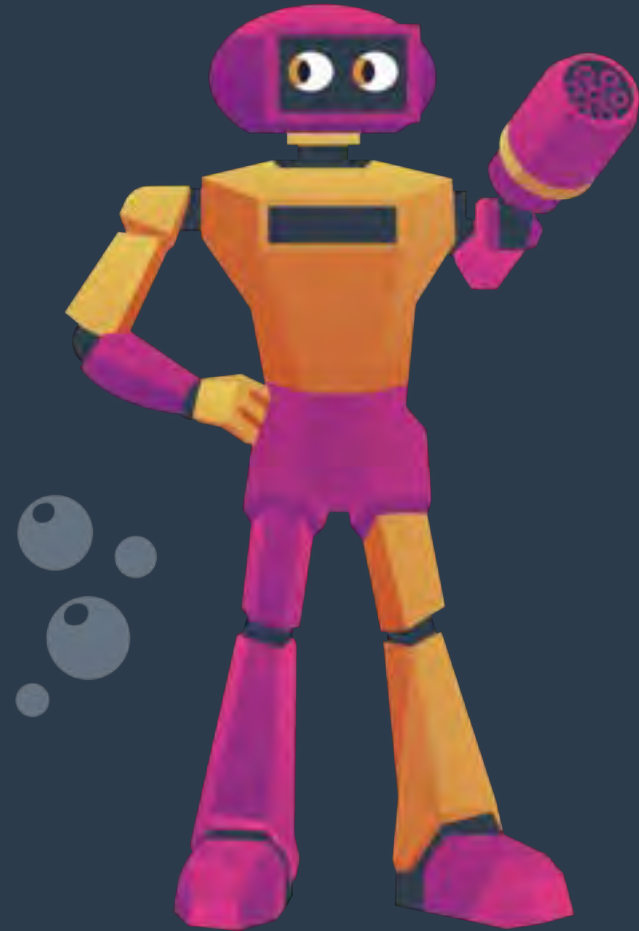


# Curtin Ignition

Funding  
Strategy



# Plan for **TODAY**



- Why you need funding and when to get it
- What types of funding are available
- Why we pass on investments
- The Purpose Ventures Fund
- Funding Tips
- Q&A

# A bit about **DEREK**

The personal stuff



# A bit about **DEREK**

My VC journey



**Greensense** **\$2m**

2008 - 2014



**\$23m**

**BetterLabs.**

2017 - 2022

 **PURPOSE** **\$55m**  
VENTURES

2023 - present

  
**INNOVATION**  
**BAY**

**\$5m**

2014 - 2018

 **GoCapital** **\$11m**

2014 - 2018



**\$5m**

2019 - 2023

 **malka** **\$30m**  
FOUNDATION

2024 - present

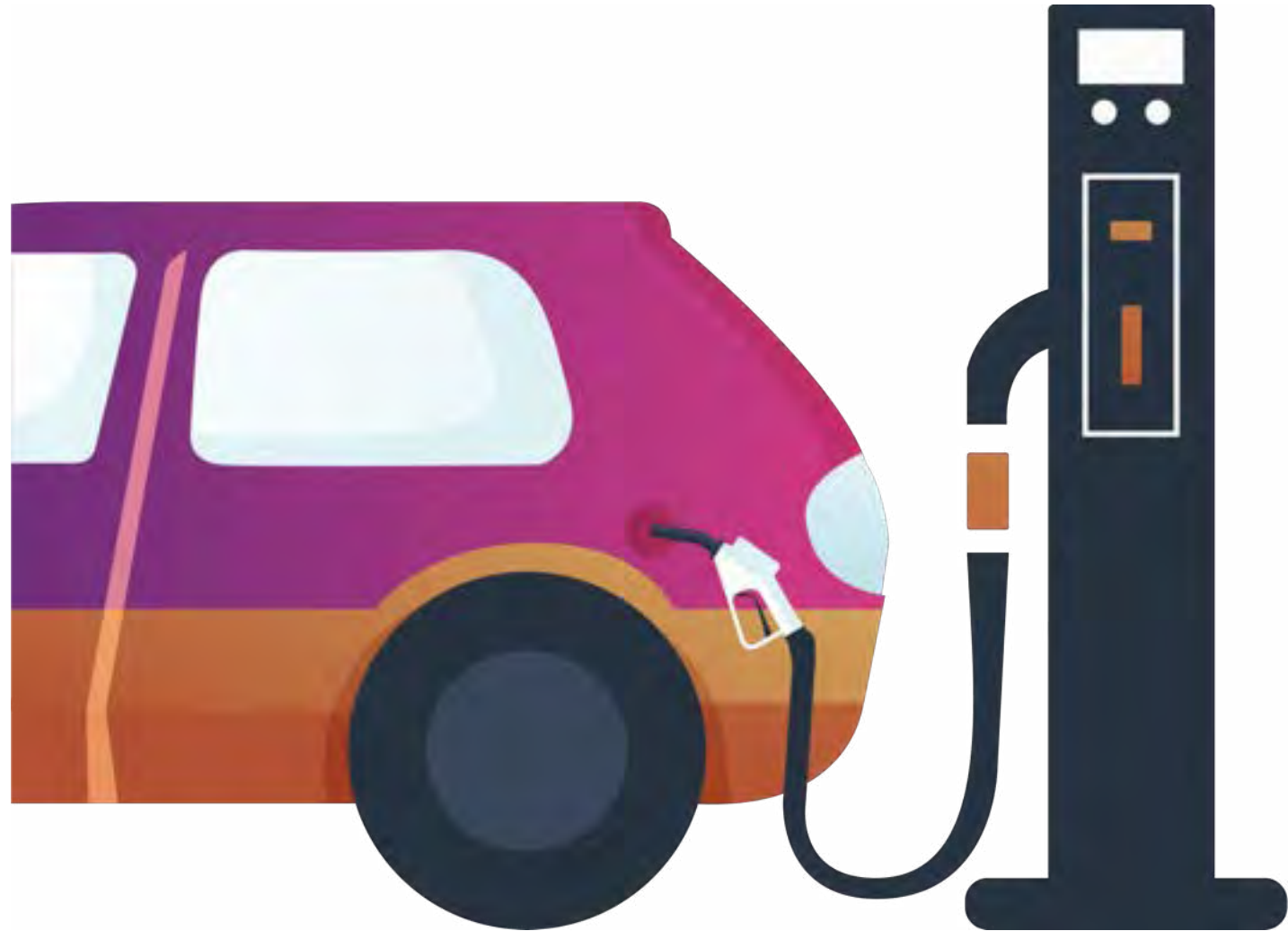
# Not all money is good money.



# Why do you need funding?

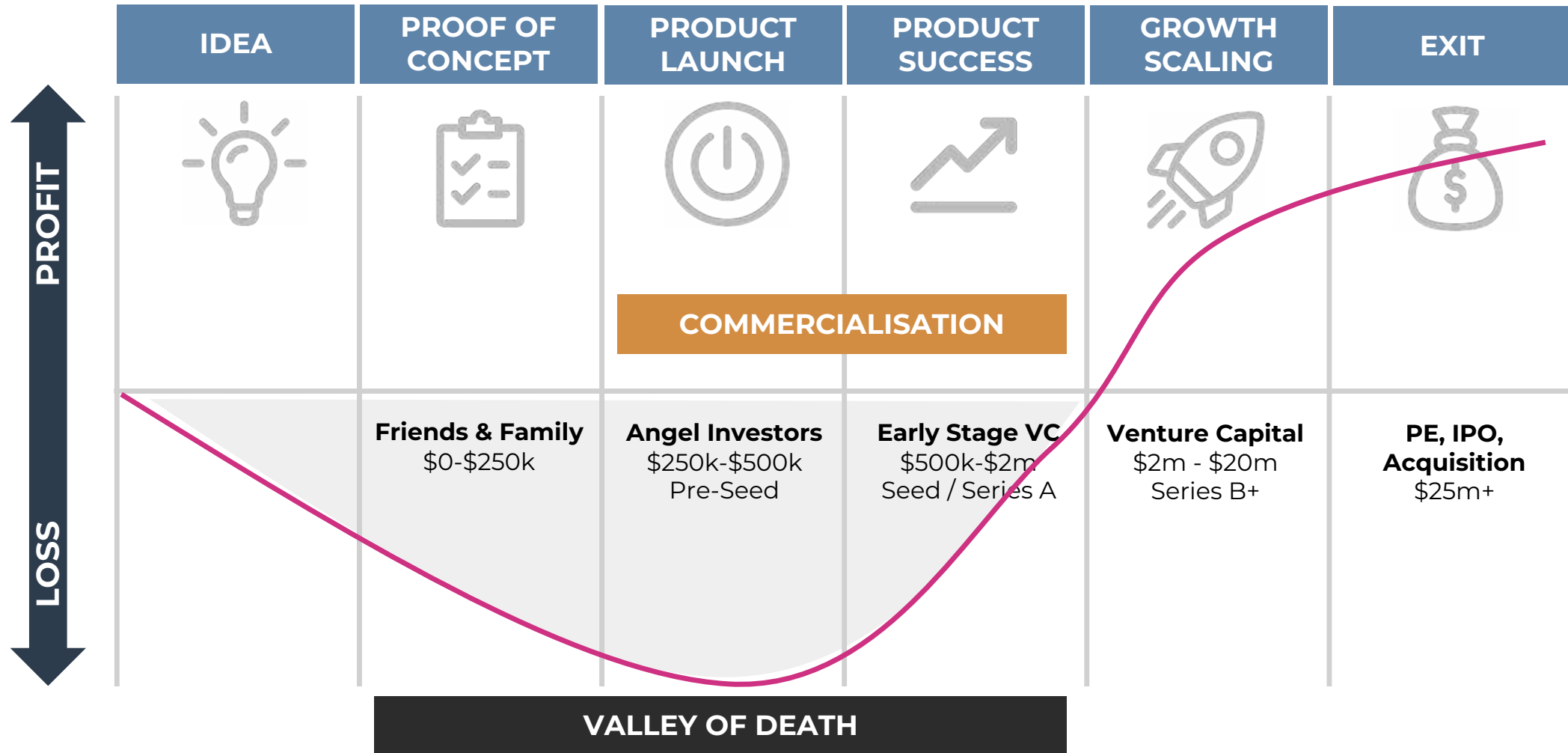


# Fuel in the tank to the next stop...



# When you need **FUNDING**

Who to get funding from at each stage



# When you need **FUNDING**

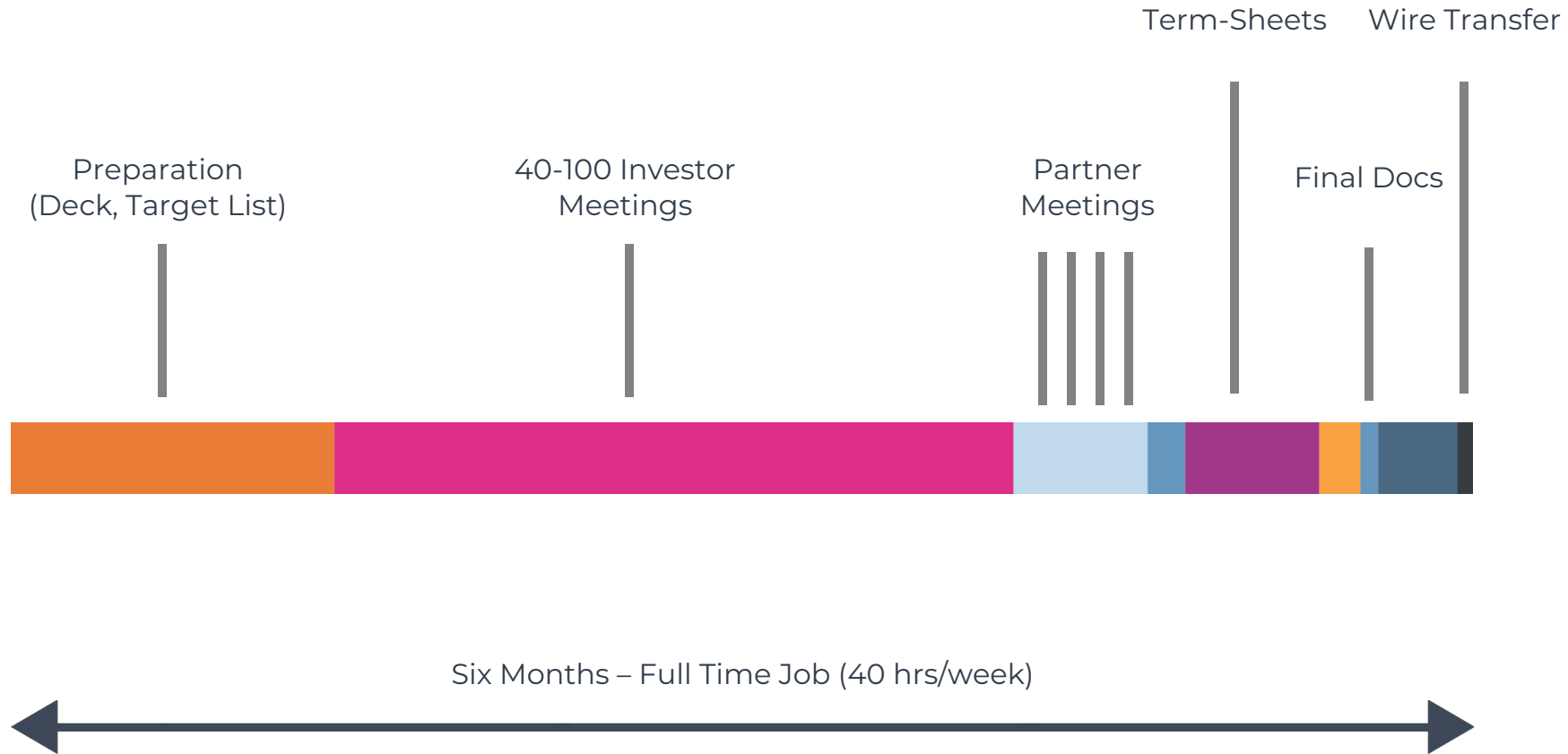
Stage, purpose and likely round size



|           | PRE-SEED                                                  | SEED                                                                            | SERIES A                                                                                      | SERIES B+                                                                                      |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Purpose   | <b>DISCOVERY</b><br>Can you find a problem worth solving? | <b>PROBLEM SOLUTION FIT</b><br>Can you prove that you can make customers happy? | <b>GO TO MARKET FIT</b><br>Can you build a factory that can produce a lot of happy customers? | <b>SCALE MARKET FIT</b><br>Can you scale the first product market fit to de-risk the next PMF? |
| Round     | \$50k - \$100k                                            | \$500k - \$1m                                                                   | \$3m - \$10m                                                                                  | \$20m+                                                                                         |
| Valuation | <\$1m                                                     | \$2.5m - \$5m                                                                   | \$15m - \$50m                                                                                 | \$100m+                                                                                        |

# How long is the **FUNDING JOURNEY**

Plan for longer than you are probably thinking



# What should be on your pitch deck?

 **Must-Have**
 **Nice-To-Have**

|                            | 500 Startups | Guy Kawasaki | Sequoia Capital | NextView Ventures | Crowdfunder | Airbnb Pitch Deck |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Slides                     | 11           | 10           | 11              | 15+               | 12          | 13                |
| Executive Summary          |              |              |                 |                   |             |                   |
| Problem                    |              |              |                 |                   |             |                   |
| Solution value proposition |              |              |                 |                   |             |                   |
| Market Validation/Why Now? |              |              |                 |                   |             |                   |
| Product                    |              |              |                 |                   |             |                   |
| Market Size                |              |              |                 |                   |             |                   |
| Business Model             |              |              |                 |                   |             |                   |
| Underlying Magic           |              |              |                 |                   |             |                   |
| Competition                |              |              |                 |                   |             |                   |
| Competitive Advantage      |              |              |                 |                   |             |                   |
| Marketing Plan/GTM         |              |              |                 |                   |             |                   |
| Founding Team              |              |              |                 |                   |             |                   |
| Board/Advisors             |              |              |                 |                   |             |                   |
| Traction/Milestones        |              |              |                 |                   |             |                   |
| Press/User Testimonials    |              |              |                 |                   |             |                   |
| Fundraising                |              |              |                 |                   |             |                   |
| Financials/Use of Funds    |              |              |                 |                   |             |                   |

# Types of Funding



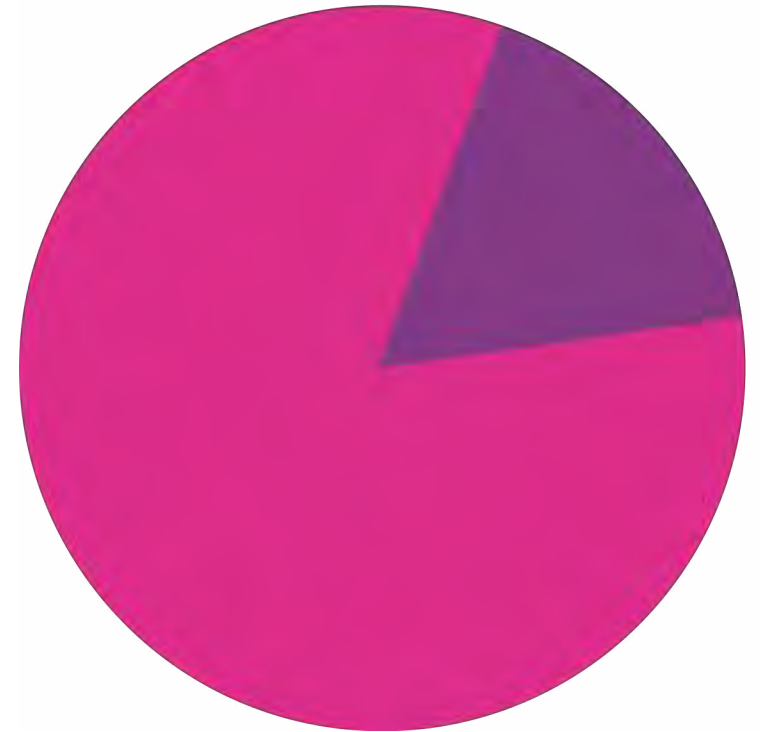
# Is your Funding **DILUTIVE**

Funding can be dilutive or non-dilutive to your equity

**DILUTIVE**

**NON-  
DILUTIVE**

Dilution isn't always bad.  
What size "pie" do you want to build.





# Personal Capital

- Shows your commitment to the business
- Alignment with investors
- Non-Dilutive



# Friends, Family & Fools

- Back you because of relationship
- May not add value beyond the capital
- You are high risk – don't take more than you should
- Which is more important – the relationship or the venture?
- Dilutive



# Bootstrapping

- Good way to self fund
- Maybe slower but good risk mitigation
- Know when to stop for the sake of the venture
- Non-Dilutive



A background image showing several sprinters in motion on a track, overlaid with a dark blue semi-transparent rectangle. The sprinters are wearing athletic gear and bibs, with one bib clearly showing the number '9'.

# Accelerator/Incubator

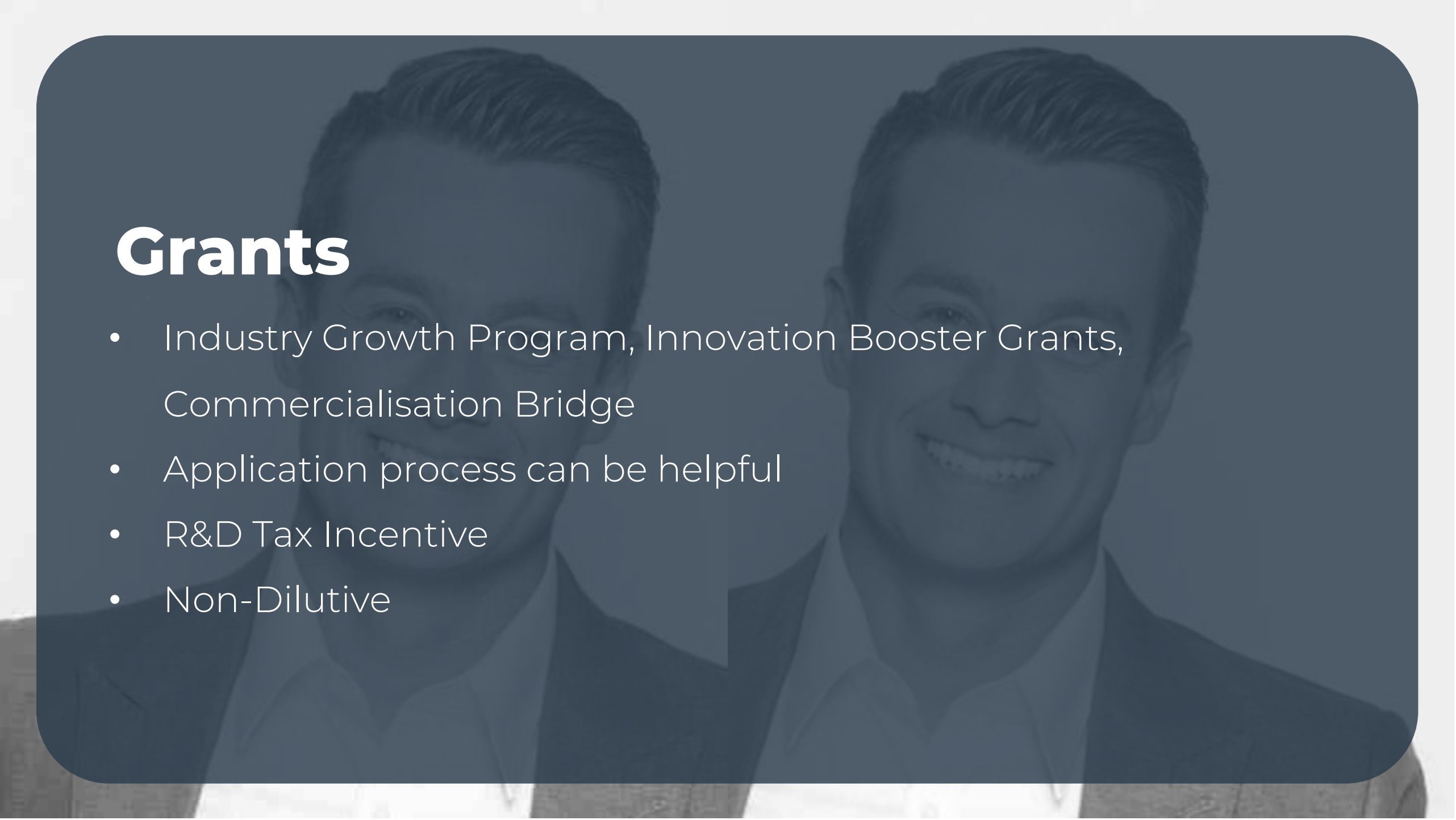
- Take a small amount of equity with some funding
- Good mentoring, peer network, alumni, masterclasses
- Plus Eight, Startmate, UWA Venture, Curtin Accelerate etc
- Dilutive



# Angel Investors

- Good early investment option
- Can often add value beyond the capital
- Perth Angels, Med Angels, Innovation Bay
- Syndicates like Venture X, West Tech Investors, Curtin Syndicate etc
- Dilutive





# Grants

- Industry Growth Program, Innovation Booster Grants, Commercialisation Bridge
- Application process can be helpful
- R&D Tax Incentive
- Non-Dilutive



# Crowdfunding

- Product – Tests Customer Demand
- Product - Non-Dilutive
- Equity – lots of small shareholders
- Equity - Dilutive



# Customer Revenue

- The best kind of funding!
- Takes time raising capital – what if you spent that time...
- Non-Dilutive



# Types of **FUNDING**

Summary of the funding types – plus some others...

## DILUTIVE

Personal Capital

Friends, Family, Fools

Accelerators

Angel Investors

Crowdfunding (Equity)

Venture Capital

## NON-DILUTIVE

Personal Capital

Bootstrapping

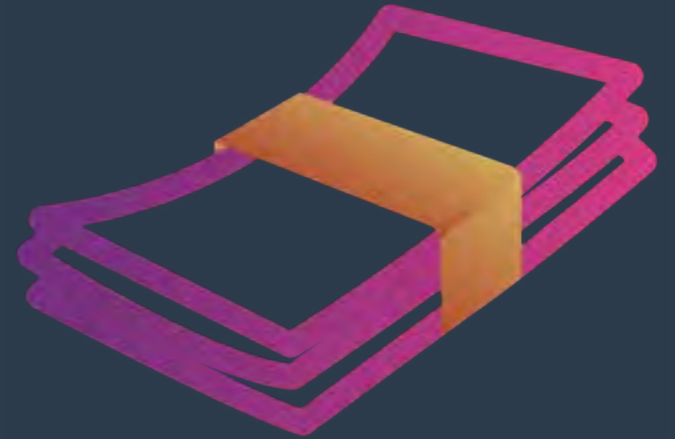
Grants

Crowdfunding (Product)

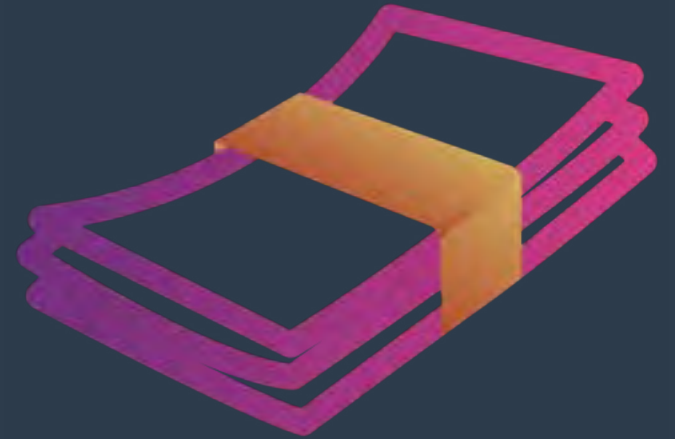
Debt

Venture Debt

# Raising your first **\$50,000?**



# Raising your first **\$1,000,000?**



# Why we pass on deals



# Why we **PASS ON DEALS**

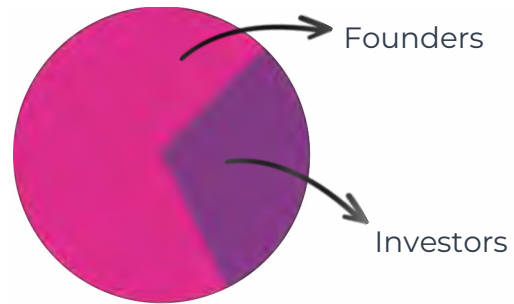
And how you can be investor ready



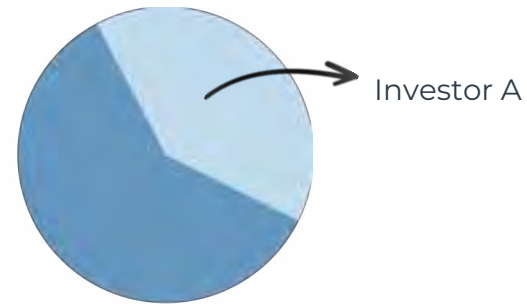
**1** Lack of founder commitment and/or equity

# Uninvestable CAP TABLES

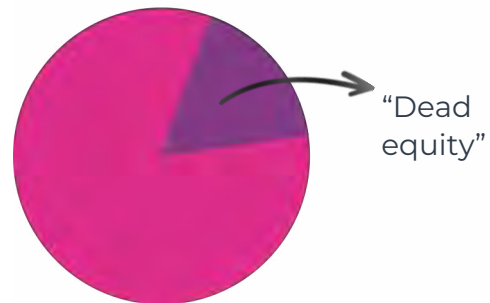
**Founders with less than 80% before seed round**



**One investor with too much control**



**Ex-founders and/or universities with more than 10%**

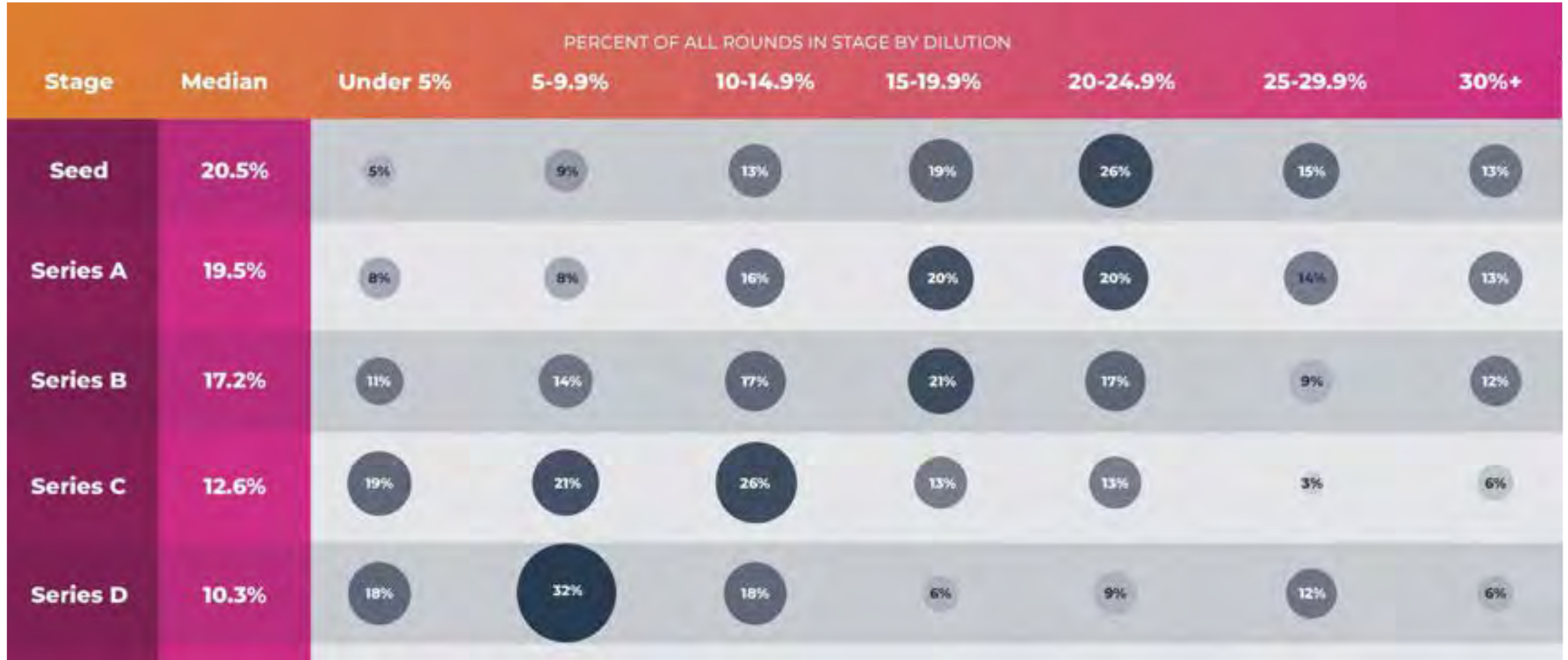


**A zoo of investors**



# How much equity do **FOUNDERS GIVE**

Across each venture round (Data from 1,229 priced round – 2023 US only)

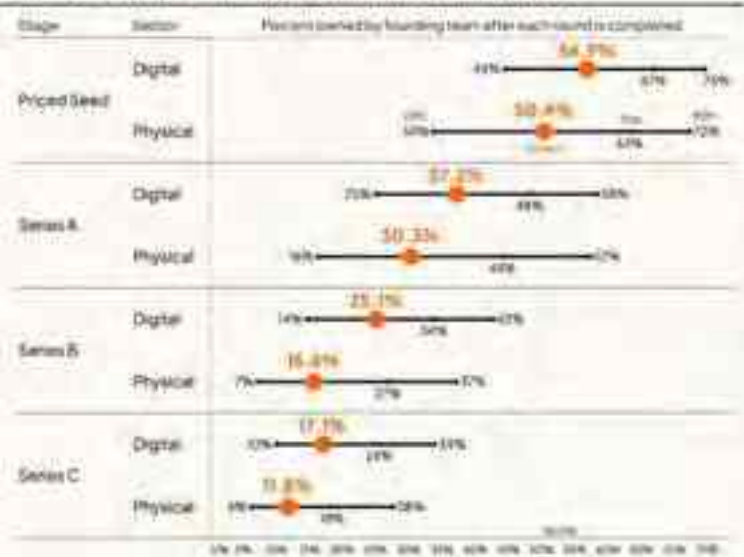


# While we are on EQUITY

Some more data you might want to consider

## Startup Founding Team Ownership

Median founding team ownership is higher in digital vs physical startups  
Data: 10,231 US companies raising priced venture rounds from 2020 - 2024



## Equity for First 5 Startup Hires

Split by two major categories in Biotech and SaaS  
Data: 2,824 first 5 hires made by US startups using Carta in 2023



## Giving advisors startup equity

Here's data on how much equity advisors received in 2024  
Data: 5,019 advisors receiving equity on Carta from US startups in 2024



# Why we **PASS ON DEALS**

And how you can be investor ready



- 1** Lack of founder commitment and/or equity
- 2** Loving the solution more than the problem

# Why we **PASS ON DEALS**

And how you can be investor ready



- 1** Lack of founder commitment and/or equity
- 2** Loving the solution more than the problem
- 3** Business hygiene
  - Cap Table
  - IP Ownership
  - Balance Sheet and Debt
  - Different convertible instruments
  - Shareholders Agreement Terms

# Why we **PASS ON DEALS**

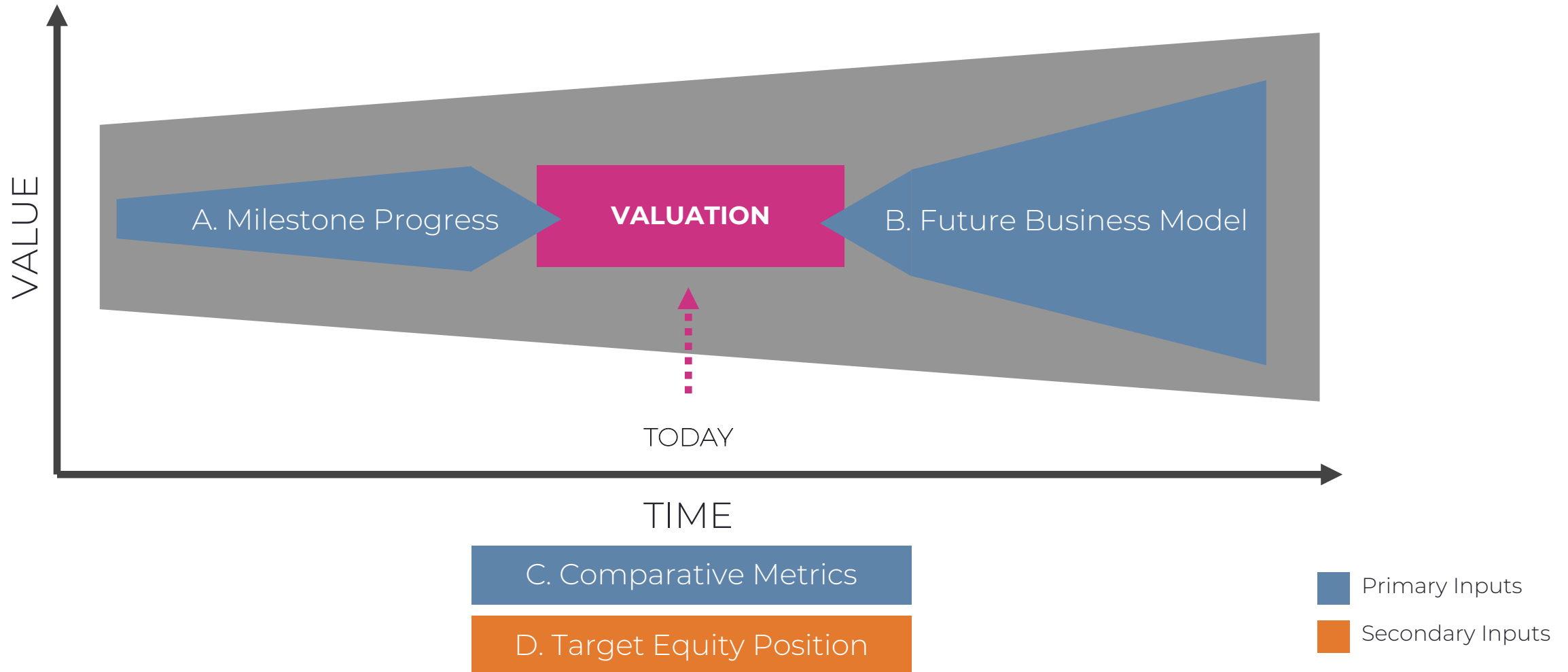
And how you can be investor ready



- 1** Lack of founder commitment and/or equity
- 2** Loving the solution more than the problem
- 3** Business hygiene
- 4** Unrealistic valuations

# How we think about **VALUATION**

The inputs that matter



# Due diligence is always on





# The Purpose Ventures Fund 1



- \$55m fund
- 70%+ for WA operated businesses
- Industry agnostic
- Pre-Seed > Series B
- \$1m - \$3m first cheque



# Fund Update



## APPLICATION

789

## PITCH

149

## DUE DILIGENCE

33

## TERMS

14

## INVESTED

13

## PIPELINE

299



FEMALE  
FOUNDERS  
APPLIED

1,024

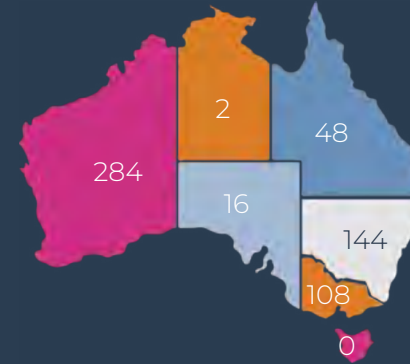


MALE  
FOUNDERS  
APPLIED

## INVESTED

17 Male Founders  
8 Female Founders

## FOUNDERS



## INVESTED

10 WA Companies  
3 Other Locations

## GEOGRAPHY



HEALTHCARE 119 (3)



PROPERTY 38 (4)



RESOURCES 28



CLEANTECH 79 (5)



AGRICULTURE 35 (3)



EDUCATION 44 (2)

## SECTOR

# Due Diligence **ON YOUR INVESTOR**

Just because they say they have a fund doesn't mean there is capital



- Can you let me know the size of your fund?
- What size investments have you made?
- What was your last investment?
- What's your process?
- Have you exited companies before and what was the experience?
- What help do you provide beyond the capital?
- What rights and conditions are attached to your capital?
- Can I speak to some companies in your portfolio as a reference?

# ? Questions



APPLY HERE