

SA CHAPTER UPDATE

ARMS 25TH BIRTHDAY AND END OF YEAR CELEBRATION



On 27 November, the ARMS SA Chapter celebrated the end of 2024, as well as 25 years of ARMS, with drinks, nibbles, and networking at the charming Ayers House Ballroom. Over 40 research managers and administrators from all corners of the sector gathered in groups for a repeat of our well-received End of Year activity focussing on the highlights, challenges, things we were grateful for in 2024, and our wishes for the year ahead. Exchanging experiences, joys, wisdom, commiserations, and laughter; a sense of community was shared by all. The evening concluded with a touching message from ARMS President Tania Bezzobs, special thanks and acknowledgments, and some beautifully decorated birthday cake! The ARMS SA Chapter Committee thanks everyone who attended and supported this event, wishes ARMS a glorious Happy 25th Birthday, and sends warm wishes to all for a safe and relaxing holiday season.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Review of processes for streamlining
 Volunteer to see wider impact of University
 Celebrating future generation of researchers
 Supported travel award success
 Program launches Industry event Kept job
 Increased resources Mandatory deadlines
 RAO conference in Canberra
 Showcase success Strong teams ARMS ELAP
 Survived staffing changes Secondment

ARMS conference
 Enjoy my job Grants in on time ARMS Webinars/seminars
 number of applications
Grant successes
 Mandatory 1-week deadline
 Someone listened **New job**
 Relationship building RE merger
 Convinced someone to apply and they won
 Connections in the sector

CHALLENGES

Researchers and not adhering to deadlines
 Juggling old role and new secondment Back from parental leave @ part time
 To say no and not yes to everything
 Building relationships & trust Growth of EoI in grant schemes
 Balancing multiple roles and managing when things don't work

Workload Working with defense
 AI
 Growth of consumer engagement Foreign interference
 Managing home/work Systems Resourcing – workload
 Research conduct Uncertainty

Merger Moving from backfoot to frontfoot
 Future planning – restricted by unknowns HDR completions stretching out New boss
 Standards of transparency Scrutiny on research Lack of coverage
 Tight deadlines for grants Tough workload with staff shortage
 Getting heard Decreased resources
 Changing goalposts Change, not being notified
 Responding to regulatory changes
 Uncertainty around merger
 ARC changes everything – post and pre-award

GRATITUDE:

Professional networks
 Working close to home / beautiful building
 Uni collaboration Job security during the merger
 Thanks to manager for nomination for secondment
 Best manager ever has joined us

ARMS Networking opportunities
 Opportunities to engage with merge activity – insights and understanding
 People I work with are resilient and committed

Work flexibility/WFH
 Building the new SA ARMS committee Strong teams
 Excited to see future Adelaide Uni
 Positive attitudes **Employment**
 Trust within teams Community support
 Leadership – appointments of AU leaders
My colleagues Fun to work with a nice team
 End of year – we made it People I work with, keep each other sane

WISHES

Opportunity/time/space to be proactive or ahead of the game

More staff Successful grants
 More hours in a day UniSA would come to UoA faster
 Funders to spread out grants calendar
 Researchers adhering to deadlines
 Grants were not so clunky Retaining WFH

More forums/events Work spaced more evenly through year
 More resources Less silos **Clarity** More money from sponsors
 Smooth merger/BAU Stability Cheaper parking
 Less red tape Go to ARMS conference New friendly and smart team
 Less multitasking Manageable workload Better time management

For the merger to be done
 The perfect research management system
 Government would recognise the benefit of research and fund it accordingly
 Better work/life balance
 Managing expectations of researchers and senior leadership
 SA Chapter of ARMS to become successful with more members

