

Startup Central Victoria invited some experienced mentors to share what they believe to be good practice.

What makes a good mentor?

Someone who acts as a sounding board and listens without judgement.

They will commit to a time and a space that allows them to fully participate.

With an independent perspective, they will reflect and ask carefully considered questions that reframe a challenge, empowers the mentee, and prompts them to dig deeper to explore their options so that they can make more informed decisions.

What should be communicated in a mentor / mentee relationship?

1. **Mentors are volunteers and NOT providing professional advice.**
Only the mentee can make decisions relating to their startup.
2. **Maintain Confidentiality.**
Anything shared between a mentor and a mentee is to remain confidential except with their expressed permission.
3. **Agree to Terms of Engagement.**
Best method of contact. When available to meet, where/how, for how long, how frequently?
4. **Establish Mentee Expectations.**
Set some clear goals and a timeline.
5. **Ensure Accountability**
Agree on how the mentee can report back on their progress.

What is Startup Central Victoria's expectation?

SCV is grateful if a mentor can commit up to six hours at mutually agreeable times over a 12-week period to assist a startup mentee.

It is common for a mentee to be referred on to another mentor when a challenge is resolved, and a new challenge requires different experiences and/or skills. If you do refer your mentee on to someone else, we would appreciate being informed OR please refer back to Kerry Anderson to coordinate.