

SKILL STUDIO — CANBERRA

STAKEHOLDER BRIEF · 2026

SEEKING $1.0M · 24 MONTHS

SKILL STUDIO

Australia's physical commons for applied AI & emerging tech.

From a proven pop-up to a permanent, open-access tech library for the capital and the regions.

FRONTIER TECH HAS NO FRONT DOOR

A–01	**LEARNING IS STUCK ONLINE**	AI moves weekly, but learning sits behind paywalls, jargon and webinars. ai.gov.au has no real-world counterpart.	PAYWALLED
A–02	**TRANSITION IS ABSTRACT**	Small businesses, workers and councils can’t see what AI means for logistics, farming or admin until they try it.	UNTESTED
A–03	**NO NEUTRAL LAB**	There’s nowhere community-facing where anyone can touch, test and build with real hardware.	MISSING

02 / THE SOLUTION

THE MODERN TECH LIBRARY

A street-level public space, like a civic library, where anyone can walk in and use real tools.

006.3	**TEST FRONTIER MODELS** Claude, ChatGPT and open-weight models	●
004.16	**RUN AI LOCALLY** Offline machines: Mac Studio, GPU rigs	●
005.8	**EXPLORE THE NEXT LAYER** Sovereign data, agents, payment rails	●



THE POP-UP, IN NUMBERS

32

SESSIONS IN 12 WEEKS

336

ATTENDANCES · 2× THE PRIOR 5 MONTHS

10–80

AGE RANGE OF PARTICIPANTS

It is different from any other innovation space I have seen, I don't need a startup idea to be welcome!

Recurring sentiment observed over the period of operations





SOURCE: ANU / UBRI GRANT ACTIVITY REPORT

04 / THE ON-RAMP

COME AS YOU ARE

...and maybe walk out with a startup.

S–01
WALK IN
Curious is enough. No idea, pitch or badge needed.

S–02
LEARN
Walk-in help and hands-on workshops.

S–03
BUILD
Hackathons and build nights on real problems.

S–04
PITCH
Pitch nights with VC partners and early investment.

S–05
SCALE
Grants, incubation and acceleration at CBRIN.

SKILL STUDIO · STREET LEVEL · OPEN TO EVERYONE

CBRIN · LEVEL 5

A feeder, not a competitor: more founders ready for CBRIN's grants and pitch nights, building capability in the city first, then the regions.

05 / OPERATING MODEL

FOUR PILLARS, ONE DOOR



P—01

AI LITERACY & WALK-INS

Guided help with prompting, subscriptions and privacy basics, for everyday citizens and seniors.



LOCAL HARDWARE SANDBOXES

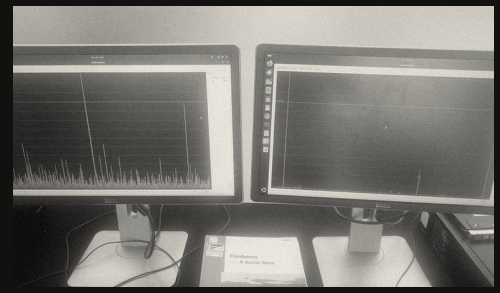
GPU rigs and Mac Studios for developers running private open-source models (Ollama, vLLM).



P—03

ENTERPRISE & SME TRANSITION

Practical automation workshops for regional businesses, farmers, logistics operators and merchants.



P—04

DECENTRALISED TECH & AGENTS

Hands-on demos of peer-to-peer compute (Evernode), smart contracts and agentic workflows.

BUILT WITH THE ECOSYSTEM

ENTERPRISE & FOUNDATION AI · TARGET

Compute credits and co-run workshops with Anthropic, OpenAI, Trellis, Maincode and local LLM builders.

CANBERRA ECOSYSTEM · ACTIVE

Trellis Data (hardware demos, AI meetups), ANU, university labs, the Linux group and Evernode, Large AI enthusiast meetup community.

CIVIC & GOVERNMENT · ALIGNED

ACT Government, City Renewal Authority (CBD revitalisation) and federal digital transition teams.



ALREADY RUN AT THE POP-UP ↑

PILOT FUNDED VIA EVERNODE · ANU LAW ENTREPRENEURIAL FELLOW / UBRI GRANT

07 / LOCATION STRATEGY

HIGH-STREET VISIBILITY

SITE

Ground-floor CBD vacancy with heavy foot traffic, such as empty offices near City Walk.

FEEL

Live demos and people building inside, so passers-by stop, look and wander in. It looks like a workshop, not an office. You see people making things and want to know what.

RENEWAL

Activates empty city real estate and brings repeat foot traffic into the centre.

THE REGIONAL BLUEPRINT

THE PLAYBOOK

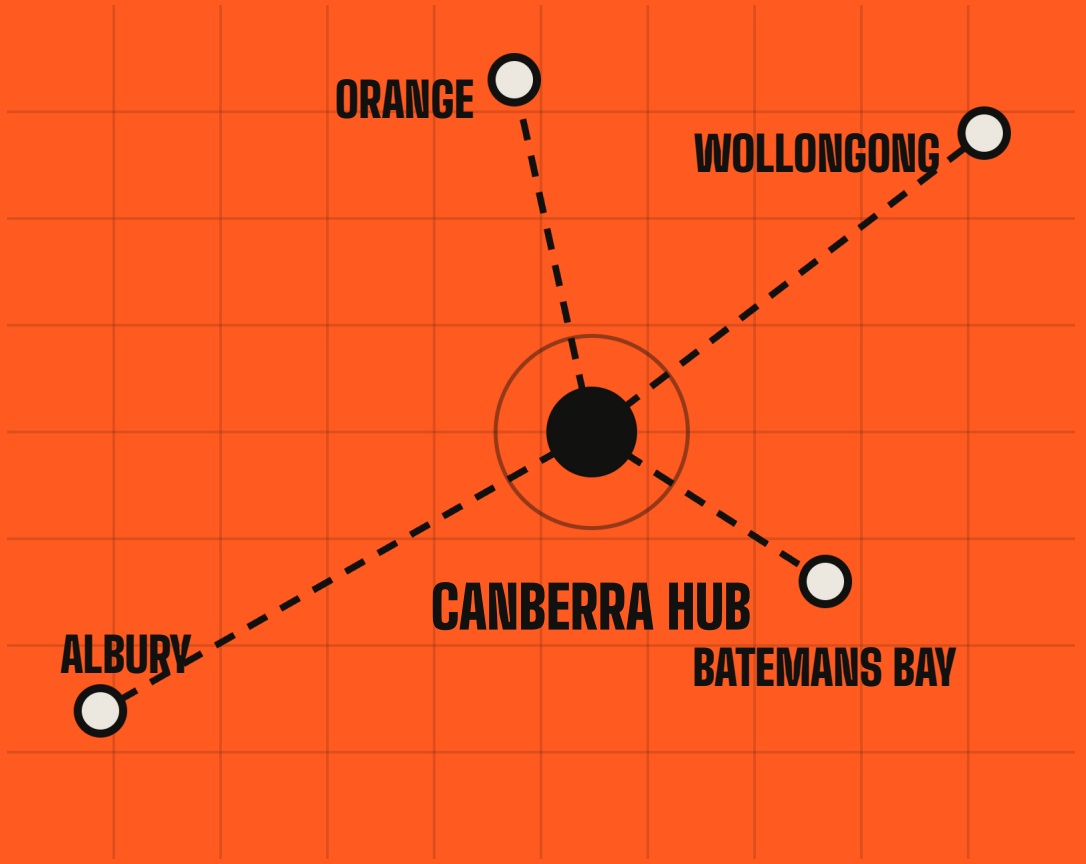
A low-overhead modular pop-up that fits inside council libraries, shared workspaces or town halls.

FIRST CORRIDORS

Regional NSW and the south coast: Orange, Albury, Wollongong, Batemans Bay.

FOR COUNCILS

Workers and primary producers adopt AI tools without leaving their hometowns.



$1.0M

AUD · 24 MONTHS · CASH + IN-KIND

Core personnel Director, facilitators, operations	$300k	CASH
Facility & lease CBD lease, utilities, insurance	$200k	CASH/SPACE
Hardware & fit-out Mac Studios, GPU builds, AV	$150k	MIXED
API & sovereign compute Sandbox credits for workshops	$150k	IN-KIND
Regional deployments Roadshows, stipends, transport	$200k	CASH

About $700k in cash. The rest as hardware, space and compute from partners.



FACILITY COSTS MAY BE OFFSET BY CITY RENEWAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT

FOUR WAYS IN

J–01 COMMUNITY PARTNER

Become a member, mentor a session, donate kit or run a meetup.

J–02 FOUNDING CORPORATE PARTNER

API credits, hardware, financial contribution or co-branded technical challenges.

J–03 CIVIC & GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Co-locate public education programs or unlock urban spaces.

J–04 ACADEMIC & RESEARCH PARTNER

Translational research and student internships.

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