Simon Quick

SUMMARY

Hands-on lead software engineer specialising in Generative AI, with 15+ years' experience taking products from concept to production scale across startups, scale-ups, and global commerce leaders. I code daily while setting technical culture, mentoring engineers, and influencing product direction.

Key career highlights

- Built Clara, a Webby-nominated AI health companion, adopted by clinicians and patients across Australia.
- Delivered an adaptive AI search for the Australian federal government, scaling to ~2 million queries annually.
- Founded Sound Shelter, a vinyl marketplace scaled to 100k users and 30+ record stores.
- Part-time CTO at Rebuilt, Australia's first self-service platform for verified Product Carbon Footprints.
- Founding engineer at Precept (Google DNI-funded misinformation detection).
- First APAC hire at HomeAway.com prior to its \$4B acquisition by Expedia.

EXPERIENCE

Lead Product Engineer — *Pollen*

JAN 2022 - PRESENT / SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Led engineering on award-winning AI products in health and government, while shaping technical culture and AI strategy. Promoted from Senior Engineer to Lead in 2023.

Key achievements

Clara (healthcare AI companion): Architected and built Clara (iOS, Android, Web), a Webby-nominated app providing evidence-based support to 3.7M Australians with arthritis. Designed a secure RAG pipeline to surface contextual answers, achieving 87% approval from specialists and 90% recommendation rates. Featured on 9News, Sydney Morning Herald, and The Age.

Adaptive AI search (government & infrastructure): Designed and launched a production-grade agentic RAG system adopted by the Australian federal government, healthcare providers, and national infrastructure. Scales to millions of user queries annually through a multi-step pipeline (PII redaction, LLM-as-judge classification, dynamic query rewrite, hybrid semantic/vector search, and LLM summarisation). Built enterprise cloud foundations and continuous evaluation to ensure accuracy and trust.

Rebuilt (part-time CTO): Directed technical strategy for Australia's first self-service platform for verified Product Carbon Footprints. Designed and launched the platform to make trusted carbon data accessible at scale,

Sydney, Australia siquick@gmail.com LinkedIn

SKILLS

Languages: JavaScript, TypeScript, Python, SQL

Front-end: React, Next.js, React Native, Expo, Tailwind

Back-end: Node.js, Express, Django, FastAPI, GraphQL, Prisma, Postgres, MySQL

AI/ML: RAG, semantic search, vector databases, prompt engineering, OpenAI, Anthropic, LlamaIndex, Langfuse, Vercel AI SDK

Infrastructure: AWS, Google Cloud, Vercel, CI/CD, Docker, Git

Testing & Analytics: Playwright, Jest, Vitest, RTL, GA4, Mixpanel

WORKING RIGHTS

Australian citizen

accelerating low-carbon construction.

Broader contributions

- Built and mentored a high-performing engineering team delivering multi-million-dollar projects.
- Introduced AI-augmented development using Cursor, Claude Code, and OpenAI Codex, combining AI reviews and static analysis to raise code quality and speed delivery.
- Shaped technical & AI direction in collaboration with product and design.
- Established scalable infra with IaC (AWS, GCP, Vercel, EAS, Pulumi).
- Drove improvements to automated testing, CI/CD, and developer experience.

Tech stack: TypeScript, Python, React/Next.js, Node.js, Django, Prisma, Postgres, TailwindCSS, React Native/Expo, AWS, Google Cloud, Pulumi, RAG, LlamaIndex, Langfuse, OpenAI, Anthropic.

Founder / Engineer — *Sound Shelter*

APRIL 2013 - JAN 2024 / SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

- Designed and built a platform that delivers personalised music recommendations and matches buyers to record stores selling the music they want. Onboarded over 30 partner record stores and grew the user base to around 100,000 unique visitors per year.
- Manage infrastructure that pulls information from partner websites via APIs, feed, and web scraping. Setup end-to-end marketing automation.
- Created and launched an iOS app into the App Store.

Tech: React / Next.js, Node.js, Prisma, MySQL, Tailwind, React Native, AWS

Senior Software Engineer — *Endeavour*

JAN 2020 - JAN 2022 / SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Engineer for the marketing team with a focus on building content and event platforms for new student acquisition and beat lead targets by 17%.

- Migrated existing events platform to React + Django to provide a superior experience for thousands of prospective students.
- Managed the build of a new student onboarding platform used by hundreds of students each term.
- Built a new clinic booking front-end leading to the platform processing hundreds of instant payment bookings per week.

Tech: React, Django, Postgres, Tailwind, AWS

Senior Software Engineer — *Precept*

AUG 2018 - AUG 2019 / BARCELONA, SPAIN

YouCheck was awarded Google DNI funding to improve online information environments.

– Developed backend infrastructure including APIs for a machine learning-based application to help identify misinformation and fake news in images and text.

- Lead a team of two working on a React / Node platform that connects journalists with experts. Managed DevOps and gave code review.

Tech: React, Next.js, Node.js, Python, Django, Google Cloud

Integration Engineer — *Partnerize*

DEC 2016 - APR 2018 / SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Technical lead for APAC working on integrating clients into our partner marketing infrastructure. Clients include Apple, Expedia, Tripadvisor, Vodafone, Nike, Google and Emirates.

- Created several custom integrations with several 3rd party platforms and APIs to extract and transform data into Partnerize schema.
- Worked as the pre-sales and post-sales consultant in teams that won several million dollars worth of new business and renewals by designing and presenting technical solutions during the pre-sales process.

Travel

AUG 2016 - DEC 2016

Sales Engineer, HomeAway.com — *Expedia Inc.*

JUL 2012 - AUG 2016 / MELBOURNE & SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

First technical hire for HomeAway.com in APAC, developing technical solutions that enable partners to leverage the marketplace.

- Developed a custom feed parsing infrastructure that powered ~20,000 property listings on HomeAway.com for two years. Worked in a global team to migrate all listings to a standardised platform.
- Provided all pre-sales and post-sales consulting for the APAC business

EDUCATION

BSc (Hons) Internet Computing — *Northumbria University*

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, UK