**What happens at a Business Startup Weekend?**

A Business Startup Weekend is a once-off event which is run from Saturday 9.00am to 5.00pm and Sunday 9.00am to 5.00pm.

Business Startup Weekends are where people with an idea for a business or who already have a business, spend time working on the building the business. The idea or business could be in any industry – fashion, technology, hospitality, agricultural, medical, education. Our focus is on helping you to gain the skills to assist your business to come to life or if you have a business, to look at it deeply to assist you to grow and prosper. The type of business is up to you.

From Saturday morning until Sunday afternoon, you will meet other people, have support from professional business coaches (we call them Enterprise Facilitators) our experienced technology Support Crew, eat good food, have fun and do a pitch where you tell other people about your idea.

The format for the Business Startup Weekend will take you through every step of the startup process to come up with an idea, get it ready to become a business or grow your business.

**What happens next?**

Ideas and businesses that come out of the Business Startup Weekend can, if you want to, go into a 12 week Accelerator program.

Teams or individuals involved in the Cultov8 Accelerator will have free coaching by experienced entrepreneurs, free mentoring by experienced people involved in marketing, financial management, technology, branding and other services to help your startup or business.

If you can’t attend a Business Startup Weekend, but were born overseas and you already have a business and want some help with it, you are welcome to attend the Cultov8 accelerator.

The business start up weekends are a weekend for you to come with business ideas, develop an idea you have or work on the business you own. If you decide you don’t want to continue, then no further involvement is needed by you.

You will have had a great weekend, been well fed, met interesting people and learned a range of new skills and ideas.

We want every team from the Cultov8 accelerator to be successful so that's why we've developed the Accelerator program.

We will use our knowledge and networks to help you, by the end of the 12 weeks, to access further support through longer term business incubator or accelerator programs. If your idea or business is ready for investment, we will introduce you to investors.

We won’t create spaces in incubators or accelerators for you or require investors to invest in your idea or business - that will all be up to you but we will make sure you are introduced.

**What is an Accelerator program? How long will it run for?**

An Accelerator program helps new businesses to get prepared for success.

Over 12 weeks our Cultov8 Accelerator will work with you to consolidate and progress your idea, product, service or business to become attractive to further formal incubation, acceleration or investment.

The Cultov8 Accelerator will provide Enterprise Facilitators, mentors, access to business networks, resources, knowledge and tools – all for free!

**What commitment do I need to make?**

**Business Startup Weekend**

Each Cultov8 Business Startup Weekend will be held from Saturday 9.00 to 5.00 and Sunday 9.00 to 5.00.

You can come along by yourself or with a team - each person needs to register separately.

They’re fun and really interesting to be involved with as you’ll learn how to come up with ideas, how to make sure your idea will have customers and how you can create a business from your idea.

If you have a business, you’ll learn how to review your revenue and costs to make sure you are making as much value as possible out of your business, and focus on who your customers are, what they need and which other business or not-for-profit organisations you could partner with to grow more customers.

If you want to turn your idea into a business or focus more deeply on your existing business, you can join the Cultov8 Accelerator.

**Accelerator**

The Cultov8 Accelerator will need you to commit to:

- 1 day sessions held on three Saturdays in Bendigo. The one day sessions are held in the first week, 6th week and 12th week of the program.

- weekly skype meetings for 1 hour with the Enterprise Facilitator and other teams to work through an online video series called, "How to build a start up."

- every second month, a 1.5 hour business coaching session with your Enterprise Facilitator to work on the progress of your business.

- depending on what you need, you will be matched with a mentor who has business experience. You may only meet with them once or you may meet with them weekly - it will depend on your businesses' needs and the time that you and your mentor have available. You may not want a mentor because you already have one and that’s fine too.

**Where will the Accelerator be held?**

Because our regional Business Startup Weekends are in Ballarat and Shepparton, we want to be fair to everyone who joins the Accelerator.

Bendigo is about half way between Ballarat and Shepparton so we will be holding the Accelerator in Bendigo.

If you live in Bendigo and want to attend a Business StartUp Weekend, you are welcome to join either the Shepparton or Ballarat weekends and, if you’d like to continue, to join the Accelerator in Bendigo.

**Is the Business Startup Weekend and Accelerator free?**

Yes – totally! Thanks to funding by LaunchVic and Enterprising Partnerships, all Business Startup Weekends and Accelerator programs are free.

**Can I catch public transport?**

We always use venues that are accessible by public transport.  Once you have registered, we will let you know the location.

The venue will also be accessible to people who are in wheelchairs or have walking frames.

**What about food and places for prayer?**

All food will be halal and a range of other dietary requirements such as vegetarian, vegan and gluten/dairy-free will be available.

We will have a prayer room available.

**Is there adult supervision?**

Yes there is adult supervision. There will be at least 4 Cultov8 team members in the room at any time supervising participants.

As a parent or guardian, you are also welcome to attend at any time.

Parents are always welcome to ring us on 0414 440 483 (Lynda) or 0423 496 667 (Celestine).

**What if I can’t attend one day of the weekend?**

You need to be able to attend the whole Business Startup Weekend from Saturday morning until Sunday afternoon.

However, if you already have a business and you were born overseas, you are welcome to join the Cultov8 Accelerator program from the first week of the program.