

Ruth Drinkwater, CEO, Australian Association of Angel Investors

Over a career spanning 18 years, Ruth has developed experience in innovation and commercialisation activities across the university, government, investment and industry sectors. This experience comprises business management with a focus to achieve competitive outcomes on limited resources and investment management to achieve strategic goals. Ruth has worked with over 60 technology-based start-up companies through their incubation phase, pre and post investment. Her experience across these cultural divides has provided her with a keen understanding and insights into the effects of respective business cultures on business and economic activities in a broad range of industry sectors from biotech through clean tech and ICT to the cultural industries.

Ruth managed teQstart Pty Ltd, a co-investment fund owned by the Queensland Government. During Ruth's term with the company the portfolio grew from 8 to 27 companies across ag-biotech, biotech, health, devices, ICT and clean tech. Co-investments were undertaken with 16 separate investment groups including venture funds and angel groups and individuals delivering knowledge, experience and relationships across industries, investment, R&D and professional service communities. Ruth also has general management, product development, strategic marketing, and relationship management experience from Uniseed Pty Ltd, UniQuest Pty Ltd, the Australian Institute for Commercialisation and the Institute for Molecular Bioscience at the University of Queensland .

Ruth is currently active in the Brisbane angel investor community, is a member of Brisbane Angels and the Australian Association of Angel Investors. Her current focus is working with companies, government and the angel community to build the professional capability of angel investors and to strengthen investment availability to support early stage seed and start up activities.

Ruth has a Bachelor of Science Degree, a Masters in Business Administration and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Ruth is currently a Director of QUT Creative Industries Pty Ltd (recently re-branded as Creative Enterprise Australia), a Director on the Board of Women in Technology and Chair of Women in Technology | Biotech and a nominee Director on the Board of a start up clean tech company.