

## BOARD PROPOSAL

# AUTOMATION HACKATHON FOR CA ANZ MEMBERS

Professional Development Initiative | 3-Week Intensive Program

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A 3-week intensive hackathon designed to equip CA ANZ members with practical automation capabilities using no-code platforms. Participants will implement operational efficiencies within their practices while developing skills to lead digital transformation initiatives.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Structured learning pathway from foundational concepts to practical implementation
- Focus on three core platforms: n8n (workflow automation), MCP servers (task streamlining), and Replit (application development)
- Pod-based support system ensuring accountability and peer learning
- Culminates in competitive awards ceremony recognizing excellence in automation

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

### WEEK ONE

#### Monday: Program Launch (11:00-17:00, In-Person)

- Comprehensive platform training and tool selection methodology
- Individual project selection and pod assignment (5 pods, 4 participants each)
- Live demonstrations of automation platforms
- Establishment of Discord collaboration environment

### **Tuesday-Friday: Implementation Phase**

- Bi-weekly pod check-ins (Wednesday and Friday, 45 minutes per pod)
  - Daily technical support sessions (17:00-18:00)
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## **WEEK TWO**

### **Monday: Progress Review (09:00-13:00, In-Person)**

- Showcase of leading automation implementations
- Pod collaboration sessions for peer learning
- Complete automation build demonstration
- Networking luncheon

### **Tuesday-Friday: Refinement Phase**

- Continued bi-weekly pod check-ins
  - Daily technical support sessions
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## **WEEK THREE**

### **Monday: Submission Preparation (09:00-11:00, Online)**

- Submission requirements and assessment criteria
- Exemplar submission demonstration
- Final Q&A session

### **Thursday: Submission Deadline (17:00)**

### **Friday: Awards Ceremony (17:30-20:00, In-Person)**

- Keynote address and program overview
- Finalist presentations (live-streamed)
- Awards presentation (1st, 2nd, 3rd place)
- Reception for participants and firm representatives (4 per firm)

## SUPPORT FRAMEWORK

- **Pod System:** Five pods of four participants, meeting twice weekly for structured accountability
- **Technical Support:** Daily asynchronous assistance via Discord (17:00-18:00)
- **Instructor Engagement:** 90 total hours including instruction, preparation, and assessment
- **Peer Learning:** Collaborative environment fostering knowledge exchange

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Deploy minimum one functional automation within participant's practice
- Develop capability to identify and assess automation opportunities
- Establish foundation for ongoing digital transformation initiatives
- Create network of automation-proficient CA ANZ members

**Program Capacity:** 20 participants (1-2 per member firm)  
**Investment:** \$2,000 per participant  
**Total Program Budget:** \$40,000

### RETURN ON INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

**Participant ROI Scenario:** Single automation saving 5 hours weekly

- Standard billing rate: \$125 per hour
- Weekly value creation: \$625
- Investment recovery: 3.2 weeks
- Annual value per automation: \$32,500
- First-year return: 1,525%

## SUCCESS METRICS

- Completion rate of functional automations (target: 100%)
- Aggregate time savings across all implementations
- Participant satisfaction scores (target: >4.5/5.0)
- Post-program implementation tracking (3-month follow-up)

## STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

- Advances CA ANZ's digital transformation agenda
- Provides practical upskilling aligned with market demands
- Creates competitive advantage for member firms
- Establishes CA ANZ as innovation leader in professional development