

ARMS 2025 Conference Learnings

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Overview

Attending the ARMS 2025 Conference was a pivotal opportunity to deepen my sector knowledge, build my research impact understanding and capability, and strengthen the University of Canberra's (UC) strategic approach to research impact. This experience supported my transition from communications into research management and reinforced my role in embedding impact institutionally.

Key Learnings

- Strategic alignment: Ryan Winn's plenary (CEO, Science and Technology Australia) reinforced connecting research impact to institutional priorities and national challenges; critical for universities in the evolving higher education and broader R&D landscapes.
- Engaging professional staff: Emma Barnes (Griffith University) highlighted involving faculty administrators and professional staff in impact activities and embedding impact in a research culture and validated some of the challenges towards impact communication I have experienced so far in my role.
- Focus on early adopters: Wade Kelly's (Deakin University) advice to prioritise willing participants aligns with Rogers' Diffusion of Innovation model, guiding resource allocation and my capacity as a single FTE in the research impact space for UC.
- Sector challenges: Common barriers include varied impact literacy, time constraints, and structural changes. This helped contextualise UC's challenges within the sector.

Strategic Relevance for UC

The University of Canberra is in the early stages of embedding research impact institutionally. Insights from ARMS has informed scalable frameworks, capability-building programs, and engagement strategies that align with our Research Impact Framework, research impact in practice, and national priorities.

Next Steps

- Engage professional staff across faculties to distribute responsibility and support for academic staff.
- Design advanced training modules for researchers and administrators to improve impact literacy.
- Continue aligning UC's impact strategy with sector best practices and national priorities.

I sincerely thank ARMS and the ACT Chapter for supporting my application to attend the conference in 2025 and look forward to contributing to the Society as a member in 2026.

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