

The Structure of the National Innovation Games.

Small to medium businesses from in and around the host location of each National Innovation Games Challenge are invited to participate in a National Innovation Games Challenge to develop innovation for their business. Participating businesses are assigned dedicated multidisciplinary innovation teams made up of students, graduates and business employees and corporate sponsor employees to address the Challenge topic on behalf of your business.

The Challenge day is divided into three "Sprints" following design thinking methodology and each team has access to professional facilitators to help them move smoothly through the innovation process. "Challenge Labs," or subject matter experts in the Challenge's theme, are also available to all teams to help them validate their ideas or discover new opportunities for solutions. At the end of the Sprint 3, each team is given 5 minutes to present their solution to a panel of judges who then award both the students and the businesses prizes for the best solutions presented.

"A truly unique opportunity for collaboration among innovative students, sustainability experts and Small business to workshop practical solutions on how our businesses can & reduce waste & Australia's landfill (& a bonus of improving customer experience & working with potential future employees)."

-Rebecca Elepano,
Owner, Sattwa Skincare

Fantastic day, inspiring and promising to have innovative minds work on solutions to a crisis!

-Fabrice Miller,
Chair of Sustainability Committee, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary



Each Challenge day in the National Innovation Games will include:

- 10 participating (small to medium) businesses and their nominated employees (20 employees)
- 60 students and graduates with course levels and skills relevant to the challenge focus
- PhD students undertaking research in areas relevant to the Challenge topic
- 10 employees from the Challenge Day Partner/Sponsor
- 5 professional Paddl Facilitators



What are the benefits to my business?

- Participating businesses get to work with a dedicated innovation teams and subject matter experts to developed tailored solutions relevant to the Challenge Theme.
- All IP developed at the Games is fully owned by the business to implement.
- Businesses gain exposure to emerging talent and are able to assess possible hires in a real workplace situation.
- Business Networking Sessions during the Challenge allow participating businesses to meet and network with other local business owners, corporate sponsor employees and government officers.
- The Challenge is fully funded and completely free for businesses to participate.
- Winning businesses receive great prizes from our corporate sponsors.

“I got some amazing advice on how to keep my foot in the door while I do my masters. We had a great chat about life and I would really recommend others to do these.”

-Bridget Finlayson,

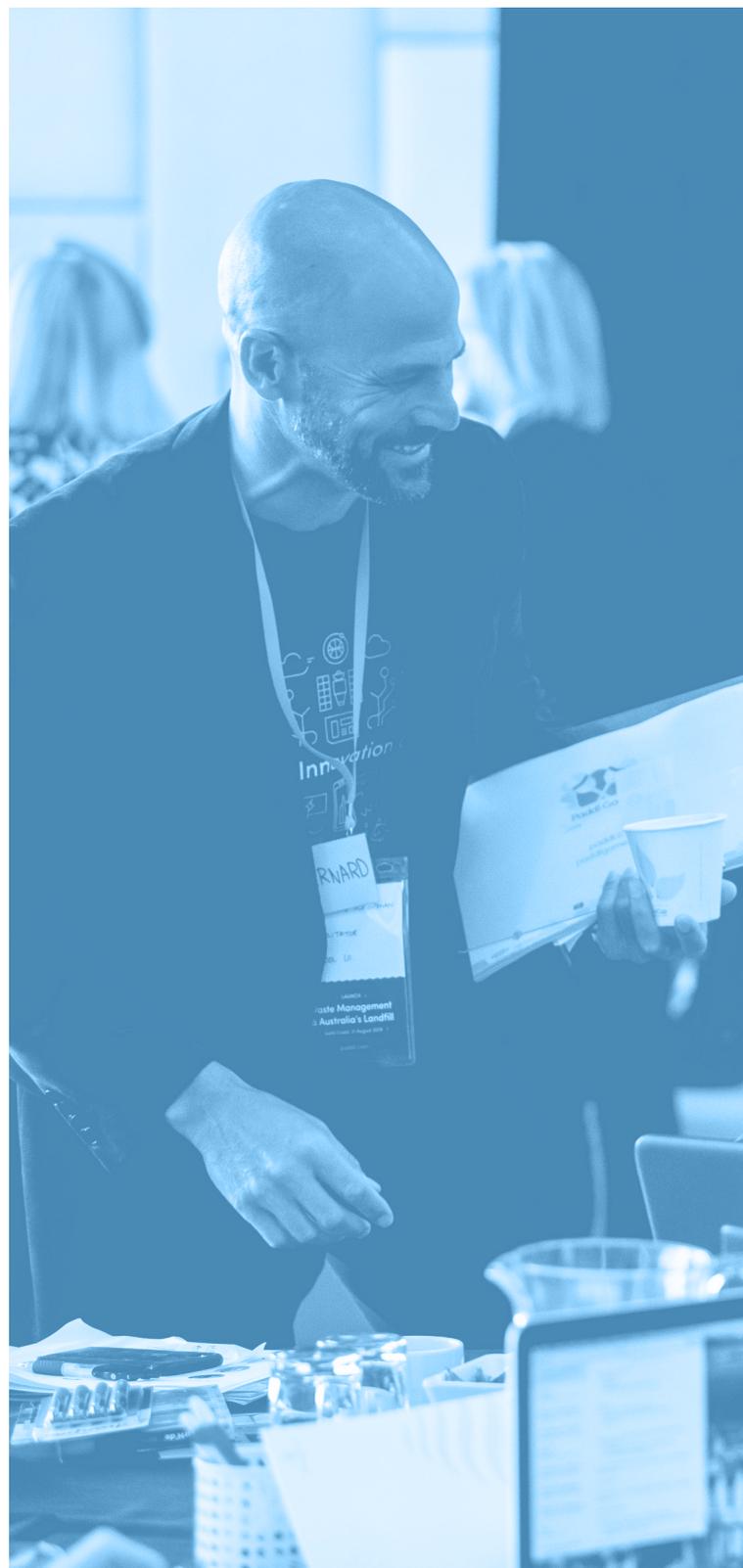
*Master of Science,
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When are they coming to my location and how can my business participate?

The National Innovation Games will be running 30 innovation challenges across every state and territory over FY20 and FY21. Each event is dependent on a delicate ecosystem of sponsorship availability, academic calendars, topic relevance and much more, therefore, the calendar is subject to change.

Selected businesses must be relevant to the Challenge theme and will be contacted accordingly (e.g. a pharmacist may not be considered relevant for a sustainable fisheries themed Challenge)

We aim to give local businesses in an upcoming Challenge region as much prior notice as possible in order to schedule the day away from the office and travel to the venue.



If you are interested in participating in an upcoming event, please send an Expression of Interest to John Wynants at projects@cosboa.org.au. Additionally, you are welcome to register your interest via the National Innovation Games website (www.nationalinnovationgames.com)

National Innovation Games Launches in the Gold Coast.

On Wednesday, August 21st 2019, the National Innovation Games kicked off on the Gold Coast at the beautiful RACV Royal Pines Hotel and Resort with The Hon Karen Andrews MP, Minister for Industry, Science and Technology there to deliver the series' opening address in her home constituency and declare the series officially launched. The National Innovation Games – a series of 30 Games to be held over the next two years – is funded by the Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and delivered by the Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia (COSBOA) and Paddl Co., a startup developing new ways to better prepare business and talent for the future of work.

The challenge focus for the day addressed a key issue for the country: "How can your business better manage waste and reduce Australia's landfill?" and 10 local businesses from the Gold Coast and 70+ students, graduates and PhD candidates from multiple Queensland educators came together on teams to tackle the issue and innovate solutions for the businesses.

"It was a fantastic day, and so great to get a fresh look at the problem from a team of people who were determined to help us find a solution that would work for the whole business.

The organisation of the day was amazing, everything ran so smoothly and support was never too far away."

- Lisa Ingram,
Virgin Australia

In her opening address, Minister Andrews explained the importance of turning to tomorrow's leaders, such as the students and graduates participating in the Games, for new ways to help Australia innovate solutions to solve problems affecting the country. "That's what innovation is all about," she said, "And that's what you will be doing here today, which is using your problem solving skills to come out with some real outcomes that will, hopefully, develop into some very viable and productive solutions for the future."

This launch challenge was the first of a national series comprised of 30 Games that will move across the country, hitting every state and territory in both urban and regional areas over the next two years. Each event will focus on different themes affecting Australia and relevant to the host location.

Visit our blog to read more about the National Innovation Games.

<https://blog.paddljobs.com/blog/announcing-the-national-innovation-games>

