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FIVE STARTUPS IN REGIONAL PITCHFEST GRAND FINAL

Five startups will battle it out for $20,000 in cash and prizes and the title of Regional NSW's best emerging business at the grand final of the Jobs for NSW Regional Pitchfest in Wagga Wagga on 5 September after a semi-final showdown in Sydney last night.

Minister for Jobs Stuart Ayres said the five finalists from Armidale, Byron Bay, Wagga Wagga, Young and the Central Coast now have a shot at the major title after winning the semi-final of Australia's largest pitch competition for regional startups.

"Congratulations to these five outstanding startups that are fantastic examples of the innovative business ideas being generated across our regional communities," Mr Ayres said.

"They include Zondii from Armidale, Fair Game from Byron Bay, Amelio Health from the Central Coast, A Lasting Tale from Wagga Wagga, and PA2health from Young.

"These companies are helping shape the future of our regional economies by developing creative new products, services and businesses.

"The five startups will now progress to the grand final of the Regional Pitchfest on 5 September where they will compete for the crown of Regional NSW's top startup company."

Dianna Somerville, the founder of Regional Pitchfest, said the five grand finalists include startups focusing on health and fitness, organic food and eco-friendly products, the sourcing of natural wild venison meat, a support program for people with chronic pain, and helping people capture the life stories of loved ones.

"The Regional Pitchfest held 11 pitch events across regional NSW to find the best startups from Armidale, Bathurst, Broken Hill, Byron Bay, Dubbo, Wagga Wagga, Wollongong, Young and elsewhere through a Virtual Pitch hosted in Lightning Ridge," Mrs Somerville said.

"These 11 companies then progressed to a three-day bootcamp at the Sydney Startup Hub this week where they were coached on building their businesses and yesterday competed in the semi-final of the pitch competition.

"Now we have the final five who will battle it out for top honours next month in Wagga Wagga.

"The Regional Pitchfest has been an exciting journey for all involved and is helping showcase and launch the next generation of regional startups onto the national and international stage."

The grand final winner will receive $7,500 cash plus a specially-tailored overseas trip to the value of $10,000 to gain international exposure and explore business and investment opportunities. The runner-up at the grand final will receive $3,500 cash for their business.

For more information on the Jobs for NSW Regional Pitchfest visit https://regionalpitchfest.com/

GRAND FINALISTS FOR JOBS FOR NSW REGIONAL PITCHFEST

Armidale - Danielle Morton is a serial entrepreneur with a passion for kids' health and organic food who has founded Zondii, an online community for healthy food and eco-friendly products.

Byron Bay - Jonas Widjaja of Fair Game Wild Venison has created a business that delivers premium quality, wild-caught venison straight from the wilderness to provide a source of all-natural unfarmed deer meat.

Central Coast - Kathy Hubble of Amelio Health is providing an online support program for people in pain and their health professional which is data driven from an app and wearable devices linked to Amelio Health coaches.

Wagga Wagga – Professional writer and educator Dimity Brassil has created A Lasting Tale which empowers people to record the audio life stories of loved ones through a do it yourself guide, workshops and professional interviews, while also supporting fundraising for Palliative Care Australia.

Young - PA2health is a digital innovation developed by five co-founders with experience in fitness, nutrition and mindfulness who deliver a four-week challenge involving healthy eating, exercise and stress management via a Facebook messenger chatbot.

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