

# Ecosystem Initial Checklist

## **1. Regional Startup & Innovation Champion. Does the region have one?**

### **Startup & Innovation Champion**

A champion is defined as an individual (or group) who are from the local community and super passionate about developing the startup & innovation ecosystem. Ideally they have their own businesses, or have had their own successful business and are self-motivated to be at the heart of driving the local ecosystem.

Champions are likely to be responsible for activities such as:

- Organising events / workshops / programs
- Organising speakers
- Connecting key stake holders to events
- Being the point of contact for the regions startup & innovation agenda
- Liaising with media

The champion understands the work that they are doing has a wider

1. Support up-and-coming early stage entrepreneurs and innovators to develop and validate new products / services
2. Foster regional economic development, and diversification into new industries
3. Reduce regional brain drain (Talented entrepreneurs leaving regional areas due to a lack of networks and opportunities.)
4. Position your region as one of the most creative and innovative regions in the country
5. Ensure there are quality jobs in the region for the regions kids and their kids

Who in your community fits this profile?

### **Champion checklist**

\*List contacts

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### **Startup & Innovation Coach (Optional)**

The value of having a coach in the region is that budding entrepreneurs, innovators, inventors are able to get 1:1 assistance in the absence of mentors. Ideally someone who has an existing consulting business (but not essential) that would like to be trained in startup & innovation coaching. A suitable alternative is that mentors receive appropriate startup & innovation training so that they understand the needs of the startups & innovators.

Such activities include:

- Delivering targeted programs

- Facilitating 1:1 startup coaching / mentoring
- Facilitating 1:1 innovation coaching / mentoring
- Willingness to exchange time for money ie: see this as a business opportunity

### Coach checklist

\*List contacts

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## 2. Outline key stakeholders in the region. Where are the gaps?

### Key Stakeholders

“It takes a village to raise a startup, launch a new idea or product” ... We recognise that a support structure needs to be built for an ecosystem to be effective. It’s the role of the champion / champions to build the relationships with key stakeholders. Stakeholders include:

#### Entrepreneurs / Innovators / Inventors

Who are the entrepreneurs, innovators and inventors in the community? They are at the heart of the ecosystem.

#### Educational Institutions

Do you have relationships with any of the following from the community, who understand the value of startup & innovation?

- Key contacts at TAFE
- Key contacts at universities
- Principals of schools

#### Investors

Do you have relationships with any of the following from the community, who understand the value of startup & innovation?

- Bank managers
- High net worth’s
- Angel investors
- Capital raising specialists

#### Key Service Providers

Do you have relationships with any of the following from the community, who understand the value of startup & innovation?

- Accountants who understand the needs of startups & innovators
- Legal representatives who understand the needs of startups & innovators
- Consultants who can deliver specialised workshops for startups & innovators

- Business coaches / consultants
- Other

### **Mentors**

Do you have relationships with any of the following from the community, who understand the value of startup & innovation?

- Existing successful entrepreneurs
- Successful inventors
- Key service providers (specialised knowledge in key areas)

### **Media contacts**

Media has an important role to play in supporting the momentum of the ecosystem. Telling the stories of the wins

### **Research Institutions**

What opportunities exist within the community to connect with research organisations ie: Universities, CSIRO

### **Government**

What relationships have been developed with key government departments that may assist in the development of your regional ecosystem

- Local Gov relationships
- State Gov relationships
- Federal Gov relationships

Please complete the following checklist of connections that have been made within your ecosystem to date:

	<b>Relationship checklist</b> <small>*List contacts</small>
Entrepreneurs / Innovators / Inventors	* Do you have a mailing list? If so, how many contacts
Educational Institutions	
Investors	
Key Service Providers	
Mentors	
Media contacts	
Research Institutions	
Government	
- Local relationships	

- State relationships	
- Federal relationships	

**3. Physical Space. Has one been established?**

Coworking spaces don't have to be big (they take on many different forms in the regional sense), they just have to be functional for the needs of the community. If a physical space hasn't been established, once we know the needs of the startup / innovation ecosystem in each area we can work to bring together the physical infrastructure to support that. Please outline where your region is at.

**Coworking Space checklist**

\*Yes / No. If yes, where?

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**4. List of number of relevant programs & events run over the past 12 months**

Programs and events do a number of things. They build a culture of entrepreneurship into the community of the ecosystem. They build capacity ie: knowing how to build startups and how to innovate. They connect members of the community to each other which creates synergy and opportunity. Please outline a list of relevant startup & innovation events and programs that have occurred over the past 12 months.

**Programs & events checklist**

\*Detail below or attach summary

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