



Sharon Hunneybell

INNOVATION | TECHNOLOGY | CREATIVITY

Sharon Hunneybell has led an impressive and varied career as a driver of the Innovation and Technology sector in Australia.

In 2018, she was named one of Australia's 100 women of Influence by the Australian Financial Review for her work growing and strengthening the Innovation and Technology sector in Queensland. Sharon was also recognised as a Startup Community Leader in the Westpac Community Leader awards in 2014 and an Innovation Champion by the Queensland Government in 2014.

Serving as the CEO at the Gold Coast Innovation Hub, Sharon plays a major role in establishing global relationships, creating corporate and government connections for new businesses and mentoring hundreds of startup founders as they grow and scale into international markets. Through her commitment to this role, she has supported Gold Coast businesses in raising more than \$30 million in seed and series A funding and built pathways for digital export with the UK, US, NZ and throughout South East Asia.

Prior to establishing the Gold Coast Innovation Hub, Sharon worked for Opmantek Software as the General Manager of International Export, supporting the Gold Coast based technology company with capital raising, strategy and commercialisation activities to fuel their global expansion into North and South America, Asia and Europe.

Sharon has also co-founded a number of youth innovation and technology initiatives, through social enterprise Startup Apprentice, which delivered Australia's first in curriculum high school startup accelerator program in 2013, served as a foundation partner in the Mayors Telstra Technology Awards in 2014 and in 2021 launched Tech with Style, to promote Fashiontech education and kits to encourage more women and girls to experiment with electronics and programming.