

Simone Collins

Chief Actuary - Picnic Labs

Skills & experience

Entrepreneurial actuary with experience in extreme event modelling, pricing, reserving, reinsurance, and start-up leadership. Simone can support you in communication and influence, innovation and creativity, learning and growth, adaptability, and commercial acumen.

Simone Collins is a qualified actuary who serves as Chief Actuary at Picnic Labs, a fast-growing business seeking to overhaul the current insurance business model. With 15 years in the insurance industry since graduating from ANU in 2009, her career has focused on various aspects of actuarial work including extreme event modelling, insurance pricing, claims reserving, reinsurance, and financial modelling. She also serves as a board director for two mutual risk protection companies.

Prior to Picnic, Simone was Head of Corporate Actuarial for Youi Insurance. Her transition from a traditional insurer to a start-up demonstrates her willingness to embrace change and uncertainty. This move into the start-up space has given her unique perspective on how actuarial skills can translate into entrepreneurial roles and alternative career paths.

Simone genuinely enjoys supporting people at the early stages of their actuarial careers and is motivated to give back to the profession that has supported and shaped her career. Having navigated a non-traditional path herself by stepping into the uncertainty of a start-up company, she wants to provide guidance for actuaries who are curious about alternative career choices or wondering how their skills might apply beyond traditional roles. For Simone, mentoring is about open, honest conversations rather than giving prescriptive advice. She wants to help people build confidence in their decisions, reflect on their options, and feel supported as they find their own path within the actuarial profession. Simone is a Fellow of the Actuaries Institute and holds a Masters in Business Administration from QUT.

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