



SPUR PROJECTS

MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (NOV 1)

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A BOLD NEW APPROACH TO SUICIDE PREVENTION

USING DATA TO HACK A BETTER FUTURE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Brisbane was host to dozens of analysts, designers, health professionals and entrepreneurs who came together in a two-day “hackathon” to create better mental health outcomes.

Utilising the data from *How is the World Feeling?* - the world’s largest ever, real-time mental health survey - participants faced a mammoth challenge of not only analysing data from 58,000 submissions, but then also creating initiatives based on their findings - all in just two days.

Both *How is the World Feeling?* and the *DatqaHack* are initiatives created by *Spur Projects*, a not-for-profit organisation working to reduce the rate of suicide in Australia, and hosted at *The Capital* - Brisbane’s flagship co-working space.

The winning team, *Cross PolleNation*, focussed on the correlation of loneliness with poor mental health by creating *HotPot* a project that uses both offline and online strategies to connect people at meal-times.

Ideas generated by other teams included how to use real-time data to reduce anxiety and stress amongst students, ways for the LGBTI+ community to find inclusive churches, temples, synagogues and mosques, and the utilisation of gaming to educate children about mental health, to name a few.

“The best part of an event like this is just the immense variety of ideas that are generated”, says Spur Project’s CEO Lee Crockford. “There are certainly a number of ideas that we will back and help bring to life.”

The winning team took home a prize package worth over \$7,000 including access to *Pitchblak*’s Startup Strategy program, 6-month membership to *Little Tokyo Two*, and social-impact mentoring from *Assemblus*. The event was also made possible with the support of *Grill’d*, *Zambrero*, and *The Capital*.

For more information or to download the app, visit www.howistheworldfeeling.org

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A range of visual assets, including photos and videos can be found at: bit.ly/hitwfassets