Case Study

CoderDojo Western Australia

1. Tell us a little bit about your group?

CoderDojo WA was formed by the Fogarty Foundation in 2013. Their principal partner is Scitech, which is the major Science Discovery Centre for children in Western Australia. For more information about Scitech please visit: http://www.scitech.org.au/

Dojo list:

University of Western Australia	Curtin University	Edith Cowan University (Joondalup)
Edith Cowan University (Mt Lawley)	Dunsborough	

2. What reasons did you have for starting your Dojo Group?

Location:	University of Western Australia	Edith Cowan University (Mt Lawley)	Edith Cowan University (Joondalup)	Curtin	Dunsborough
Venue Champion:	Tim French	Evan Roberts, Brett DE BEER	William Douglas	G regg Mudhuwiwa,	Clayton Lewis
Mentor Champion:	Sam Moore	Sam Spilsbury	William Douglas	Tim Keeley	Megan Hemsley
Ninja Champion:	Thomas Drake-Brockm an	Sam Spilsbury	William Douglas	Kye Russell, Jasmine Quek	

3. How do Dojos become members of your regional group?

Dojos become members of our regional group by making contact with us. There is no formal process to becoming a member of CoderDojo WA - rather, we view our

WA Dojos as falling under our umbrella. We offer support to these Dojos particularly as they start up.

4. How did you set up the Dojo Group?

CoderDojo WA is a Non-Profit Group/Company I am not 100% certain of the details as I only joined the organisation about 2 months ago. Without the support of the Fogarty Foundation as well as Scitech CoderDojo as it is, would not exist. The Fogarty Foundation as well as Scitech are wonderful organisations that recognise the opportunity that the CoderDojo model represents for increasing coding literacy amongst young people.

Right now, plans are well underway for the construction of the world's largest telescope in Western Australia (the SKA). More information here: http://www.ska.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx.

Though Perth has been known for a long time as somewhat of a mining town (we have large iron ore mining operations occurring in the North of Western Australia), there are many other exciting opportunities in future for today's young people (who will be tomorrow's leaders). The SKA represents a massive opportunity for WA young people to get into astronomy and big data. The Fogarty's have a long term vision - of trying to get more young people into coding so that they can take up the opportunities that lie just around the corner. We are also very committed to ensuring that we address diversity of participants (looking at ways to involve girls, children from lower socio-economic areas as well as Indigenous students and minorities). Without the support of the Fogarty Foundation and the funding of this position it would likely be difficult to do so seriously.

Please contact me before using any of this information within any kind of report that will be made public. As I am working for an employer - Fogarty Foundation - I would need permission to publish or release this sort of information publicly. I would be most interested in finding out more about other Regional Groups and how they operate, so look forward to reading your findings.

5. How is your Dojo Group organised?

I am the CoderDojo WA Coordinator. My (part-time) contract position is paid. I am employed by the Fogarty Foundation. I was appointed to this position via a recruitment process.

I work with partners, such as Scitech - on things like strategic planning, reporting, mentor engagement. I am also looking at ways to foster a sense of community in Western Australia between Champions at different Dojos, as well between Champions, Mentors and Industry participants. I maintain the CoderDojo WA website and social media pages. I am working on ensuring that individual CoderDojos follow

correct protocol, localised to WA laws and regulations, to ensure that the safety of children participating in the program is looked after.

In terms of a succession plan - my contract is for one year - which ends in May 2015. I am not sure what will happen then but I am certain that succession planning will be taking place in advance of that date to ensure continuity of the program.

Information provided by CoderDojo Champion Karen de San Miguel