

TECH CONSULTANCY MANTEL GROUP TO ESTABLISH WORKING HUBS IN PARADISE
Company offers employees and clients the opportunity to work from Magnetic Island and Queenstown, responding to COVID workplace changes and employee demand

X December 2020 - Technology consultancy Mantel Group will establish five new 'hubs' including a work space on Queensland's Magnetic Island, responding to employee demand created by the pandemic for ongoing flexibility and greater lifestyle choices.

As part of this change, over the next six months Mantel Group will secure hubs in locations where candidate and client growth will require collaboration spaces. In addition to existing offices in Melbourne and Sydney which will be refitted, the expansion will include locations in Canberra, Brisbane and Auckland. Furthermore, the company will secure hubs in places driven by appeal. The first two locations will be Magnetic Island and Queenstown, New Zealand, allowing team members to relocate, enjoy working holidays, meet with colleagues, undertake internal training and host clients for off-site workshops.

Across Mantel Group's four companies, DigIO, Eliiza, CMD and Kasna, 90 percent of the 300+ strong employee base said when surveyed that their ideal work model would be a hybrid of remote, with the option to attend a workspace for collaboration. The appetite for hybrid work was also reflected in a recent [study conducted by the University of NSW](#) which found 75 percent of employees across various industries are expecting their workplace to support working from home.

Caroline Henshaw, Head of People and Culture at Mantel Group, said the new remote working model would allow greater access to talent in different locations, broaden the company's footprint, maximise new and existing office space, and provide exciting locations to work from for employees and clients alike.

"Every crisis brings opportunity. As a principles-led organisation, we have always empowered our people to make good choices and love what they do. This change provides further opportunity to do that. A lot of our team love to travel and this gives them the opportunity to do so within Australia and NZ initially, whilst still working on the projects they love. It also gives our clients the chance to leave their bubbles and combine work with leisure in a beautiful location," Henshaw said.

"The other huge benefit will be access to talent. The pandemic has taught us that the world is our oyster and location is not a prerequisite for finding great people. We believe this change will allow us to attract talent from all over while giving them the option to be in an office and collaborate with colleagues when they need," Henshaw added.

Prior to the pandemic, Mantel Group had been very supportive of flexible work and earned 9th spot on the Great Place to Work list in 2020. Through the company's unique employees benefits program called *My Deal*, Software Engineer at DigIO, Ben Howl, was able to relocate to

Magnetic Island from Melbourne with his family 18 months ago. During the changes of 2020, Ben's experience became a catalyst for the new-look working hubs model.

"When I presented the plan of relocating to the island to both Mantel Group and my clients, the reception was overwhelmingly positive. The progressive support that Mantel Group has offered has been quite unbelievable. As much as I love working from the island, I do miss interaction with my colleagues. I raised the idea with Mantel Group to consider an office on the island and I can hardly believe it is actually happening. I'm looking forward to having colleagues and clients visit," Howl said.

Mantel Group will work in partnership with local government, universities and businesses to provide support and employment opportunities in locations near its hubs, whilst also looking to give back to local communities through second life hardware for schools and community programs.

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