



Media Release

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ANZ partners with Innovyz to launch small business accelerator program

ANZ, in partnership with Innovyz, today launched the 'ANZ Innovyz START Program', a three month intensive accelerator program aimed at assisting prospective and existing small business owners to develop and grow their businesses for success.

The ANZ Innovyz START program is a member of the Global Accelerator Network and is modelled on TechStars, the US mentor-driven seed stage investment program which has created some of the world's most successful start-up businesses.

The ANZ Innovyz START program offers participants the unique opportunity to be mentored by global specialists in entrepreneurship and innovation, including world renowned expert, Dr Jana Matthews.

Commenting on ANZ's partnership with Innovyz, ANZ General Manager for Small Business, Nick Reade said: "Our support for this program forms part of ANZ's commitment to the Australian small business sector. We're also a strong supporter of the start up segment, having an approval rate of around 80 per cent for ANZ start up loan applications.

"The Australian small business sector contributes almost half of Australia's private sector jobs, and while many are very successful, there are some which are having a tough time at present, and the sector continues to need investment and support.

"This program is about fostering growth and innovation in small business, and accelerating the development of start-up companies who really need that initial leg-up to get going.

"Whether you're a new small business, or just someone with a great innovative idea, it's about having the right support, mentoring and skills to get off the ground. The ANZ Innovyz START program is all about creating a launch pad for these people by giving them the expertise and funding to grow and commercialise their business," Mr Reade said.

The program commences on 28 May 2012 and will require 10 selected companies to reside in Adelaide for three months. The companies will be mentored by successful global entrepreneurs, be given the tools and programs to help them identify target markets, develop business plans and create strategies for growth. On the final day of the program they will then present to potential investors to seek funding. Start ups, early stage small businesses or those with innovative ideas are encouraged to apply. Applications are open until 20 April 2012. To apply, go to www.innovyzstart.com

ANZ has also launched 'The ANZ Small Business Hub' LinkedIn group which provides an interactive and inclusive community for small businesses to connect, share ideas, build profiles and open doors to new opportunities. To become a member of ANZ's Small Business Hub community, go to [LinkedIn](#).

For media enquiries contact:

Emily Kinnear
Media Relations Advisor
Tel: 03 8654 3540 or 0478 401 280
Email: emily.kinnear@anz.com