

Senior Developer & Mentor: Community Tech Lab 2026

Location: Queenstown Lakes District | **Engagement:** Sole trader contract with Startup Queenstown Lakes | **Dates:** Oct-Dec 2026 (core build)

About the programme

Community Tech Lab is a mentored build programme delivering three digital tools for local community organisations, funded by the QLDC Economic Diversification Fund. Three teams of 2–3 developers each will design, build, and hand over a tool over a sprint-based cycle. Senior developers are the backbone of delivery quality and the learning experience.

Who we're looking for

An experienced developer who genuinely enjoys bringing others up — someone who would rather pair with a junior for an hour than write the code themselves in ten minutes. You will guide technical decisions, keep scope sensible, and make sure what gets built is maintainable and actually useful to the community organisation receiving it.

What you'll do

- Lead or co-lead one of the three build teams
- Mentor junior developers through pairing, code review, and regular check-ins
- Guide technical architecture and tooling choices, consistent with the programme's shared standards
- Contribute to the advisory panel and tool selection process
- Support handover, documentation, and the defined warranty and support period
- Participate in the closing FLINT Showcase Hui

What we're hoping you bring

- Solid track record shipping production software (stack-agnostic — we care about judgment, not specific frameworks)
- Genuine interest in mentoring and developing early-career talent
- Comfort with modern AI-assisted development workflows, and the judgment to coach juniors on where AI helps and where it hurts
- Ability to right-size solutions — this is about small, useful, reusable tools, not over-engineered platforms
- Openness to open-source licensing (the programme's default)

What you'll get

- A paid contract (sole trader) with Startup Queenstown Lakes
- Recognition as a mentor and programme partner across FLINT, QCC, Technology Queenstown, and QRC channels
- A tangible contribution to the local community and tech ecosystem
- Connection to the wider Queenstown Lakes tech leadership network