

Participating in the ARMS 2025 Conference in Melbourne was an incredibly rewarding experience. As my first ARMS conference, it provided a valuable opportunity to connect with like-minded research professionals and gain insights into current leading research management practices and ongoing developments in the sector.

I was honoured to present my poster titled “*Professional Development in a Challenging Environment: Enhancing Post-Award Administration through Collaboration with Internal Resources.*” This platform allowed me to showcase the work being done at the University of Tasmania and engage in meaningful discussions with colleagues. The feedback I received was constructive and has inspired several new ideas for future implementation at my institution.

The conference featured a range of sessions directly relevant to my current position in Post-Award administration and contract management. A standout for me was a presentation outlining a streamlined approach to distributing funding for large and complex grants. This method sparked enthusiastic discussion within our team post-conference and is now under consideration for adoption at our institution.

Beyond Post-Award topics, the conference broadened my understanding of other key areas. I found the sessions on AI integration across the Pre-Award lifecycle particularly insightful. It was reassuring to see that institutions are aligned in their strategic approach to implementing AI in research management, and it is something I have already considered adapting further at my institution. Other highlights included sessions on professional development for research administrators, the rollout of a clinical trial platform, and the use of Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software to enhance project oversight.

ARMS 2025 was an excellent opportunity to network with research managers across the Oceania region. It allowed me to connect with new colleagues who are navigating similar challenges in the research management space. Additionally, the conference provided a valuable chance to reconnect with peers I’ve met at previous events, which further fostered a sense of community within the sector.

I am extremely grateful to ARMS for the 2025 Melbourne Conference Grant, which made my participation possible, and I am already looking forward to future conferences.

Dr Hayden Arnott
Acting Team Leader (Research Funding)
University of Tasmania