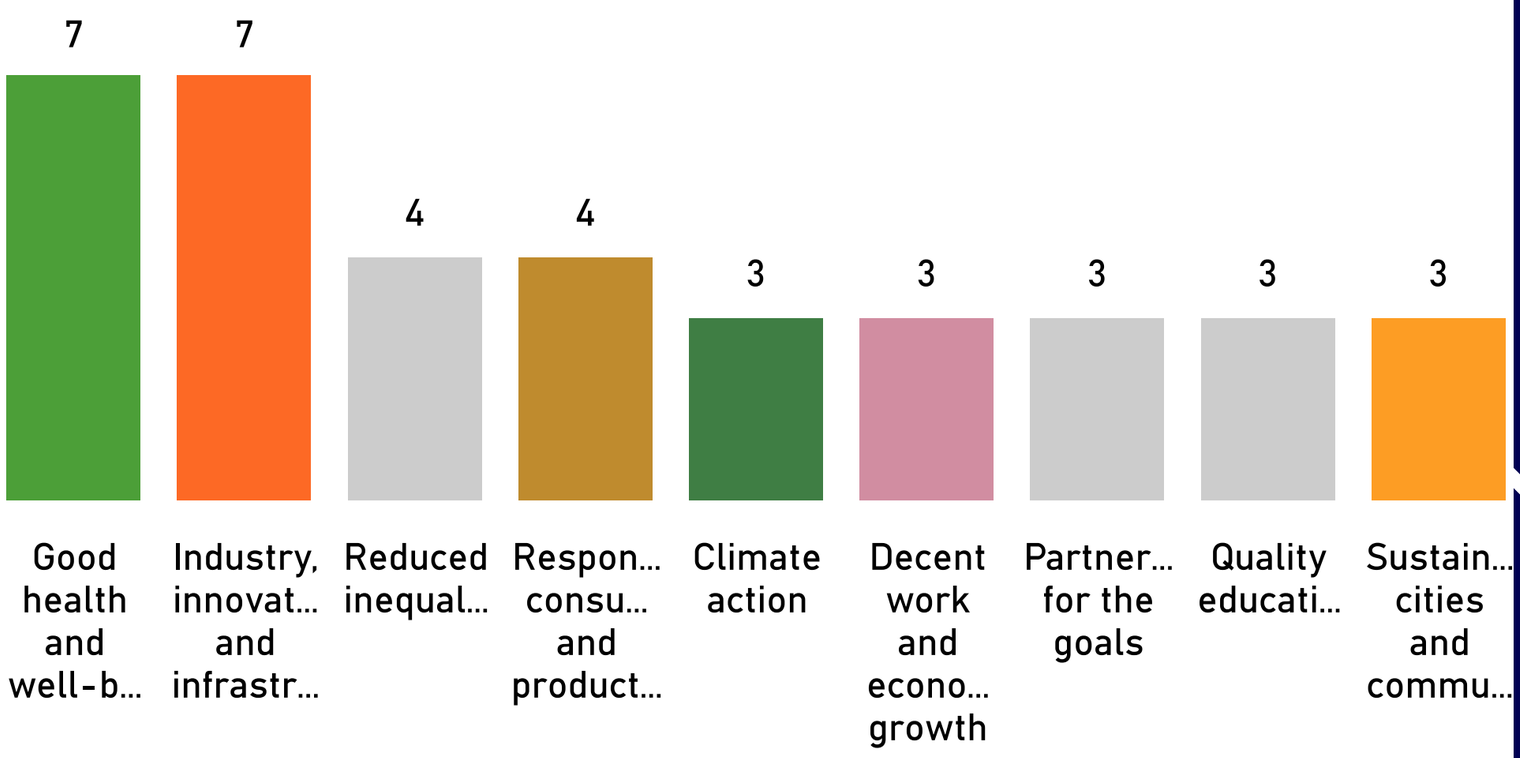
LaunchHUB Pre-accelerator

LaunchHUB is RMIT Activator's flagship program, crafted to empower early-stage, impact-driven startups to gain momentum and soar to new heights.

100%
of **Accepted** Applications align to 1 or more SGDs

Top 5 Aligned SDG's

(Accepted Applications)



79
Submitted Applications

15
Accepted Applications

10
Female Founders/Co Founders

88.24
NPS Score

Program Highlights

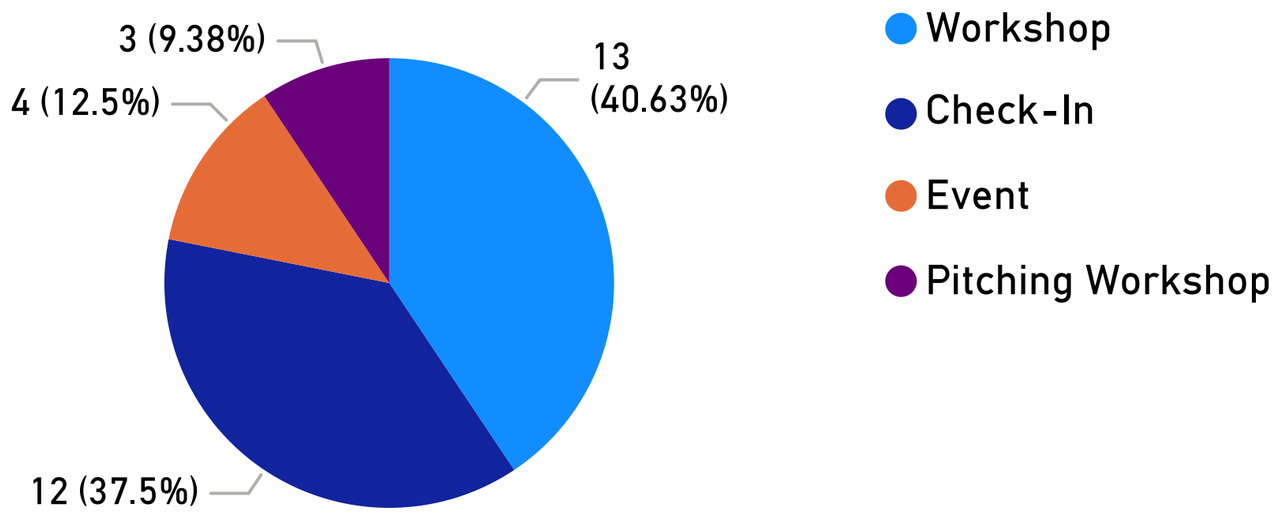
With a total of A$325,000 in funding disbursed by year's end, the Activator Capital Fund (ACF) provided critical financial support to fuel the growth of high-potential startups. Program participants also get access to other RMIT resources such as its library and co-working space at Building 98.

With guidance from 11 experienced coaches and 6 ACF Board members, LaunchHUB startups benefit from tailored mentorship and strategic insights.

We delivered 32 total sessions across two of the latest cohorts encompassing workshops, check-in, coaching and presentation sessions. This also includes the program's intensive selection process, which features a 2-day Bootcamp designed to shortlist up to 15 standout startups per cohort.

32
Sessions in Total

Sessions Delivered



"My Good Will was fortunate enough to be part of LaunchHub 18. After running a successful design and manufacturing company for 25 years, going back to be part of an energetic cohort of founders was an amazing experience, that opened our minds up to new ways of building the next enterprise. The course delivered a well paced program that was engaging and fundamental in helping to shape what we are building. Our advice is if you have an idea and want to see it grow, commit to a launch hub program and make it come to life"- ***Duncan Ward, Founder of My Good Will, LaunchHUB #18 alumni***

VentureHUB Accelerator

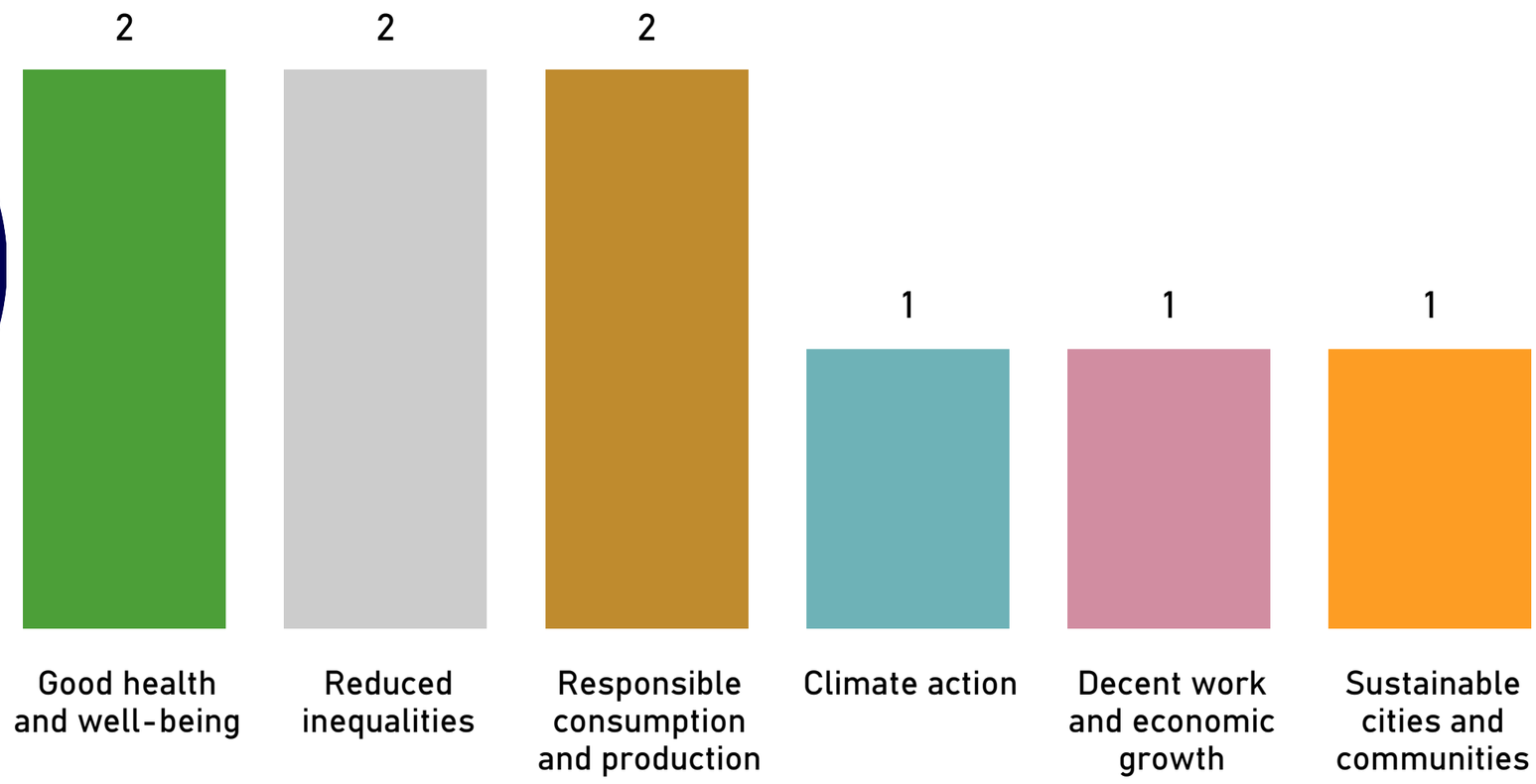
VentureHUB is designed for startups who are ready to go the distance. It explores scalable impact strategies that drive profitability and viability.

100%

of **Accepted** Applications align to 1 or more SGDs

Top Aligned SDG's

(Accepted Applications)



23

Startups Pitched

5

Accepted Applications

Program Highlights

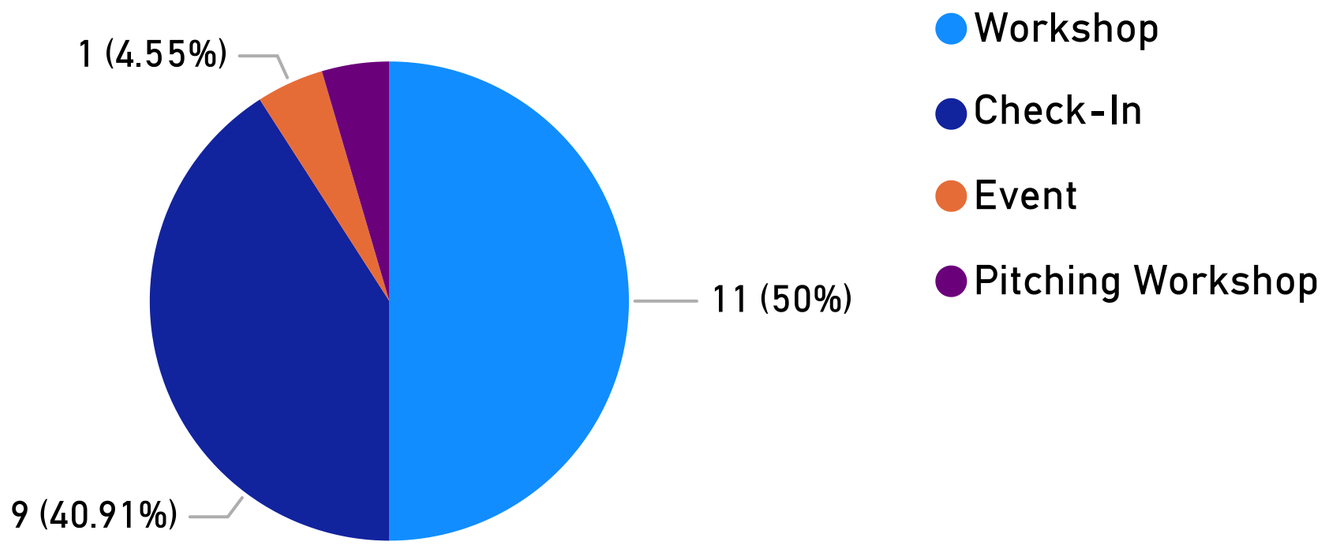
Startups who successfully applied to the program are all given the opportunity to pitch for the Jacques Nasser Philanthropic Fund. The fund is worth A$75,000.00 in total each year, and each startup may be granted for up to A$15,000.00 once.

This year, Activator successfully disbursed the full allocation - 7 startups participated in the program with 5 of them successfully securing the full funding amount of A$15,000.00 each.

22

Sessions in Total

Sessions Delivered



4

Female Founders/Co

68.18

"The program has yielded significant results for us through the connections and mentors we have met via the program that became invested in our story, and provided new avenues and opportunities for us. I really think I have forged career long connections through the program! Thanks for such a great experience."

Co-founder of Natural Branding Australia
VentureHUB #4 Alumni

Residency

The RMIT Activator Residency is a flexible, exclusive program designed for select alumni, providing access to valuable resources that support their entrepreneurial ventures. Through tailored mentorship, coaching, and access to RMIT Activator's facilities, residents are equipped to accelerate their growth and innovation.

Program Highlights

The Residency program offers multiple touchpoints throughout the year, fostering a supportive environment and ensuring accountability to maintain motivation. Participants gain access to a variety of RMIT resources, including the Library, Makerspace, and co-working spaces in Buildings 97 and 98. Active startups are encouraged to extend their participation as needed.

As part of the Residency, startups engage in regular group check-in sessions with an Activator staff member. During these sessions, they share updates, celebrate successes, and discuss challenges, receiving valuable peer feedback and staff advice. The program also provides on-demand mentoring from a roster of experts, and monthly gatherings known as HUBDays feature guest speakers on relevant themes.

Notably, program alumni and residents such as GetMee, Huddled, Evitat, Project Flock, and Equioa have successfully secured investments, acquired customers, and increased sales. Additionally, alumni Esper Satellite Imagery and Lurra Systems have collaborated on joint tenders, leveraging their technologies to expand sales in emerging markets.

Our Residents in Action









APEC Women's Business Activator

Global Growth

Powered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and in collaboration with the Australian APEC Study Centre, the APEC Women's Business Activator Program empowers women-led small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to expand beyond local markets and succeed internationally. Designed to address the structural and practical barriers women entrepreneurs face, the program builds capability through targeted training, expert mentoring, and meaningful international peer connection.

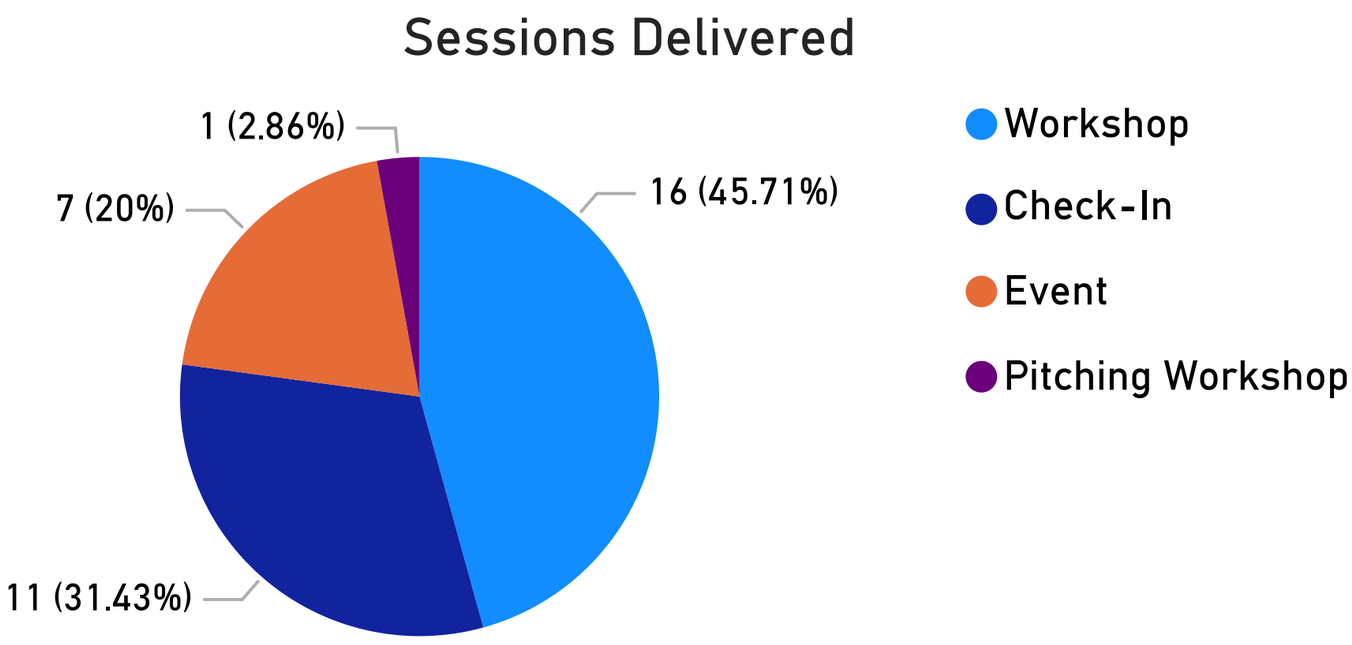
Through capability building and network creation, the APEC Women's Business Activator Program continues to strengthen women-led enterprises and contribute to more inclusive and resilient economic growth across the APEC region.

Program Highlights

A total of 35 sessions were delivered for this cohort, comprising workshops, panel discussions, and participant presentations. In July 2025, RMIT hosted 26 women entrepreneurs from nine APEC economies for the program's in-person intensive.

The program combined online learning with a face-to-face immersive experience. At its conclusion, participants presented their international expansion strategies and committed to applying their learnings beyond the program.

35
Sessions in Total



"I loved the program and the support it gives to all women to believe in themselves and grow their businesses. I would love to see more promotion of these kinds of programs in Mexico."

"This program greatly boosted my confidence to expand internationally. I gained knowledge, networks, and courage to see challenges as opportunities, making me feel ready to take bold steps globally. "

"It's been a great value add and confidence boost in looking outside of PNG. Breaking through barriers of comfort and fear are some of the thoughts that come to mind. "

676
Startups Pitched

26
Teams Completed the Program

29
Female Founders/Co

87.31
NPS Score

[Re]Launch

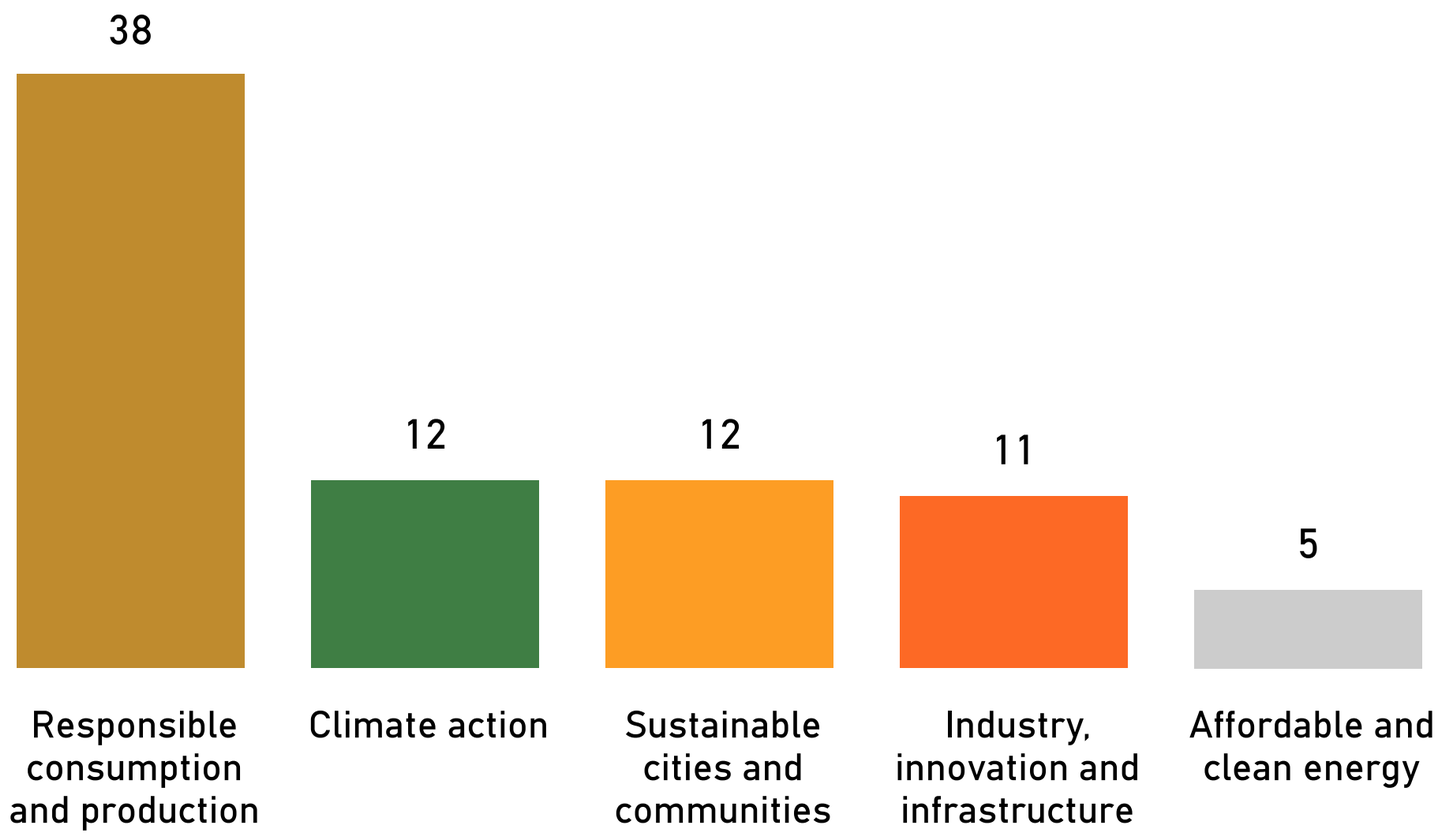
[Re]Launch is a startup pathway program designed for startups and/or initiatives with circular technology innovations to generate new solutions for Victoria.

100%

of **Accepted** Applications align to 1 or more SGDs

Top 5 Aligned SDG's

(Accepted Applications)



129

Submitted Applications

Program Highlights

In 2024, Activator secured a $400,000 LaunchVic grant to design and deliver incubation and pre-accelerator programs for founders building circular economy technologies, in partnership with Boomerang Labs and Lifecycles.

In 2025, one incubation and a pre-accelerator program were delivered, with the final pre-accelerator scheduled to commence in March 2026. Incubation supported founders to validate early-stage ideas, while the pre-accelerator focused on go-to-market strategy and business model development.

The first pre-accelerator in 2025 attracted strong interest across Victoria, with 20 startups joining, 100% completing, and all 20 launching their businesses.

Early cohort outcomes are already emerging, including Joseph Richardson and Robert Mond receiving the Quantum Leap for Biodiversity award through the Lindau Nobel Laureate Science Challenge. We continue to track recognition and progress across the cohort.

50

Accepted Applications

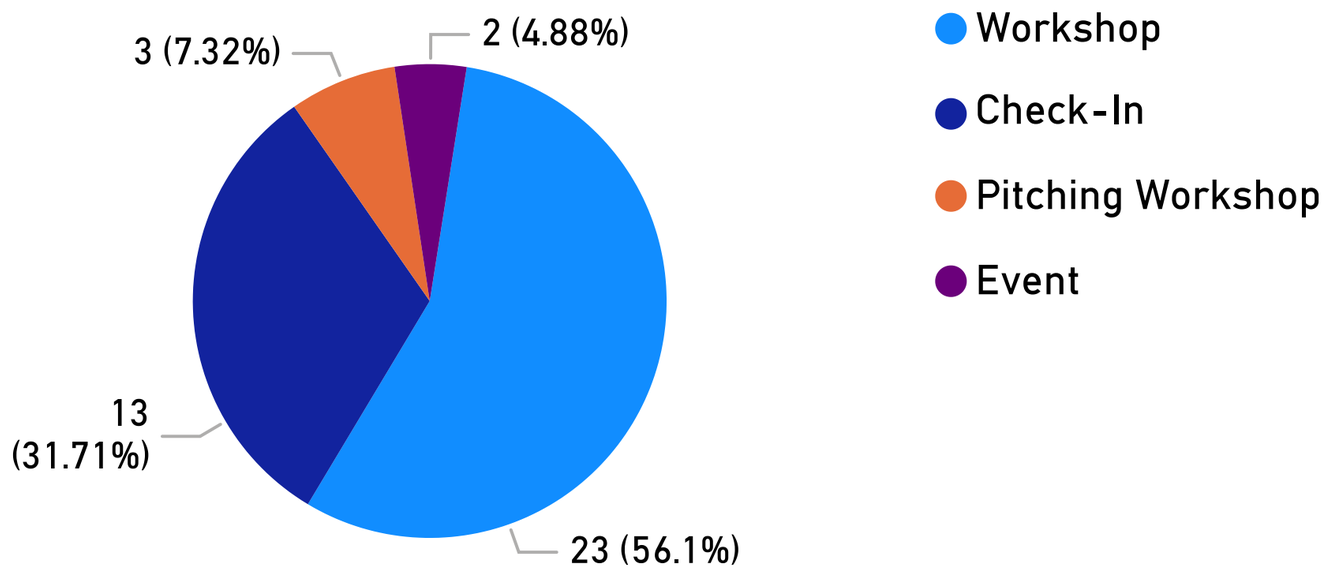
28

Female Founders/Co accepted

41

Sessions in Total

Sessions Delivered



74.29

NPS Score

GPG Berrybank

Regional Growth

GPG Berrybank is a 5-year project for localised innovation and community involvement for socio-economic development around the windfarm area

Project Highlights

As part of this year's fund, we delivered two cohorts of the Regional Growth Accelerator Program:

Cohort 1 was focused on sustainability and circularity-minded businesses. As this was the pilot program, the recruitment effort attracted 10 businesses. With the funding pool of $10,000.00 up for grab, it was distributed evenly to 5 participating businesses at the end of the cohort.

Cohort 2 was focused on creative arts and tourism, which was proven popular. The program gets more airtime and exposure with the local communities, and this was proven by an exponential jump on the applications number received. 22 businesses were keen to participate for this cohort. The funding pool of $10,000.00 was awarded evenly to 2 best performing participants.

40
Submitted Applications

32
Accepted Applications

21
Female Founders/Co

35
Sessions in Total

