

RAIR Catalyst Pre-Educator Event

What's this all about?

The *RAIR Catalyst Pre-Educator* runs for two days. Its purpose is to support aspiring founders and entrepreneurs to unpack the core components of what it takes to build, lead and scale a successful venture – now, or in the future – domestically, or globally, that has the potential and capability to change lives exponentially.

Over the course of 2-days together, we will explore what the start-up eco-system is and what it does and help you to meet some of its key players, both here in Australia and beyond. We'll unpack some of its unique acronyms and terminology, as well as bust some of the myths associated with start-up and founder culture – especially when associated with Deep Tech.

This is not a program for those who want to sit back and listen. This is a program designed to support you to 'do'. We don't mind if you're curious – all the better. We don't mind if you get it wrong – that's why we're here. We just ask that you keep smiling on through, as after all we're all human aren't we – well at least for now.

With a diverse range of facilitators, all of whom have *seen it, been it, and are wearing the T-Shirt*, to help you understand the realities of transforming a start-up into a future investment option that has the potential to scale globally, as well as to explore what we are terming the “4xC's For Founders”™: *Courage, Commitment, Communication and Capability* – all of which are vital qualities to nurturing and maturing an entrepreneurial founder mindset.

Our program is unique in another way too in that we will talk to you about **Responsible AI** principles with the 'intended' aim of developing founders who implicitly wish to embed transparency, fairness and ethics into their future business, right from the get-go.

So, if you are currently working on something, have a problem you're obsessed with, or are simply curious about the start-up ecosystem or what it takes to become a future founder, this is the starter-for-10 for you. Spots are limited, so be sure to submit your EOI well before the deadline

Where will it happen?

The Pre-Educator Event will be held entirely at the [Australian Institute for Machine Learning](#) (AIML), on the corner of North Terrace and Frome Road, Adelaide SA 5000

How does it work?

The event will run over 2 days: Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 June.

For this program, additaments will be on the condition you can commit to attending both days in person.

I. Day 1

Registration from 8:30am

Preceded by an introduction to the event delivery team, Day 1 (23/6) will begin to unpack the startup ecosystem. Day 1 will also serve as an opportunity for participants to share how far along they are in their own journeys, and the challenges they have faced.

Day 1 will include

- Startup jargon breakdown and myth-busting
- Q&A with session facilitators
- Round table discussions between participants and ecosystem delivery partners
- Networking between participants and ecosystem delivery partners

II. Day 2

Registration from 8:30am

Day 2 (24/6) will build upon the learnings from day 1 and begin to formulate solutions to the problems that participants have identified in their startup journey.

Day 2 will include

- Problem solving strategies
- Real life examples from Founders who have built and scaled their business both domestically and globally
- Actionable steps to take away from the Pre Educator event

Who's coming?

Day 1 – AM

Unpacking the Eco-System

[Danielle Haj-Moussa](#) - Main Sequence Ventures

[Saron Berhane](#) - Blackbird Ventures

[Jude Henshall](#) - Stone & Chalk

Day 1 - PM

Focus on Participants

[Grant Downie](#) - Dynamic Strategies

Focus on Eco-System Delivery Partners

[Ryan Burns](#) - Innovation Bay

[Judy Anderson-Firth](#) - Euphemia

[Alan Jones](#) - M8 Ventures

Day 2 - AM

Rotating Roundtable Leads

Anne Couch - AIML

Nisha Schwarz – AIML Program Manager

Kate Klimes – RAIR Program Manager

Danielle Haj-Moussa – Main Sequence

Day 2 - PM

Rotating Roundtable Leads

Saron Berhane - Blackbird Ventures

[Paul Daly](#), Jude Hensell, AU Research Team

Demetrios Christou - Thomson Geer Law

Focus on Participants with:

Saron Berhane - Blackbird Ventures

[Demetrios Christou](#) - Thomson Geer Law

Founder Journeys: The Good, The Bad and the OMG!!! [Online]

[Sasha Kutabah Sargo](#)

[Nadun Hennayaka](#)

[Prof Brian Abbey](#)

[Colin Pudsey](#)

Is it free?

For AIML/RAIR Researchers, Early Career Researchers, Postdoctoral Fellows, and PhDs,
Yes

How do I claim my Spot?

Complete an expression of interest form via the link below

[RAIR Catalyst Pre-Educator Expression of Interest Form – Fill out form](#)

Expression of Interest submissions close on June 7.

Selected participants will be notified via email on 10/06/2026

What Are the Key Dates?

May 22	Expression of Interest form goes live
June 7 23:59pm	Expression of Interest closes
June 10 17.00pm	Attendees notified/Official registration opens
June 23	Pre-Educator Event Day 1
June 24	Pre-Educator Event Day 2

I have a question, how do I get in touch?

This is an initiative of the Responsible AI Research (RAIR) Centre is a landmark collaboration of experts from Australia's national science agency, CSIRO and [Adelaide University](#), in partnership with the [South Australian Government](#).

Contact email: raircentre@adelaide.edu.au