Code Hack 2025 in Review

island health

Overview:

📅 Friday-Sunday March 7-9, 2025

📍 Royal Jubilee Hospital Campus

The fifth annual Island Health Code Hack event took place March 7–9 at the Royal Jubilee Hospital (RJH) in Victoria. Code Hack 2025 brought together Island Health staff, patients, students, industry experts, coders, builders, designers, and others to collaborate on a range of innovative solutions."

"Meeting a diverse range of people with interesting skills and lived and experiences. Getting to work on real world problems with huge potential impacts the overall energy and passion for innovation." - Anonymous Participant

Exposure & Participation:

"We advertised the event online using both paid and organic content. The overall performance of this year's digital advertising proved effective. This year's combined advertising campaign yielded 594,537 impressions across all posts—an increase of 224,327 from last year. Direct clicks to the Code Hack website increased by 5,442 compared to last year, totaling 7,852 site interactions. These direct clicks encouraged potential participants, mentors, and volunteers to apply, contributing to an overall increase in prospective attendees."

80+ People participated in the Hackathon as "Hackers" in the following categories:
- 🔨 Builder
- 👤 Frontline
- ✏️ Designer
- 🤝 Ally
- 🩺 Patient

60+ People volunteered in the following areas:
- 🤝 Volunteer
- 🏆 Judge
- 👤 Mentor
- 📋 Coach

"Throughout the entire process, starting from sign-up to the actual event, I felt very well informed, making it a seamless transition from one step to the next." -Anonymous Participant

How it works:

We started by creating a dedicated digital space for hackers to identify problems and opportunities within healthcare. During the weeks leading up to the event, innovative ideas poured in from attendees. Each participant was invited to submit one problem in any of the following four categories:

- 💡 Health Systems
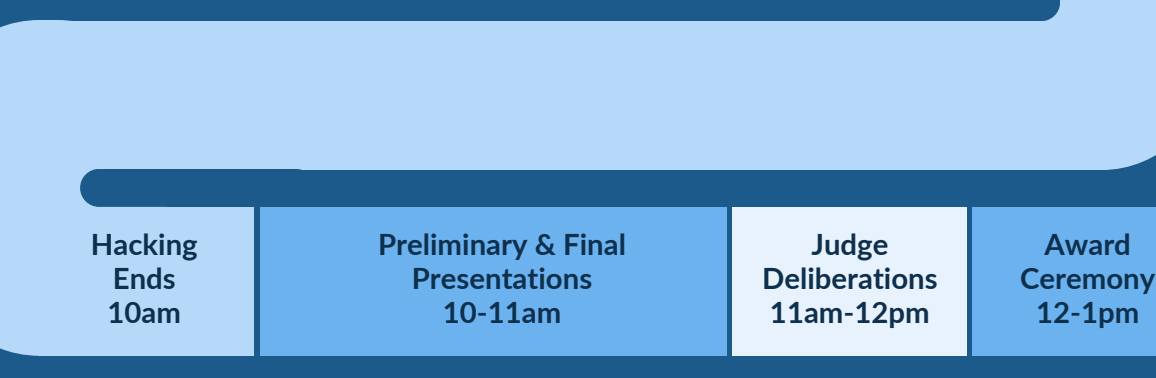- 🔍 Patients
- Care Teams
- Open Challenge

Participants were asked to cast up to three votes for the problems they were most interested in working on or considered especially important. At the event, we tackled the top six problems as voted by the Code Hack community, along with an additional six selected by the Selection Committee

"Everyone was really nice and welcoming. The volunteers were awesome!" -Anonymous Participant

The Code Hack Process:

Eleven people pitched their problems, and eleven teams were formed to solve each one within 24 hours. These teams presented their solutions to a panel of judges, aiming to be one of four selected for the finalist round of presentations. The judges awarded three winning teams with prize money and plaques, while the audience voted for the People's Choice Award winner!

Problem Identification 9-9:30am	Team Formation 9:30-10am	Hacking Begins 10am

Hacking Ends 10am	Preliminary & Final Presentations 10-11am	Judge Deliberations 11am-12pm	Award Ceremony 12-1pm

This year's Code Hack landed on International Women's Day. We celebrated all the amazing women who attended our event.

2025 Finalist Problem Statements:

1 Patients
74% of Indigenous people surveyed paid out-of-pocket for OTC medications covered under PharmaCare Plan W. How can we resolve barriers experienced by status First Nations people who are accessing medicines they are entitled to through PharmaCare Plan W?

2 Patients
As people age they may not know when they should receive certain health screening, such as Type 2 diabetes. This can result in illnesses advancing undetected. How can we increase proactive patient awareness and knowledge?

3 PEOPLE'S CHOICE — Health Systems
Food insecurity has demonstrated to be a main cause for hospital readmission. How can we leverage the food surplus that hasn't left the kitchen in hospital food services to resolve outpatient food insecurity?

Care Teams
The impact of frontline burnout among ED staff has been worsened by the volume of non-emergency cases present to the department seeking care. How might we address the hidden crisis behind ED closure and wait times?

"The opportunity to work on healthcare problems with people in many industries and in different stages of life was the best part. As a front line staff I do not get the opportunity to formally work through problems with designers, coders and other non-healthcare stakeholders" -Anonymous Participant
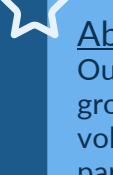
91.5% of Code Hack participants said they felted cared for and supported throughout the event.

86.8% of Code Hack participants said they would recommend Code Hack to a friend or colleague.

"I love this event. I learnt a lot during this event and I am looking forward to participate again next year!" -Anonymous Participant

"The food provided was expectational. There were lots of snacks on hand with a large variety " -Anonymous Participant

About our Volunteers:
Our Code Hack volunteers represent a diverse group of individuals. This year, we had over 30 volunteers, including returning volunteers, new participants, and our Step-Up Youth (ages 15–18).

Step-Up Youth:
We had eleven Step-Up Youth volunteers, making up approximately one-third of our volunteer support team.

Returning Volunteers:
We welcomed back eleven returning Code Hack volunteers, including two who were previous first-place winners.