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Partnership ramps up growth for regional entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs in regional Queensland will receive a significant boost to the growth and future success of their business through free access to a new online startup skills program.

The arrangement extends the existing partnership between Startup Onramp and the Queensland Government's Advance Queensland initiative.

Launched in 2018, the first stage of the partnership made the Startup Onramp Pre-Accelerator program available throughout regional Queensland. It has helped over a hundred regional Queensland entrepreneurs to get started in building high-growth companies.

The extended program continues the roll-out of the Pre-Accelerator and also provides regional entrepreneurs with free access to Startup Onramp's online Founders Course.

Startup Onramp CEO Colin Kinner said the Founders Course provides flexible online learning to aspiring entrepreneurs on how to start a high-growth startup and maximise its chances of success.

The course provides founders with a roadmap for the startup journey, covering topics from idea validation to raising money from investors and growth, and features insights from some of Australia's leading startup experts.

Kinner believes now is a critical time for innovative thinking among business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs.

"This year has presented some incredible challenges, and there is a need to reposition our economy to create businesses that will flourish in an increasingly online world," Kinner said.

According to Kinner, Startup Onramp's programs are currently helping hundreds of entrepreneurs across Australia to get their startups ready to launch while working remotely.

"For anyone in the early stages of founding a startup, or perhaps sitting on an idea for one, being able to access the Founders Course will give them the tools to turn it into a globally scalable business," Kinner said.

According to Queensland's Chief Entrepreneur, Leanne Kemp, the Founders Course is essential for aspiring entrepreneurs who want to grow their business to a national or global scale, and who want to avoid making the mistakes that cause many startups to fail.

Ms Kemp urged anyone with a great idea looking for the next step to sign up for the program.

"This is a wonderful program with a proven track record in helping founders to succeed. It's also useful for anyone with an 'innovation mindset' who is looking for inspiration to turn their side hustle into a full time gig. So what are you waiting for?" said Ms Kemp.

Kinner added he believes that regional Queensland represents a huge untapped pool of entrepreneurial talent, and he welcomes the opportunity to help regional entrepreneurs to go global.

"This extension to the program will help more Queensland entrepreneurs to go beyond domestic markets and create a successful global business, while also supporting the state's road to economic recovery" he said.

Nicole Lucas, Chief Operating Officer at Smart Precinct NQ which has 14 entrepreneurs participating in the program said it will be a game-changer for the startup community in Townsville.

"Smart Precinct NQ is so excited to give our early stage entrepreneurs the opportunity to complete the Founders Course. Our cohort are already viewing their businesses differently, with many using the insights in the course to reassess their idea or direction," Ms Lucas said.

The first stage of the Startup Onramp Regional Queensland Program has so far helped launch companies creating products as diverse as a system to test for sleep apnoea in the workplace, HR process automation software and innovative STEM teaching kits for kids.

Funding for the Startup Onramp Regional Queensland Program is part of the \$755 million Advance Queensland whole-of-government initiative to transform the state's economy, create knowledge jobs of the future and build Queensland's reputation as a global innovation and investment destination.

For further information or to register interest in the program, visit www.startuponramp.com/queensland

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About Startup Onramp

Startup Onramp is Australia's leading provider of training and mentoring programs for startup founders. It was created to encourage more people to become startup founders and give them the knowledge, skills and connections they need to maximise their chances of success.

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