

## **ARMS 2025 Conference Report**

### **ARMS Melbourne Conference**

10–12 September 2025

Pullman Melbourne Albert Park

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Attending the ARMS 2025 Conference was a valuable opportunity to reflect on the evolving role of research professionals within the broader research ecosystem. This was my first conference attended in a research management capacity, having previously participated in academic conferences as a researcher. The shift in perspective was both refreshing and insightful.

I selected sessions that aligned with my current responsibilities in Research Funding Services, as well as sessions that broadened my understanding of areas adjacent to my role — particularly industry engagement and research translation.

Sessions focused on supporting researchers to increase Category 2 and 3 funding, enhancing Early Career Researcher (ECR) support, and strengthening post-award management reinforced the importance of structured internal processes and cross-team collaboration. It was encouraging to see that many institutions face similar challenges, particularly in navigating increasingly complex funding landscapes. The shared discussions highlighted practical approaches to improving clarity, consistency, and researcher experience across the funding lifecycle.

Industry-focused sessions provided valuable exposure to the realities of academic–industry partnerships. A key takeaway was the importance of setting clear expectations early, understanding partner motivations, and recognising the cultural differences between academic and commercial environments. These insights strengthened my understanding of how research funding teams can better support applications involving industry collaboration and impact.

The panel on “third space professionals” prompted reflection on the evolving identity of research management roles. As someone who transitioned from academia into research funding, I found it useful to consider how professional staff increasingly operate at the intersection of academic knowledge and institutional strategy.

The Research Master AI session was particularly practical and forward-looking. It demonstrated how emerging tools can support administrative workflows while reinforcing the continued importance of human oversight and contextual judgement.

Overall, ARMS 2025 provided both reinforcement of core research funding practices and exposure to emerging sector trends. The conference environment fostered open discussion, peer learning, and practical knowledge sharing. I would encourage research professionals to attend future ARMS conferences to broaden their perspective, connect with peers, and remain informed about developments shaping the research landscape.