

which is instrumental as we continue to establish our startup. We are truly excited about our journey, especially knowing that we have a level of support here in Canberra that is unmatched anywhere else in the world.” - Omar Shindi, SmartMedPassport

Innovation Connect Grants

Innovation Connect (ICON) is a grant program that CBRIN delivers in partnership with the ACT Government since September 2018. ICON provides between \$10,000 and \$30,000 matched funded grants to support innovative projects towards developing a proof of concept or prototype and assist with the early stages of commercialisation.

Current ICON Grant Funding Round

- ICON opened for expressions of interest from 13 January 2025, submissions were set to close on 10 April 2025
- 56 invitations to submit an expression of interest have been sent out to eligible projects
- A Last Minute Info Session was held online on 27 March 2025, with 71 registrations for the event and 39 attendees
- The panel for the current round have been selected and include experienced Canberra business people across various industries:
 - Renee Beerworth, HR and culture specialist, and Founder of Spinach Ventures
 - Edward Bertram, Strategic Partnerships at Australian National University
 - Vicki Williams, Experienced senior executive, Adjunct Professor at University of Canberra
 - Shooby Kandel, Innovation & Growth Expert, Founder & Managing Director of What Works Global

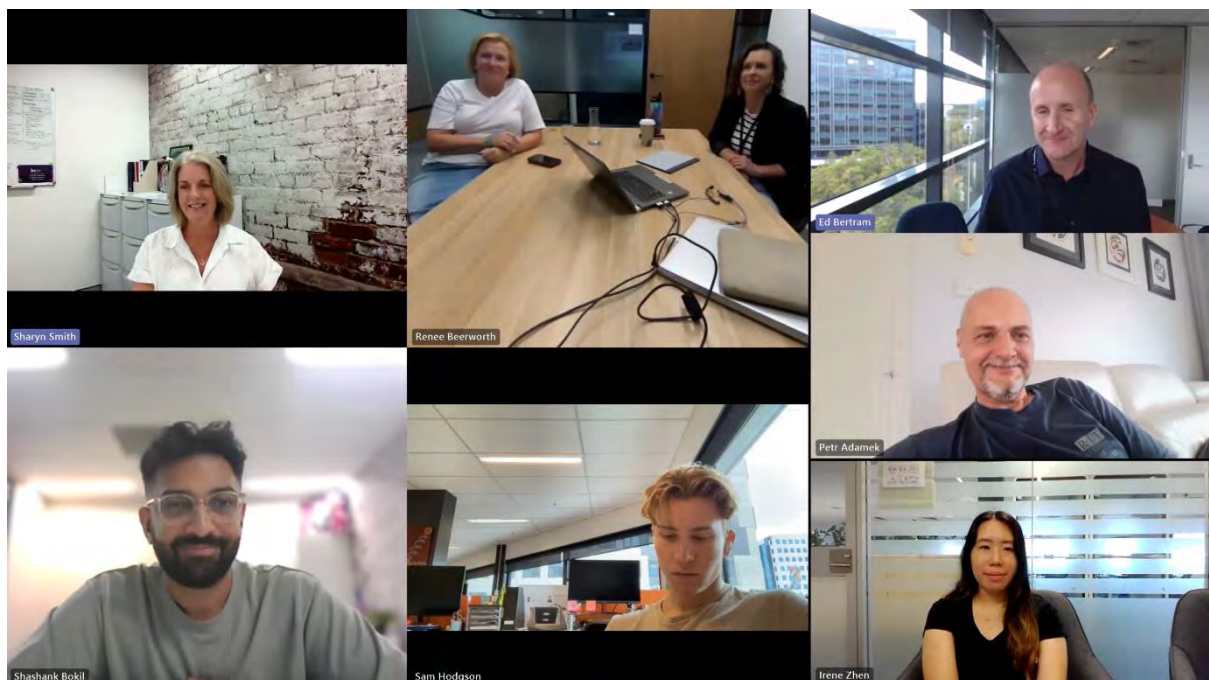


Image: screenshot from the panel alignment session on 28 March 2025

Grant acquittals this quarter

3 projects acquitted their ICON grants this quarter, demonstrating how they met the milestones in their agreements. Key achievements included progress with early sales and team growth.

Company	ICON Round	Highlights
Mileva Security Labs Mileva Security Labs offers advisory and training on AI and AI Security, and this grant will support our first product - a SaaS solution that helps organisations conform to AI standards and regulations and manage their AI risk.	April 2024	Mileva Security Labs tool has been recognised as one of the only solutions in the market addressing AI risk from a practical and quantitative perspective. They presented at the UK's National Cyber Security Centre's AI Security conference in March 2025
BOOST Health Labs BOOST Health Labs is a company dedicated to helping people recover from chronic pain through its innovative flip* pain recovery system. The company was created to provide effective solutions where traditional approaches often fall short. BOOST Health Labs is on a mission to make pain recovery accessible to everyone.	April 2024	Built and launched a new website, which included a page for individuals to sign up for Beta Testing. Completed MVP and ready to commence Beta Testing with several key groups, including 237 individuals who registered expressions of interest through the new website.
SightData Sightdata's purpose is to make safety smarter, by empowering EHS professionals to make informed data-based decisions to reduce workplace injuries.	October 2024	Achievements for Sightdata are related to early customer discussions with major road infrastructure companies. They have also had interest within heavy industry sectors such as construction who could potentially use this to detect and identify falling objects to alert workers.

ICON Testimonials:

"The Innovation Connect grant has significantly impacted our business by enabling continued growth while maintaining (relatively) stable operational cash flow. This funding has allowed us to invest R&D as well as sampling, and greater prototyping efforts without as much financial strain. Overall, the grant has been crucial in supporting our innovation and long-term sustainability." – Jack Lindsey, Hosking Bikes

Theme 2.2 Growth Programs

Objective: Coordinate and deliver programs and services that contribute to growth of innovative ventures, including deep-tech, social enterprises, startups, scaleups and SMEs.

Under this theme / objective CBRIN supports the MILL HOUSE Ventures to deliver programs that grow innovative social enterprises (such as via their GRIST accelerator program). We also work with local mentors and investors to support a high-growth startup accelerator program for pre-investment startups (GRIFFIN Accelerator). In addition, CBRIN delivers a set of its own Growth Programs for scale ups, research-intensive spinouts and ambitious innovative SMEs and builds a network of mentors and investors to connect them to founders and innovative projects including through an annual investor showcase.

Outcomes: Significant achievements of local innovation companies, Investments in local innovation companies

Overview

CBRIN acceleration services are delivered to assist growth stage startups (>\$100k investment or revenue) and accelerator startups selected by mentors including research spinouts.

The SME program engages with established Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with innovation potential.

The incubation and scale up programs aim to deliver targeted, impactful engagement with projects that are innovation driven and report one or more of: significant capital raised, customer revenue or team expansion. Companies with substantial intellectual property assets are included where there are good prospects for commercialisation.

The above growth programs are delivered in a range of formats for specific groups:

- The Mill House Ventures – programs targeting social impact ventures
- Founder Sessions – value add one on-one engagement with entrepreneurs
- Mentor network activation
- Investor connections
- Growth labs – targeted, intensive workshops with companies
- SME Accelerator
- Scale Up Leaders Group – small-group facilitated peer-to-peer discussions for leaders of companies at the scale up stage
- Scaleup Masterclass – advanced workshop content for scaleup companies
- GRIFFIN Accelerator – mentor-led 3-month intensive program for startups selected by mentors
- External program referrals

This quarter we tracked 80 ventures assisted by CBRIN growth programs. This includes GRIFFIN Accelerator, SME Accelerator, Scaleup Program, investor connections and founder conversations, feedback sessions, growth discussions and strategic discussions.

Ventures assisted in these programs are well spread across startup, early growth, scale up and small business as shown in the table below.

Fourteen (17.5%) of the ventures currently engaged are in the “deep tech” category, with significant intellectual property from research. 49 (61.25%), out of the 80 assisted this quarter are ventures beyond startup stage.

Distribution of Active Companies (by Category)	#	%
Startups	31	39%
Early Growth: 100k to 1m raised, or 3+ FTE and innovation driven	19	24%
Small business 3 – 20 FTE and innovation potential	14	18%
Scaleup: Innovation-driven and >1m raised, or 20+ FTE employees	11	13%
Medium business 20+ FTE with innovation potential	3	4%
Impact company: high growth and 50+ FTE	2	2%
Total ventures assisted this quarter	80	

The Mill House Ventures Limited

The Mill House Ventures (TMHV) supports social innovators to explore trading models that sustain and accelerate measurable impact in Canberra and region. The Mill House Ventures creates complimentary pathways through entrepreneurship for founders who are Change Agents looking for viable and sustainable ways to create, measure and sustain impact to address systemic disadvantage.

The Mill House Ventures offers programs specifically catering to emerging and maturing social enterprises of our region. TMHV also provide work-integrated learning experience to University of Canberra students to provide them with exposure to this asset class and raise awareness of this way of trading.

Activities during Period

- TMHV managed the delivery of the 2nd year (of 2) of the pilot ACT Social Enterprise Grant (ASEG) program which provides \$360k in matched grant funding for early stage and start-up social enterprises. Funding provided by ACT Government.
*39 Applications requesting \$1.05million in funding
*20 Shortlisted to participate in Independent Assessment Panel Q&A sessions
*Independent Assessment Panel members are Miranda Garnett (Bellchambers Barrett), Kashif Cheema (Service One Mutual) and Irene Zhen (CBRIN)
- TMHV engaged Alumni Belinda Newham, now a Partner with Parbery Consulting, to undertake qualitative and quantitative impact data gathering and reporting on Year 1 of ASEG program
- TMHV held 2025 Programs Launch at Ann Harding Centre, University of Canberra for nearly 90 guests including Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries, Michael Pettersson MLA and included a panel conversation with Australian of the Year Local Heroes, Vanessa Brettel and Hannah Costello (Alumni - Cafe Stepping Stone)

- 2023-24 ACT Social Enterprise Grant recipient, Sunita Kotnala, CEO of Women's Shed Canberra, announced as Canberran of the Year
- TMHV CEO engaged as Sessional Lecturer by University of Canberra to deliver Social Enterprise unit in Semester 1
- TMHV engaged Social Entrepreneur-in-Residence, Murray Coates, to begin new REFINE activation with Little Luxton. The REFINE program targets established social enterprises in need tailored short term consulting to refine practices, overcome a challenge, gain access to a new opportunity, or any other assistance you may require through funding provided by Snow Foundation.
- TMHV CEO participated as an assessor/panellist in the Stronger Communities Grant round coordinated by the office of Andrew Leigh MP
- TMHV Programs Manager pitched at the March CBRIN FWC event
- TMHV CEO and Programs Manager participated in the Experience Innovation activity at CBRIN, an immersive innovation event facilitated by Veracity Innovation
- TMHV Board conducted regular meeting
- TMHV CEO attended "UnCharitable" screening at Parliament House
- TMHV CEO attended launch of Women's Shed Canberra new location along with Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA
- TMHV CEO attended Impact Investment Summit 2025 in Sydney
- TMHV CEO participated in CBRIN Extended Team Monthly meetings

Table 1: Key Activities

Q3 (Jan - Mar 2025)	Totals
Social Enterprise Consultations	79



Image: Ivan Slavich, CEO of Bendigo Bank speaking at the Mill House Program Launch

Founder, Mentor and Outreach Conversations

One of the most important ways the growth programs add value is through team members meeting directly with entrepreneurs and mentors.

Engagement	Numbers
Founder Conversations	94
Intro Meetings	86
Mentor / Expert / Investor Engagement (# of mentor conversations)	31
Feedback meetings	4
Coworker Engagement (subset of Founder Conversations)	32
Deep tech company engagement (subset of founder conversations)	20
SME meetings (subset of founder conversations)	28
Total Meetings	215*

* Note total meetings is less than sum of the listed meetings as some meetings serve a dual purpose e.g. feedback + founder conversation or SME meeting + founder conversation.

Intro Meetings are early contact with entrepreneurs - see section 2.1

Founder Conversations are a very important way that we add value to entrepreneurs by discussing business challenges or opportunities.

Mentor / Expert / Investor Engagement conversations enable the team to better understand the skills and interests of mentors, experts, and investors.

Feedback meetings refer to meetings specifically booked and held with participants who were unsuccessful in program applications and were interested to understand the feedback from selection panel or CBRIN.

Coworker Engagement conversations are also tracked to support coworking - section 3.2



Craig Davis • You

18h ...

GM Growth Programs at Canberra Innovation Network

Looking forward to seeing what you achieve with onestack (or other projects) as a digital nomad

Like • ❤️ 1 | Reply • 1 Reply



George Vlachos **Author**

18h ...

Open-sauce | Just doing it | Automating the world

Craig Davis Thank you Craig! Your advice so far has been invaluable - will definitely keep in touch!

Image: Screenshot of feedback from founder conversations

Mentor Network Activation

A key element of CBRIN's mission is to connect a wide range of mentors (including investors and experts) with relevant experience to entrepreneurs with the goal of empowering those entrepreneurs to have more impact. Mentors engage through showcase events, small networking sessions, individual meetings, and a mentor newsletter. Recent activity includes but is not limited to:

- 63 mentors engaged or active
- 35 external connections tracked (referrals between entrepreneurs, mentors and investors)
- 1 mentor/investor events (hosted or attended by CBRIN)
- 166 subscribers of the Mentor Newsletter
- 135 Investors registered for Investor Showcase (held on 2 April)

Entrepreneur in Residence

The Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) program provides a coordinated effort to connect founders with experienced entrepreneurs, experts and mentors. This program is complementary to other services and programs, with the goal to offer fresh input from highly experienced advisors, as well as help founders identify the key challenges and opportunities to improve their business.

The current EIR runs every Friday morning with two 1-hour slots with Ken Kroeger. Ken is an experienced company director, investor and advisor with extensive experience in scaling up technology businesses. Anne Moore also met with one of the entrepreneurs as part of the EIR program.

This quarter 4 companies met with the EIR:

- Alpine Innovation
- Adapt Homes
- Axxe/Riddle Room/Breakr
- Synstra AI

Mentor and Investor Events

As part of the Mentor Network, CBRIN organises and participates in events. This quarter, CBRIN hosted and participated in one mentor / investor event:

- Founders Collective/Mentor Mixer (more detail in section 2.1) - 7 mentors engaged

Mentor Highlights

Sylvia Tulloch, former CBRIN board member, an active mentor in Griffin Accelerator and in the innovation community, was awarded Member of Order of Australia for significant service to the renewable energy, innovation and technology commercialisation sectors.

Scaleup Program

Scaleup Leaders Sessions

Scaleup leaders sessions are facilitated high-value group conversations between leaders of ambitious technology companies at the growth stage. Specifically, the companies are:

- Raising significant capital, typically Series A+
- Commercialising substantial IP or competitive advantage
- Rapidly growing their team or sales.

We hold two types of session as part of Scale Up Leaders program:

- Inner Circle sessions: an experienced facilitator enables discussions between the business leader peers about relevant challenges they are experiencing or likely to experience soon, reflecting on progress and success in a high-trust confidential peer group conversation.
- Deep Dive sessions: we invite a guest to share beyond the general on a particular experience or topic.

Session	Topic
26 February 2025	Deep Dive Session - Top Quartile Indicators for Series B - presented by Jerry Stesel and Adam Goldschmidt from OIF Ventures



Image: Collage of Scaleup Leaders session

Selected ecosystem company updates

Canberra innovation companies raised more than \$31.8 Million in Q3 2024-25

This figure includes capital raised from venture capital, angel investors and grant funding announced during the quarter. This figure reflects funds raised that have been announced, noting the amount may be higher, in some cases raises are not publicly announced for various commercial reasons. The figure this quarter includes MCI (\$11.3M), Nominal Systems (\$550k) and Quintessence Labs (\$20M).

The table below summarises alumni companies highlights this quarter. This includes significant progress updates and highlights for those companies that have benefitted from CBRIN's assistance or have been active part of our ecosystem.

Key:

- Griffin Accelerator = GA
- Scaleup Leader Sessions = SLS
- SME Programs = SME
- Investor Showcase = IS
- Founder Conversations = FC
- Coworking = CW
- Founders Collective = Col

Company, description, update	Engagement (alumni)
GRIDSIGHT - Cloud software to future-proof electricity grids, fast. Update: Significant capital raise (details not yet disclosed)	CW
MCI - turning CO2 into useful construction products Update: 8M investment by Mitsubishi Cement Corporation Update: 3.3M Grant from Austrian government	FC, CW
Nominal - Nominal is the next-generation satellite digital twinning platform designed from the ground-up to get your mission into orbit faster. Update: Awarded \$550k grant from the Australian Space Agency	IS, SLS
Decision Revolution - offers services to leaders to improve decision making processes Parbery - consulting agency Update: Parbery (SME Accelerator alumni) acquires Decision Revolution	SME, FC, CW (alumni)
Quintessence Labs - Data security from post-quantum threats Update: Raised 20M with the National Reconstruction Fund as lead investor	-
Viortec - ANU spinout creating novel surgical tools for orthopaedic surgeries Update: Accepted into the national CSIRO ON Accelerate program	FC, GA

Company, description, update	Engagement (alumni)
WhatWorks - A creative and digital growth agency Update: Shooby Kandel wins 30 under 30 Entrepreneur of the year	SLS, CW, SME
Yarn - Early intervention speech pathology app Update: Launched app in the app store.	FC, CW



Image: Photo of Catherine Galvin pitching Viortec at CSIRO ON Core

DIRECTION 3 PLACEMAKING

Goal: Strengthen the role of CBRIN as the ACT's central innovation hub with active linkages to a powerful network of innovation precincts that work together to grow new industries and solve complex problems by leveraging science, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Activities under this direction include:

- Designing and delivering engagement, marketing and promotional activities and events that showcase success stories and facilitate access to opportunities.
- Managing and enhancing the physical infrastructure of the central innovation hub in the ACT.
- Building and nurturing partnerships that connect other innovation hubs and grow vibrancy, diversity and connectivity of the ecosystem.

Theme 3.1 Ecosystem Engagement

Objective: Collaborate to design and deliver a comprehensive set of engagement activities and events that connect, empower and diversify our innovation ecosystem and support delivery of this workplan through effective communication and marketing.

Our Engagement and Marketing Initiatives under this Theme and Objective include:

- marketing and events to connect people to programs and initiatives of the ACT innovation ecosystem,
- profiling of and strengthening engagement with entrepreneurs and under-represented groups,
- public relations and related activities to tell the stories of Canberra-born innovation and entrepreneurship and to position Canberra as the place where science and research meets innovation and entrepreneurship,
- activities to strengthen engagement with Foundation Members, Partners, innovation precincts, key sectors, other connected innovation hubs and initiatives, and the broader region (additional and complementary to activities in Direction 1)
- target relevant regional, national or international events and engagements (such as inbound and outbound visits and delegations) to promote the Canberra innovation ecosystem,
- marketing campaigns to promote Canberra as a city of innovation and to promote all opportunities to the broader ecosystem.

Outcome: Canberra innovation ecosystem breadth, connectivity, diversity, and brand reputation strengthened.

Overview

The CBRIN marketing and events team hosted many events with high attendance numbers which can be directly attributed to our marketing efforts across traditional media and social media platforms.

Summary: In this quarter CBRIN hosted 47 events, all marketed to our ecosystem, attracting a total of 1,297 registrations.

CBRIN held 2 First Wednesday Connect events, February: 248, March: 193, Average: 229 attendees. We also held two of the Female Founders Series: February: 69, March: 56, Average: 63 attendees.

Marketing Efforts: The marketing team's primary focus this quarter was to maintain strong event attendance following the holiday season, a traditionally challenging period for community engagement. Efforts included developing targeted content across Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn platforms, with particular emphasis on retention strategies for our core innovation community. This retention-focused approach resulted in 248 attendees for February First Wednesday Connect event.

Targeted remarketing campaigns and community testimonial spotlights were implemented throughout February and March. These efforts specifically re-engaged past participants while highlighting the tangible benefits of ongoing network involvement.

The team also executed a campaign to promote the newly opened Level 4 Scale Up Hub through targeted coworking advertisements and community engagement strategies. This campaign highlighted the unique collaborative environment, while providing a secure office space. Through a combination of testimonials from designers and multiple events in the space, we successfully increased awareness of the space among high-potential startups and growth-oriented businesses. The team plans to continue this momentum with focused sector-specific outreach in the coming quarter.

Media & PR

- [Recycled Plastic Skateboards manufactured in Canberra a 'World First'](#), Canberra Times (23 December 2024 - not mentioned in previous QR)
- [CBRIN's new Scale Up Hub now open](#), Announces the opening of CBRIN's Scale Up Hub, supporting 170+ entrepreneurs.
- [Canberra scale-ups have a new home base in the heart of the city](#), 22 January 2025, Region Media Article by Morgan Kenyon, featuring first Level 4 resident Modern42
- [Andrew Barr's LinkedIn Post \(CBRIN Scale Up Hub\)](#), ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr highlights the Hub's role in diversifying the economy.
- [Frank has a PhD in Physics but struggled to get a job in Canberra](#), Canberra Times, 7 January 2025 [CBRIN CEO commented about employment in startups and entrepreneurship as a viable entry for talented migrants to Australia when they do not have security clearances]
- [Inside Canberra's Entrepreneurship Hub Canberra Innovation Network](#), interview with CEO of CBRIN, 13 January 2025, Canberra Times
- [Oxford University student could have gone anywhere](#), but she chose Canberra, article about CBRIN coworker and Founders Collective participant company Yarn, Canberra Times, 3 February 2025
- [Canberra company's plan to lock away a billion tonnes of carbon dioxide](#), Canberra Times, article about CBRIN scale up hub company MCI Carbon, 22 January 2025

- [Innovators, if you attend one panel tis year, make it this one](#), Region Media, 5 March 2025, article by Dione David about the Female Founders panel with Fiona Hindmarsh and Christina DeLay.

Stories featuring Canberra innovation companies: 4 (Endless, Modern42, Yarn, MCI)

Video, Photo, Web & Design

- FWC captured by Images Instantly - 5 February 2025
- FWC captured by David Beach- 5 March 2025
- Female Founders captured by David Beach- 11 March 2025

Region Media Engagement Metrics

Published 3 articles delivering 7,519 total views, EDM inclusions delivered 70,102 views and 583 clicks, Digital banners received 8,347 impressions and 20 clicks. Articles were shared across social media platforms and received a reach of 11,000 and 438 engagements.

Innovation Station

CBRIN's regular blogging platform engages with the innovation community, profiles entrepreneurs, innovators, and businesses, and shares industry news and CBRIN highlights. Articles are shared on owned-and-operated channels.

The opening news for the year was announcement of 3 new directors on CBRIN Board.



Image: CBRIN featured in Canberra Times on front page on 13 January 2025 [left], CBRIN welcomed 3 new directors to its Board in January 2025, Michelle Jasper, Ilea Buffier and Michelle Lincoln [right].

Topics for this quarter included:

- [New Year, New Directors](#) - 10 January 2025
- [9 Local Female-led businesses receive funding to launch their innovative projects](#) - 10 January 2025
- [Canberra scale-ups have a new home base in the heart of the city](#) - 23 January 2025
- [First Wednesday Connect Pitch List February 2025](#) - 6 February 2025
- [Turning your Idea to Impact with these innovation skills: Workshop Series with fresh content for 2025](#) - 13 February 2025
- [First Wednesday Connect Pitch List March 2025](#) - 6 March 2025

Paid Advertisement Insights

To reach a larger audience, CBRIN ran several advertising campaigns throughout the quarter promoting events and programs. The goals of the campaigns varied from link clicks and general awareness. The target audience was not gender or age-specific; however, it was targeted to those living in Canberra and a 100km radius to include regional locations like Yass, Goulburn and Braidwood. Behaviour and psychographic segmentation targeted those interested in entrepreneurship, innovation, Canberra small business, business etc depending on the ad.

Campaign name	Reach	Impressions	Link clicks	CPC (cost per link click)
New Year Coworking Ad	111,475	166,174	91	\$1.92
FWC April Boost	50,592	82,343	156	\$0.61
FWC Feb Boost	16,386	64,692	162	\$0.49
ICON Grant Open	7,040	15,408	192	\$0.42
FWC March Event	6416	12,195	54	\$0.93
Female Founders	2079	4,803	47	\$1.28
Welcome to 2025	2033	3233	82	\$0.49
Totals	190,143	348,848	784	\$0.74

Social media insights

	Facebook	Instagram	LinkedIn
Reach	165,375 19.7%	11,069 47.7%	21,515 34.4%
Profile visits	2,362 4.8%	677 16.5%	623 5.6%
Followers	5,731	2,590	7,644
New followers	51 4.1%	161 25.8%	262 6.5%
Post engagement	262 51.8%	259 1.6%	495 43.6%

Top Performing Organic Posts

Facebook

 Top content by views

Boost content

See all content

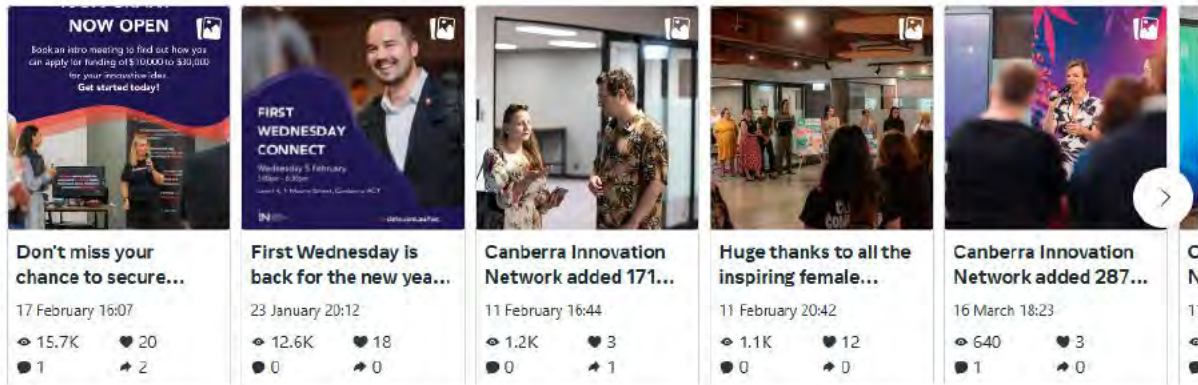


Image: Facebook top performing posts

Instagram

 Top content by views

Boost content

See all content

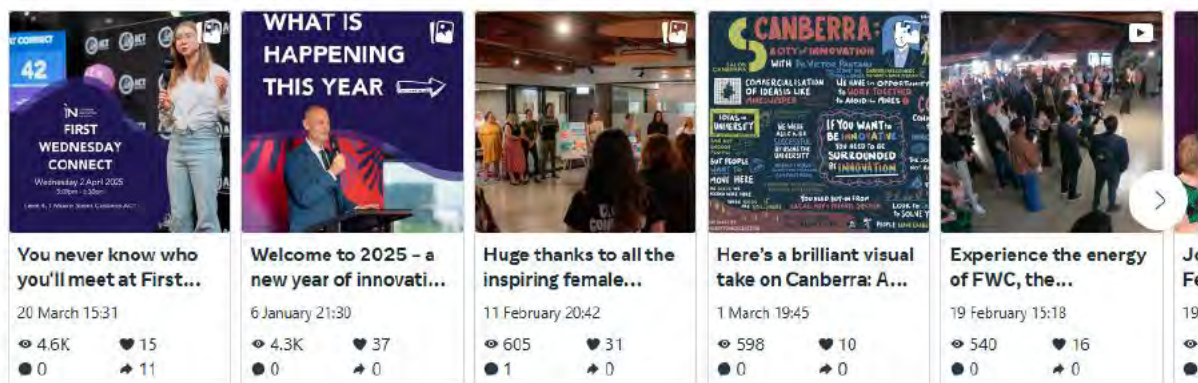


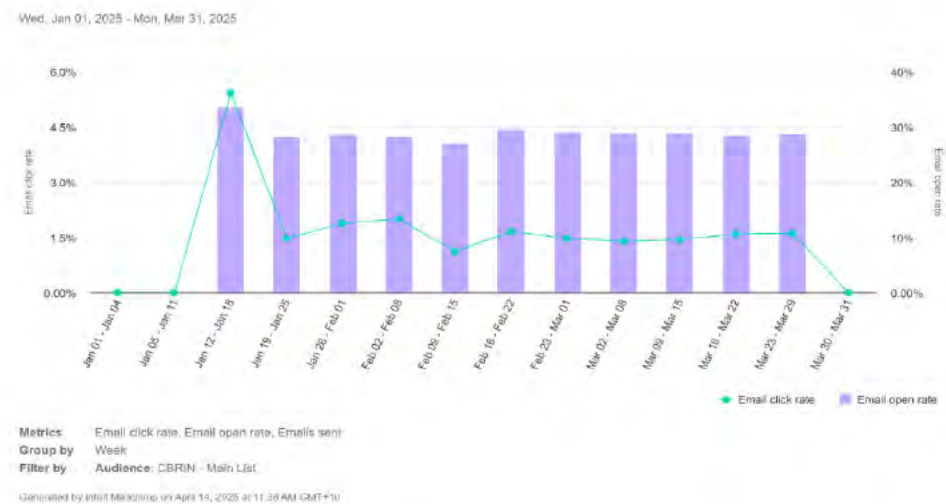
Image: screenshots of reach breakdown for Instagram and Facebook

Weekly Newsletter Statistics

10,619 (91 new) contacts, 6,195 subscribers (42 new) (40.5% female)

Table: Weekly Newsletter Click rates

Stats	14 Jan	21 Jan	28 Jan	4 Feb	11 Feb	18 Feb	25 Feb	4 Mar	11 Mar	18 Mar	25 Mar
Av. Open Rate	33.6%	28.3%	27.7%	28.4%	27.2%	29.7%	28.5%	29.0%	27.8%	28.6%	29.2%
Av. Click Rate	5.4%	1.5%	2.6%	2.0%	1.1%	1.7%	1.5%	1.4%	1.2%	1.6%	2.0%



The top-performing newsletter, based on both average open rate and average click rate, was sent on 14 January 2025. Its theme focused on kicking off the new year and highlighting all the upcoming events planned for the year.

Website performance



Image: Website performance statistics

The website attracted 11,876 sessions (down 7% from previous quarter) but achieved 22,381 pageviews (up 16%).

Most visitors accessed the website on Wednesdays (21.01%) and Tuesdays (20.38%), typically around 10-11 AM. Desktop remains the primary device (71%) followed by mobile (28%).

Our audience is predominantly Australian (9,985 visits), with significant international reach. Government websites and LinkedIn drive most referrals. The homepage and Innovation Connect Grant page generated the highest engagement.

Events & Engagement

This quarter CBRIN registered 1,297 participants for 47 events

Year-to-date: 5,590 participants for 190 events

	Events	Participants
January 2025	3	111
February 2025	20	522
March 2025	24	664

Regular Recurring Events: CBRIN Extended Team Meeting, First Wednesday Connect (monthly with exception of January), Female Founders (bi-monthly), Stakeholder Advisory Committee (quarterly), Billion Dollar Panel (quarterly)

First Wednesday Connect

Overall, CBRIN has collected 11,364 unique registrations for 107 First Wednesday Connects and Innovation Showcase events since 1 July 2015.

First Wednesday Connect 5 February 2025

Level 4, 1 Moore Street

248 registrations: 23% new participants

Audience: 36% entrepreneurs, 8% students, 12% Corporate, 4% public servants, 4% creatives, 9% SME, 6% researchers, 3% investors and 18% other

Speakers:

- Rebecca Keeley, Yarn Speech
- Geoff McGinley, Adapt Homes
- Candace Rhind, CBRIN Coworking
- Rajiv Shah, MDR Quantum
- Rachelle Towart, Dreamjobz
- Neville Braganza, Re-Discovered
- Pernille Aggerholm, Think Boldly!
- Belinda Newham, Female Founders
- Petr Adamek, CBRIN Wrap Up
- [Blog post](#)

First Wednesday Connect 5 March 2025

Level 4, 1 Moore Street

193 registrations: 58% new participants

Audience: 25% entrepreneurs, 14% students, 13% Corporate, 3% public servants, 7% creatives, 11% SME, 5% researchers, 6% investors and 16% other

Speakers:

- Adele Hausmann, Her Smile
- Danya Draskovic, OCRT
- Pranav Krishna, Lee Kuan Yew Global Business Competition
- Remy Coll, Redacted Information Security
- Irene Zhen, Female Founders
- Tom Navakas, The Mill House Ventures GRIST Program
- Marta Sanchez Miranda, Australian National Fabrication Facility
- Aqeel Akber, Synstra ai
- Careen Redman, Humaneer
- Jack Cassidy, Prototyping Vouchers
- Alicia Martin, TaperMate
- Shooby Kandel, What Works
- Craig Davis, CBRIN Wrap Up
- [Blog Post](#)

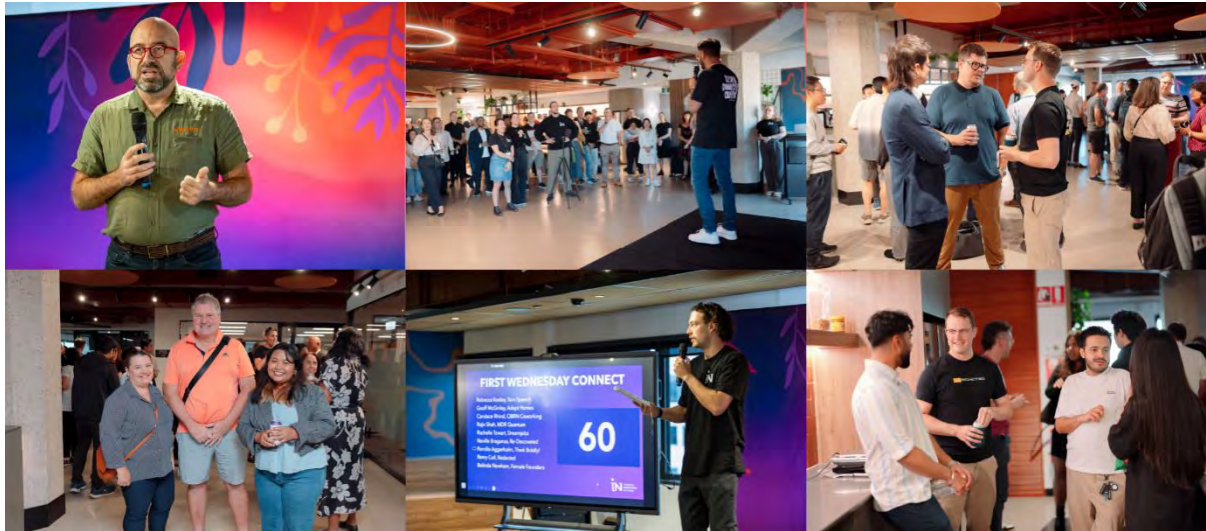


Image: Photo collage from First Wednesday Connect February and March 2025

Testimonials:

- *First Wednesday Connect is always a great event! It's an amazing opportunity to network and meet like-minded people. The pitches are a valuable way for startups to practice and refine their message while gaining exposure to a wider audience. Looking forward to the next one! - Zeal M*
- *I attended the "First Wednesday Connect" event, which was a fantastic way to network with innovators and startup companies. I found some useful innovations e.g., Cyber tongue whichever has many mutual benefits at low cost technology. I appreciate the CBRIN for the startup pitch delivery opportunities for the innovators and new entrants. - Mustafa S*
- *This was my first time coming to First Wednesday Connect as an attendee and wow! What a brilliant way to meet and mingle with people from all different areas of innovation. The CBRIN team embody what they teach by adapting quickly to any changes that pop up, and make this event a really accessible, welcoming environment. It's hard to explain the incredible energy in the room, you'll have to come along to experience it yourself! 10/10 would recommend - H Maddox*

Female Founders

There have been 1,784 registrations for 32 Female Founders events since 24 March 2020.

Support Female Led Business

11 February 2025

Level 4, 1 Moore Street, 69 registrations: 49% new participants; 50% NPS

The first Female Founders event of the year featured a tradeshow style event with 21 female led businesses invited to showcase and pitch their innovations. The tradeshow style highlights that one of the best ways to support women in business is to buy from them. Businesses who participated include:

- Bluebird
- Think Boldly!
- Yarn Speech

- Thinkaneers
- YWCA's Work Safe Program
- Humaneer
- The Stellar Company
- Dreamjobz
- Science Skincare
- Terria
- RD Consulting (prioritise equality, support local female businesses, and have a strong presence of women in their leadership team)
- Karabu
- WaitOnce
- Ox Rooms
- Murrawuy Journeys
- Innovation Central Canberra
- Your Season
- Castle Point
- Decision Revolution and Parbery
- DILKARA
- Evalu8 Sustainability

Female Founders Billion Dollar Panel

11 March 2025

Level 5, 1 Moore Street, 58 registrations: 36% new participants; 100% NPS

This Female Founder x Billion Dollar Panel collaboration event featured a panel discussion with Fiona Hindmarsh, Managing/General Partner of Significant Ventures, and Christina DeLay, Co-Founder of Altina. During the discussion the panel shared their unique perspectives and experience with investment, and answered questions from attendees.



Image: photo collage from Female Founders February and March 2025

Testimonials:

- “It was great to hear the perspective from a successful, multi-faceted business (45 years business experience from Hindmarsh) and the well-presented views from the Founder of Altina.” Anonymous

Regional, National and International Engagement

- 22 January - CBRIN visited by independent candidate Claire Miles
- 24 January - CBRIN visited by independent MLA Thomas Emmerson
- 4 February - CBRIN CEO participated in Uncharitable movie screening held in Parliament House and introduced by Minister for Charities, Andrew Leigh, MP

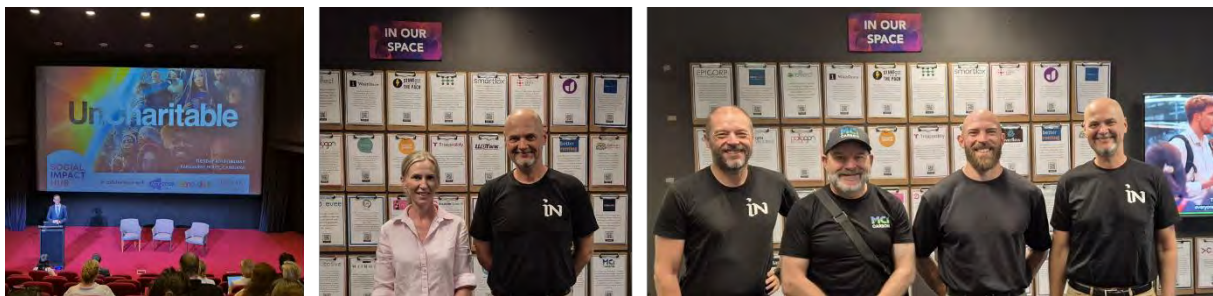


Image: Andrew Leigh, MP introducing the Uncharitable movie screening (left), Claire Miles with CBRIN CEO (middle), and Thomas Emmerson, MLA visiting CBRIN (with Craig Davis, Marcus Dawe)

- 12 February - CBRIN CEO attended Minister Ed Husic's speech at National Press Club at invitation by UNSW Canberra
- 20 February - CBRIN Team Member Irene Zhen explored UQ Innovate, a collaborative makerspace in Queensland, gathering insights relevant to Canberra's prototyping voucher program. Irene also participated in CSIRO ON programs day in Brisbane representing CBRIN.
- 24 February 2025. CBRIN participated in a visit of Indian University Vice Chancellors to Canberra and held a presentation alongside other CBRIN Foundation Members about the Canberra innovation ecosystem.



Image: Professor Andrew Neely (UNSW) addresses the delegation from India. ACT Government.

- 4-6 March 2025. CBRIN Team Members Petr Adamek and Ben Garrett built connections with the national innovation ecosystem during their SouthStart Adelaide attendance, engaging with entrepreneurs and innovators across Lot Fourteen, the University of Adelaide and Stone and Chalk Adelaide.
- OpenAI worked with AI Colab to deliver an event hosted by CBRIN at its Level 5 event space, featuring OpenAI employees from Singapore and Australia.



Image: Bottom left from UQ Innovate in Queensland, all others from SOUTHSTART Adelaide.

Other Event Support & Engagement

Events held in our space:

- Defence Trailblazer Innovation Summit - 48 attendees (March)
- RAAF Jericho Innovation Workshops - 110 total attendees (across three sessions)
- AI CoLab Workshops - Approximately 96 total attendees (across multiple sessions)
- ASE Programs: 35 attendees (Marketing: 20, Pitching: 15)
- RD Consulting Events: 35 attendees (Across 2 events, also a coworker on Level 4)



Image: AICoLab on the top and right, the bottom left is Defence Trailblazer Innovation Summit

Theme 3.2 Innovation Hub(s)

Objective: Deliver and grow coworking in the central innovation hub, work with others to connect their hubs into a network offering for entrepreneurs & innovators in Canberra and beyond.

Under this Theme / Objective CBRIN will:

- Deliver entrepreneur-focused subsidised coworking and office space for scale ups and SMEs, including community building activities as a fundamental building block of the Innovation Hub at Level 5, 1 Moore St, Canberra.
- Work with the ACT Government to grow availability of space within the 1 Moore Street and work with operators of other innovation hubs and precincts across in Canberra, including Foundation Members, to coordinate a connected offering for innovative entrepreneurs.

Outcome: Capacity and interactivity of diverse offerings that accommodate innovative companies in Canberra grows.

Coworking at Canberra Innovation Network

CBRIN's Coworking space is a thriving community of entrepreneurs, startups, researchers, innovators, scaleups, and SMEs. Located in the heart of Canberra's CBD, spanning two floors, CBRIN Coworking is dedicated to fostering the innovation community. With access to meeting rooms, breakout spaces, shared kitchen and dining spaces, high speed internet with Wi-Fi coverage, printing facilities and support, as well as access to private mentorship, we aspire to create the perfect place to launch and grow an innovative business in Canberra.

CBRIN Coworking incorporates an open-plan coworking space on Level 5, with 112 full time desks and 26 community desks, and an ScaleUp and SME Hub on Level 4, with 21 offices ranging in size from 4 person to 23 person capacity.

Offering “more than just a place to work”, CBRIN coworking residents have access to mentors, experts and events tailored to their needs. Coworking is an integral part of the CBRIN pipeline, with residents frequently participating in growth programs, events, and collaborative events as attendees, panel members, and mentors.



Image: Modern42 Team working in their office in the ScaleUp Hub

Level 4 - ScaleUp / SME Hub

The CBRIN ScaleUp and SME Hub on Level 4, 1 Moore Street opened on 1 November 2024. The ScaleUp and SME Hub is designed as a place for innovative scale ups and SMEs to co-locate and grow their businesses. The space has 21 furnished offices, a range of meeting rooms, phone booths, end-of-trip facilities and a large kitchen/breakout space. Residents also have access to the Level 5 open-plan coworking space and amenities. Coworking events are designed to activate and encourage the collaborative community across the 2 floors.

Key Achievements & Activities this Quarter

- 3 teams moved into the ScaleUp Hub
- 11 events held for the community to encourage networking and collaboration, including connecting of communities on Levels 4 and 5
- The coworking newsletter has 185 active subscribers with an average open rate of 31.6%.
- As of 31 March 2025 there were:
 - 72 companies active in CBRIN Level 5 Coworking with 137 members
 - 9 companies active in the CBRIN Level 4 ScaleUp and SME Hub with 79 members
 - 68% Occupancy in the ScaleUp and SME Hub
 - 216 active members across the 2 floors
 - 60 full-time memberships (dedicated desks), 71 part-time and casual memberships
 - Female members: 83 (38%)
 - Non-Binary members: 2 (1%)
 - CALD members: 61 (28%)

Companies working the CBRIN ScaleUp Hub this Quarter

Company	Capacity	Description
Modern42 Apporetum	24	Provide modern cyber security services to organisations across Federal, State and Local Government and private organisations. We specialise in Identity and Access Management (IAM), Privileged Access Management (PAM), Cloud Engineering, and Cloud Infrastructure. Identity and Access Management Product developed by Modern42's founders.
AI Colab	18	Purpose-driven allies from governments, nonprofits, industry and academia, combining strengths to advance inclusive, impactful uses of AI. (3 offices)
MCi Carbon	7	Carbon capture technology that safely captures and converts industrial CO2 emissions into solid bulk materials used in new low-carbon products for construction, manufacturing and consumer markets - enabling a circular economy

Company	Capacity	Description
GPN Vaccines	7	Clinical-stage company focused on creating innovative vaccines that offer robust protection against the world's most important bacterial pathogens.
Bluebird Advisory	10	Innovative solutions in digital transformations, data analytics, cyber security, project delivery, change management, and financial optimisation.
Redacted	4	Redacted Information Security provides strategic level systems security planning, IRAP assessments, security training, and consulting.
What Works	10	Provide tailored brand, product, and growth services to business with an innovation focus.
RD	27	Creative communication agency focused on cutting-edge tech, digital innovation (2 offices)
Mesh Cyber	8	Specialist cyber security company currently working in Federal Government and Critical Infrastructure space, building an automated assessment tool.
Total	115	9 companies in 12 offices

Note: 9 tenants in 12 out of 21 offices (57%) with capacity of 115 out of 169 available (68% occupancy rate) taken as of 31 March 2025.



Image: photo of RD team in their office in the Level 4 ScaleUp Hub

Companies working in the CBRIN Coworking Space (Level 5) this Quarter

Adaectiv Adriana Voegeli ADS Solar Agape Angel Hellyer Aratherm Bakesale Better Renting Blueegg Blue Sky Digital Brain Changer Capyble Campus Plus Canberra Cyber Hub Colin Tseng Cosive Creative Guild Cybercy Decision Revolution Dentroid Disaster Science Drenlo DsQ studio Eldane <i>Epicorp</i> Ereflect Evaluate8 Sustainability	Evee EVER Change and Communication Future Swirl Gridsight Grow Right Digital Haast High-E Photonics HMMG Pty Ltd Humaneer.app Jay Siyani Joyful Frugalista Lucy Pedley Bookkeeping Mia Swainson Consulting MIIROKO Mude My Green Butler Numbers and Sense NW Technology Nurture Culture Oscillo Labs Overflow Solutions Polygon Energy Self Plus Plus Safe Synergy ShanRen Writes She Shapes History	Shoelace Creative Siemens Mobility Smartlox Solvyr (formerly Augentis) Stand Out From The Pack Revra (formerly Flexiphone) Tash Kelly Marketing Terria Pty Ltd The Health Horizon The Zero Planet Think Boldly (formerly Pernille Aggerholm Consulting) Traceably Veritas Group VenuBooka Venture Crowd Vibe Dynamics Viortec Wait Once WOTLink XtreamCompute Yarn Your Season
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NB: New companies who joined the space this quarter are displayed in **bold**. Companies sponsored to use the Coworking space are in *italics*. Sponsoring relates to GRIFFIN Accelerator companies, winners of competitions, or companies that create special value for the ecosystem.

Coworking Network Connections

CBRIN builds friendly connections to other Coworking spaces in Canberra and nationally. Local Community Managers stay connected through the Canberra Region Coworking Network online, and with regular in person catch ups. CBRIN is a member of Flexible Workspace Australia (FWA) and use the FWA network to connect to community builders nationally, and to access resources, training and FWA member discounts. Candace Rhind is the FWA Social Director for ACT.

On 20 February 2025 CBRIN staff attended the FWA Canberra Mixer, touring Hub Australia and Haven coworking spaces, connecting with the teams there, and discussing the current coworking climate.



Image: FWA Social Mixer Community Managers: Lauren Cucca (Hub Australia), Jason Watson (Haven), Candace Rhind (CBRIN)

Coworking reciprocal agreements

CBRIN has reciprocal agreements with SpaceCubed in Perth and Jindy Workspace in Jindabyne. Under these reciprocal agreements, members of the CBRIN Coworking Space can work for a limited number of days per month at the partnered coworking space at no cost and vice versa. Each space also agrees to have the other space's logo on their website, with a backlink, and share content on their blog and socials.



Image: logos of coworking spaces with whom CBRIN has reciprocal agreements

Community Engagement and Communication

CBRIN uses Slack, a channel-based messaging platform, to communicate information and engage with residents of the Coworking space. The CBRIN Slack workspace has 363 members and 20 channels, including channels dedicated to Growth Programs, resources, and inspirational stories.

The CBRIN team regularly posts events and announcements, and members engage in discussions, share wins, receive help and advice, and socialise.

CBRIN emails a monthly newsletter to all coworkers, with a wrap up of the month just gone, news, and upcoming events. The coworking newsletter has 185 active subscribers with an average open rate of 31.6%.

Coworker Engagement with other CBRIN Programs

Being in the Coworking Space gives members privileged access to the CBRIN team, leading to Founder Conversations, referrals, and connections. Coworkers are actively encouraged to take part in CBRIN's Growth Programs, networking events and collaborative events.

This quarter:

- The Growth Team had 32 Founder Conversations with coworkers
- 4 coworkers participated in Founders Collective
- 3 coworkers participated in the SME Breakfast
- 7 coworkers pitched at First Wednesday Connect
- 9 coworkers had stalls at Female Founders Showcase

Community Events

Community Events are a great way for coworkers to build relationships with other innovators in the space, and an important benefit of working in a coworking space.



Image: photo collage from Coworking Events

Date	Event	Participants
21 January 2025	Welcome Back Brunch	61
4 February 2025	Book Club	9
13 February 2025	Board Games	10
25 February 2025	Community Morning Tea	38
4 March 2025	Book Club	14
13 March 2025	Board Games	5
20 March 2025	Harmony Day Afternoon Tea	16
25 March 2025	Community Morning Tea	30
Fortnightly on a Friday - 3 held this quarter	Friday Wind Down Drinks	5-15

Coworker Wins

The CBRIN Coworking residents are doing amazing things, and we celebrate and share their wins, big and small. We also celebrate when they connect in an exciting way.

- [Yarn Speech](#) was awarded a Highly Commended in the Responsible Business Education Awards by the [Financial Times](#)
- [MCi Carbon](#) received US\$5 million investment from [Mitsubishi UBE Cement Corporation](#)
- [Shooby Kandel](#), founder and CEO of [What Works](#), won BT&T's 30 under 30 for the Entrepreneur category



Shooby Kandel • 1st
30u30 Entrepreneur | Innovation ...
[Visit my website](#)
4w • 🌐

So I won **B&T's** 30u30 for the Entrepreneur category... squeezed it in just before I turn 30 this year 🥳

Thanking **Prajay** for pushing me to apply, **Eamon** for pulling together a wicked submission video and my amazing partner **Vanessa** for helping me film and shape my application. As well as all the various clients, mentors and supporters I've worked with throughout my 10 year business journey.

About a year ago, I was going through the toughest career challenge I've had to ...mor

👍❤️ 144 71 comments

Image: screenshot of LinkedIn post by Shooby Kandel

UNSW Canberra Launch on Northbourne

Launch on Northbourne is an initiative created by UNSW Canberra. The precinct is a proof-of-concept for a larger innovation precinct currently in development. As such, it provides three floors of collaborative workspace that brings together industry, government and academia to grow innovation and capability in the specific areas of defence and security.

CBRIN assists UNSW Canberra Launch with curating events throughout the year for the collaborators at Launch and creates opportunities for UNSW researchers to connect with the companies at Launch.

Key Achievements & Activities this Quarter

- 295 attendees participated in 6 Launch Community events this quarter
- There were 32 people with a UNSW Canberra or ADFA email address registered to attend CBRIN events

UNSW Launch Collaborators this Quarter:

Collaborator	Company Description
Ascent	Ascent have a multitude of capabilities including Management Consultancy, Program Management, Engineering & Technical Advice, Flight Test Planning, Quality Management, Acquisition & Sustainment and Authoring & Writing.
Cognitive Advantage	Cognitive Advantage is a digital technology business founded in late 2017 with a vision to harness emerging technologies in the Internet of Things, 5G telecommunications and artificial intelligence for the defence and security of Australia. Having foreseen the geopolitical tensions in our region the team decided to get a head-start on solving some big challenges for the Australian Defence Force.
DEWC Services	DEWC Services is an Australian owned and operated company focused on growing and developing critical sovereign capability in command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and electronic warfare
Fifth Domain	Fifth Domain specialises in building, hosting and delivering flexible cyber training and education technologies to a diverse range of customers. Fifth Domain's technologies support educators and trainers and save them time and effort setting up learning environments. They also support students by providing stable and reliable virtualised real-world environments to test existing skills or learn new ones.
FuturifAI	FuturifAI uses lean, trusted AI to simplify space mission operations, enabling satellite operators to handle more complex missions, make space more sustainable, and deliver more to customers on the ground.

Collaborator	Company Description
<i>Infinity Avionics</i>	Infinity Avionics is an Australian space avionics design and manufacturing company founded in 2020 as a UNSW Canberra Space spin-off. The company was founded to commercialise various intellectual property developed over the years at UNSW Canberra Space. Our reconfigurable FPGA SoC based flight computers are unique in the nano-satellite market in terms of their customisability and form factor.
<i>Kestra (formerly K3partners)</i>	Kestra is a Canberra based software engineering company focussed on designing state of the art data analytics systems utilising Search Engines, Information Retrieval, Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning specifically for government customers.
Ocula	Ocula is a cabling specialist offering design, manufacturing and integration of fibre optic and copper communication and data solutions. Passionate about technology, we constantly strive to deliver a technological edge to our customers, with improved reliability and performance through ongoing innovation of cabling technology.
Penten	Penten is an Australian-based cyber technology company focused on innovation in secure mobility, applied AI (artificial intelligence) and tactical communications security. Founded in 2014, Penten is a multi-award-winning cyber security company. They are Launch on Northbourne's anchor tenant, occupying levels 1 and 2.
<i>Point River Networks</i>	Point River Networks provide consulting, recruiting, unified communications and networking.
<i>Skykraft</i>	Skykraft is an Australian space services company that specialises in the design, manufacture and operations of satellite constellations in the delivery of global services. Skykraft was established in 2017 as a spin off from space the capabilities incubator UNSW Canberra Space.

NB: Collaborators in ***Bold Italic*** work from the UNSW Launch City Campus at CIT Reid

Collaborator Wins

The Collaborators at Launch are doing amazing things, and we celebrate and share their wins, big and small. We also celebrate when they connect in an exciting way.

- Ascent announced its new partnership with Hui Huliau as their sole agent in Australia, the partnership will help open seamless access to the US DoD.
- Cognitive Advantage attended and showcased at Aeroindia 2025 as part of the Australian Defence Delegation.
- DEWC Services officially became a member of the UNSW Launch community joining the collaboration space on Northbourne.

- DEWC Services CEO Allan Dundas has joined the Board of Directors of the Defence Teaming Centre an Industry Association that helps improve the industries competitiveness as well as helping to meet the needs of the Department of Defence.
- Fifth Domain have taken on an intern from UNSW's new Bachelor of Cybersecurity cohort.
- Fifth Domain announced that they have received their ISO 27001 certification.
- Penten signed a contract with Defence Australia to provide Next Generation Electronic Deception technology as part of the Advanced strategic capabilities accelerator.
- Penten Integration Engineer Nathan Carson has been named as a finalist in the Best Cyber Technician category in the upcoming Defence and National Security workforce awards.
- Skykraft signed a Participating Project Partner agreement with several other Australian and Indian Organizations as part of the groundbreaking Australia-India partnership.

Monthly Community Newsletter

Stats	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025
Open Rate	28.8%	35.9%	23.3%
Click-through Rate	6.0%	11.0%	6.1%

Community Events

Community Events are a great way for Collaborators to build relationships with other innovators at Launch and is an important benefit of working from the space. This quarter there were approximately 295 attendances at Launch community events.

	Events	Estimated Participants
January 2025	1	95
February 2025	3	165
March 2025	2	35

- Welcome Back Ice Cream Van - 22 January
- Viden Coffee Van - 13 February
- Lunch and Learn House of Kitch - 18 February
- Launch Monthly Connect hosted by Cognitive Advantage - 27 February
- International Women's Day afternoon tea - 11 March
- Launch Monthly Connect hosted by DEWC - 27 March



Image: Photo collage of Launch Community events January- March 2025

Foundation Member & Partner Engagement

- Monthly CBRIN Extended Team Meeting held either online or in person at CBRIN with representatives from ANU, UC, UNSW, CSIRO, and CIT
- This quarter – CBRIN team had fortnightly meetings with UNSW Canberra Launch team
- This quarter – CBRIN employed two current ANU students to intern 2 days per week to assist Growth Team.
- 4 February 2025 - CBRIN participated in a research workshop for UC's Schoolyard Greenprint Study, led by Dr Gweneth Leigh from the Health Research Institute
- 4 February 2025- CBRIN met with the leadership team from the ANU Research Partnerships and Translation
- 7 February 2025 – CBRIN met with Danielle Neale, the new head of Research Translation to discuss avenues of collaboration
- 19 February 2025 - CBRIN partnered with Salon Canberra and Canberra Airport to deliver a City of Innovation Dinner, new UC VC Bill Shorten participated in the event
- 20 February 2025 – CBRIN participated in the CSIRO ON Core in Brisbane, which celebrated ON programs and brought together alumni, mentors and facilitators.
- 20 February 2025 - CBRIN held the first official Prototyping Voucher Pilot Steering Committee meeting with representatives from ANU, UC, CIT, and UNSW Canberra
- 24 February 2025 - CBRIN held a meeting with ANU to discuss Energy Innovation Fund grant application
- 24 February 2025 - CBRIN met with Optus to discuss the upcoming strategic advisory fund event
- 27 February 2025 - CBRIN conducted a meeting with more ANU representatives on Energy Innovation Fund grant application
- 1 March 2025 - CBRIN submitted the Prototyping Voucher Pilot inception report to the ACT Government
- 5 March 2025 – CBRIN met with Nina Juhl from UNSW Founders to share insights on running innovation programs
- 12 March 2025 - CBRIN representatives toured the University of Canberra's Workshop 7 prototyping facilities
- 14 March 2025 – CBRIN participated in a mini workshop organised by the ANU DVCRI to input into strategy
- 17 March 2025 - CBRIN hosted and co-facilitated the Defence Trailblazer Innovation Summit with UNSW
- 20 March 2025 - CBRIN hosted its 27th Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting with representatives from ANU & Canberra Airport Group
- 24 March 2025 - CBRIN held discussions with UNSW Canberra regarding Energy Innovation Fund grant proposal
- 24 March 2025 - CBRIN met with CIT to discuss Energy Innovation Fund grant application
- 20 March 2025 - CBRIN held the second Prototyping Voucher Pilot Steering Committee meeting with representatives from ANU, UNSW Canberra, and CIT
- 31 March 2025 - CBRIN met with UC to discuss Energy Innovation Fund grant application
- 4 referrals to KWM

- Early stage researcher & deep tech engagement:
 - ANU
 - o Anna-Sophie Jurgens
 - o Sarah Vallee
 - University of Canberra
 - o Sita Anggraini

Methodology

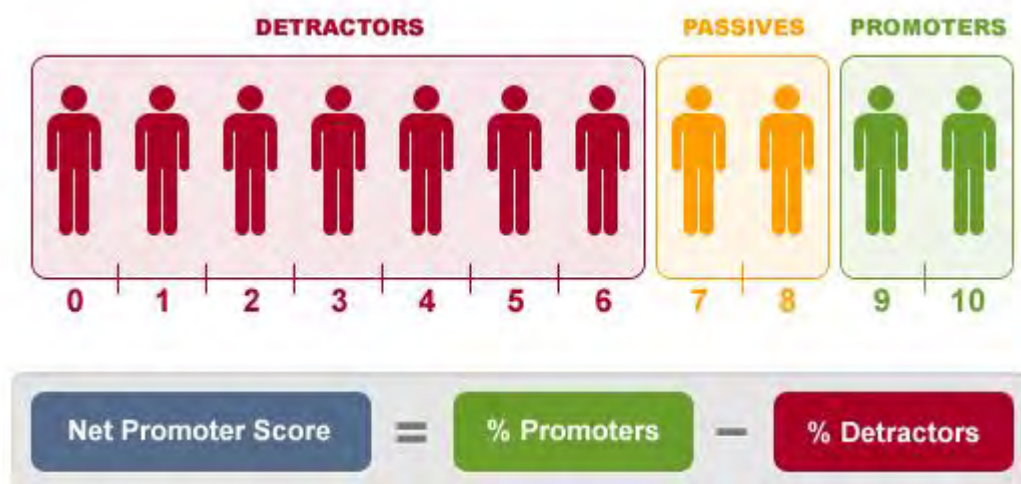
Participant Feedback

Wherever practical, the Canberra Innovation Network team seeks feedback from all program and event participants using a standard form. Questions include their rating of the event, what testimonial they would give and what aspect of the workshop or event they enjoyed the most. We report data and selected comments from responses received.

Net Promoter Score

For selected events CBRIN seeks to identify Net Promoter Score. The Net Promoter Score (NPS) method is used to measure participant satisfaction. NPS is a harsh measure, with scores ranging from -100% to +100%.

Each participant is asked how likely they are to recommend this to someone else on a scale of 1 to 10. The NPS is then calculated based on the percentage of promoters minus the percentage of detractors as shown in the graphic.



Registration and Attendance

Registration and attendance are measured for all programs and events that CBRIN runs. Event registration is taken through platforms like Eventbrite, while program registration (e.g., for Idea to Impact, hackathons) can sometimes be taken through Podio.

Attendance is reported based on a count made by CBRIN staff during the event or program. We take care to provide accurate numbers.



CANBERRA
INNOVATION
NETWORK

QUARTERLY REPORT

1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2025

ABN: 90 601 492 826

SUPPORTED BY





CANBERRA
INNOVATION
NETWORK

Quarterly Report Q4 2024-2025

Coworking



- 74** companies in CBRIN coworking
 - 61 on Level 5 and 13 on Level 4
- 81%** Occupancy in the L4 ScaleUp Hub
- 216** active members, of which
 - 99 Female members (47%)
 - 2 Non-Binary members (1%)
 - 68 CALD members (31%)

Events & Collaboration



- 85** events held this quarter
- 2,731** participants in those events, of which
 - 5/119 outreach events/audience
 - 4/207 pipeline events/audience
 - 3 Collaborative innovation events
- 82 Participants in collab events
- 10** sectors engaged through collaborative innovation

Growth Programs



- 60** Icon EOIs received
- 83** Total Ventures Assisted
 - 51 of which beyond startup stage
- 240** Entrepreneur meetings including
- 111** Founder Sessions
 - 69 Intro meetings
- 103** Mentors active this quarter
- 161** Total mentor pool

Ecosystem highlights



\$50 Million raised this quarter by companies in the Canberra innovation ecosystem

135 investor registrations to CBRIN's annual Investor Showcase, covering 35 venture funds. Majority of investors are interstate.

Two companies which have engaged significantly with growth programs announced trade sales in the quarter – Signonsite and Rotor Lab.

MAJOR FUNDER, FOUNDATION MEMBERS AND CORPORATE GOLD PARTNERS



"If you have a business idea, are starting a business, or even if you have already started your business, you will learn a lot from these workshops. If you follow the formula and the put the activities into practice, then you will either learn a lot about your business or your business will grow. During the course my business doubled." – Sarah Burrows, L3 Coaching (Idea to Impact participant)

"I would recommend this course to anyone looking to develop a future-focused mindset and strengthen their goal-setting skills. I'd definitely attend another course, as I'm looking for something more focused on helping me manage and grow my business more effectively." – Jane Burton, Cyburton (SME Accelerator Participant).

"The ICON Grant was the very first funding we received, and it played a crucial role in helping us establish the foundation of our business... While the funding itself was incredibly helpful, the ICON Grant offered us much more than just financial support. Through it, we connected with CBRIN, who has become a tremendous supporter — providing us with workspace, introducing us to mentors and investors, offering access to accelerator programs, and much more." – Claire Chesterton, Miiroko (ICON recipient)

"I wanted to extend our sincere thanks to you and Petr for your time and efforts in presenting to our Field Trip delegates on May 21. [...] the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. CBRIN's mission to support entrepreneurs and the programs you offer that provide tangible support was really inspiring. Our 3 directors who were in attendance, said the CBRIN visit was THE highlight of a very full day!" – Dianne Murray, Communications & Business Manager, PIEFA

"It's great to come along to a networking event that involves such interesting and timely topics because it gets you thinking and gives you something to talk about. Highly recommend and hope there are more events like this at CBRIN this year." – Anonymous

The highlight of my day was, without a doubt, the people. The CBRIN team did an outstanding job running the event, and connecting with other Canberra CyberHub businesses was fantastic. It was a great opportunity to share insights, experiences, and build valuable connections within our local cyber community.

"[The Investor Showcase is] a great opportunity to mix with founders, investors, and other ecosystem folks in a friendly environment. I'd recommend the event to both local founders and interstate investors." - Raaj Rayat, Airtree Ventures

We love the energy of being surrounded by other small businesses, our lovely new office and the beautiful workshop space options. - Yellow Hat Consulting

"That's probably the most fruitful 25 minutes I've spent in a long time." – David Bremers, Rescue Response Group (intro meeting)

WORKPLAN 2024-25

Implementing the 2023-2028 Strategic Directions

Together with our clients, partners and supporters, we connect, promote and grow the ACT innovation ecosystem. In doing so, we engage with entrepreneurs and innovators, startups, SMEs and established businesses, researchers, youth and students, governments and NGOs, higher education and research institutions, corporates as well as with the general public.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Direction 1: Innovation Capacity



Build capability in segments of the community that do not identify as entrepreneurs to drive more innovation, collaboration and job creating entrepreneurship.

Direction 2: Entrepreneurial Capacity



Grow the entrepreneurial capacity of our innovation ecosystem by developing, delivering and linking programs and resources that support growth of ambitious innovation and technology companies.

Direction 3: Placemaking



Operate ACT's central innovation hub with active linkages to a powerful network of innovation precincts that work together to grow new industries and solve complex problems by leveraging science, innovation and entrepreneurship.

1.1 INNOVATION SKILLS

Objective Scope and deliver events and initiatives that introduce and enhance innovation skills and capability in the broader community, including students, researchers, government, NGOs, under-represented groups, etc.

Activities Innovation educational, networking and introductory events targeted at different audiences

KPIs
12 events, 1 InnovationACT
400 participants

2.1 ENTREPRENEUR PIPELINE

Objective Build a strong pipeline of entrepreneurs and innovators and triage them into programs and services that support their progress, and link them to funding, entrepreneur education and mentoring.

Activities Intro meetings, Innovation Connect Grants, education and networking events

KPIs 200+ participants, 150 intro meetings, 2 grant ICON funding rounds with \$400k+ deployed to 14+ ventures

3.1 ECOSYSTEM ENGAGEMENT

Objective Collaborate to design and deliver a comprehensive set of engagement activities and events that connect, grow and diversify the innovation ecosystem and support delivery of other objectives in this workplan.

Activities Marketing, outreach, PR, events, partner & external engagement

KPIs 150 events, 5,000 participants, 20 stories, 4 events for under-represented groups, 1 showcase, 10 external (intern., national, regional) engagements

1.2 COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION

Objective Design and deliver collaborative events, challenges and hackathons that activate partnerships, support growth of key sectors and help government, corporates and community address 'wicked' problems through collaboration & innovation.

Activities Collaborative innovation events, hackathons and competitions, and a series of systemic collaborations

KPIs
12 events, 300 participations, 3 sectors

2.2 GROWTH PROGRAMS

Objective Deliver programs and services that contribute to growth of innovative ventures, including deep tech, social impact, startups, scaleups and SMEs.

Activities Mill House, Griffin, Scale Up Program, SME Program, Mentor & investor network, Mentor and investor connections

KPIs 40 ventures assisted p.a., 90 founder sessions p.a., 30 mentors engaged p.q.

3.2 INNOVATION HUB(s)

Objective Deliver and grow coworking in the central innovation hub, work with others to connect their hubs into a network offering for entrepreneurs & innovators in Canberra and beyond.

Activities central hub operation and improvements, Launch on NB operation, events, coordination w other hubs

KPIs
170+ co-workers in 50+ companies
20 connected events at hubs
Expansion to open ScaleUp & SME hub

2024 IMPACT REPORT

What is the economic impact and ROI in CBRIN?

This report was prepared by PwC Australia, it estimates CBRIN's economic impact and can be downloaded at www.cbrin.com.au/impact.

Stakeholder reported benefits

Increased skills & capacity

86%

Businesses realising at least 1 identified outcome

92%

CBRIN's impact was high/critical in achieving outcomes

53%

\$1 of ACT Government funding (cash) directly supported

\$53

of *direct* GSP over 2022-2024

equivalent to

\$320m

CBRIN's contribution to business outcomes

Validate & progress new ideas

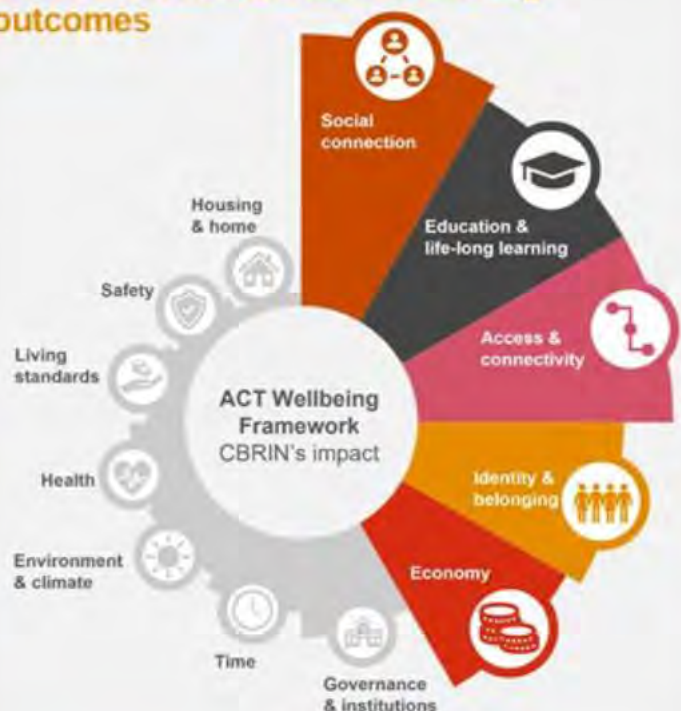
Think more commercially

Establish connections

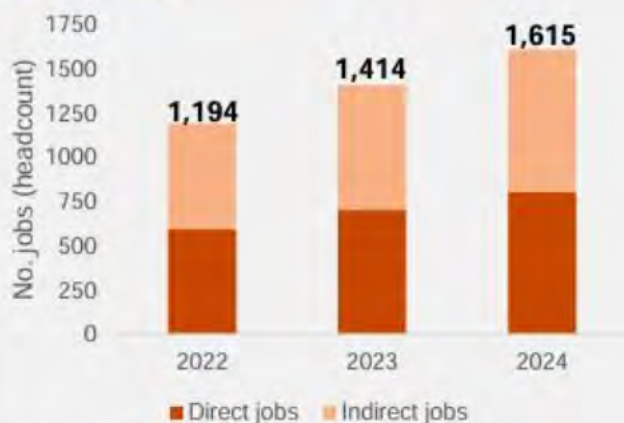
Ambition, purpose & vision

Manage a business

CBRIN's contribution to wellbeing outcomes



Employment impact by component (headcount)



GSP impact by component (\$2024, million)



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INTRODUCTION

This quarterly report presents the activities, achievements, and details relevant to the Canberra Innovation Network's approved 2023-2028 Strategic Directions and 2024-25 Workplan. The structure of the document introduces highlights and current testimonials that demonstrate the experience our target audiences have with our programs and activities. It then introduces key goals, objectives, principles, and components of the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) Strategy and Workplan, as well as its KPIs. In each section we present activities that contribute to the direction. The introduction includes the CEO commentary (executive summary) on performance in the current reporting period.

CBRIN's mission is to empower entrepreneurs to make an impact and change the world. Together with our Foundation Members, partners, clients, the innovation community, and fuelled by the foundational support from the ACT Government, we are positioning Canberra as a clever, connected and creative city where entrepreneurs and businesses build on our excellence in research and innovation to create social and economic benefits for all (CBRIN's vision).

We are a not-for-profit collaboration of the leading higher education and research institutions in the ACT, the ACT Government and private sector partners who work together to coordinate, connect, promote, and grow the region's innovation ecosystem.

Our Strategic Directions and Workplan guide CBRIN to engage with a broad variety of audiences. These include:

People	Organisations
• General Public • Youth / Students • Researchers / Innovators • Entrepreneurs Building Startups	• Government / Community • Corporates • Higher Education and Research • SMEs / Businesses

The Workplan that we report on here supports the role of the innovation network as a key mechanism where world-class research and educational institutions partner with a proactive government and the innovation community to drive a vibrant ecosystem. This attracts, supports, and empowers creative, innovative, and entrepreneurial people as well as organisations to generate social and economic wealth, enabling impact on local, national, and global levels.

Q4 Performance: Executive Summary

This reporting period covers the quarter starting 1 April 2025 and ending 30 June 2025.

The Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) concluded the 2024-25 financial year with strong performance across its strategic directions. Activity levels in Q4 remained high, with solid outcomes in innovation capacity building, entrepreneurial support, and stakeholder engagement. Collaborative programs continued to expand, and support for ventures at all stages remained consistent and impactful.

Coworking and Hub Activity. CBRIN's coworking community is at 216 members across two levels, with 74 companies active in the coworking space. The new Level 4 ScaleUp and SME Hub reached 81% occupancy. Eleven internal community events and cross-floor participation in growth programs contributed to a dynamic and connected innovation workspace.

Entrepreneurial Support and Venture Outcomes. CBRIN supported 83 ventures this quarter, 61% of which were beyond the startup stage and 20% classified as deep tech. Ten projects were awarded ICON grants totalling \$276,500. Two ventures that have engaged with CBRIN growth programs – SignOnSite and Rotor Lab – announced trade sales. In total, ecosystem ventures raised \$50 million during the quarter, reflecting continued investor confidence. SME accelerator held this quarter saw participation of 17 companies.

Pipeline and Innovation Skills. 69 intro meetings and 115 founder sessions were delivered, alongside targeted workshops as part of the Idea to Impact series. The total meetings held with entrepreneurs and mentors reached 240 this quarter. Five outreach events reached 119 participants, including young entrepreneurs, researchers, and women in STEM. Feedback confirmed value and impact across confidence-building, pitch development, and understanding of commercial pathways.

Collaborative Innovation and Sector Engagement. Three collaborative innovation events engaged five sectors, and additional activity occurred through the Prototyping Voucher Pilot, PIEFA presentation, and Not-for-Profit Innovation Forum planning bringing the sector engagement to a total of 10 sectors this quarter. These efforts supported strong inter-institutional coordination across education, government, and industry.

Mentors, Investors, and Ecosystem Connections. 103 mentors were engaged and 135 investors registered for the annual Investor Showcase. Two mentors (Sylvia Tulloch and Harry Hoang) were formally recognised for service to commercialisation and community respectively (Order of Australia).

Social Enterprise Acceleration. Mill House Ventures awarded 13 social enterprise grants through the ACT Government's ASEG program and launched a new GRIST accelerator cohort. Ventures supported ranged from sustainable textiles to mobile dental care and inclusive employment initiatives. Over 40 tailored consultations were delivered during the quarter.

Program Reach and Engagement. CBRIN ran and hosted 85 events this quarter with 2,731 participants. The Female Founders Roundtable, masterclasses, and cross-sector workshops maintained strong engagement across underrepresented and emerging founder segments.

Strategic and National Engagements. CBRIN deepened national and regional connections, contributing to policy initiatives and facilitating workshops across energy transition, AI, and defence commercialisation. Collaborative proposals, such as the ACET (Accelerating Canberra's Energy Transition) submission to ACT Energy Innovation Fund led by CBRIN in collaboration with its Foundation Members, further strengthened the innovation focused linkages across the network.

Noteworthy achievements. CBRIN has managed to re-sign Academy of Interactive Entertainment as Education Partner for 2025/26. CBRIN has entered into global competition Triple E Awards (Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial and engaged Universities) in the category: Innovation Ecosystem of the Year and its entry successfully progressed to be listed among top 5 finalists in the world. ICON recipient HeapsNormal gained significant brand boost as they enter the UK market by Instagram post made by UK rockstar Robbie Williams.

Annual Summary. CBRIN exceeded or met all its annual targets. With audience of over 10 thousand people (8,681 at CBRIN hosted events and 1,431 through outreach) at 275 events, 138 ventures assisted, with over 100 active mentors, 18 ICON grants awarded, and close to 700 founder sessions and intro meetings held, the network continues to play a central role in activating innovation-led economic and social impact in the ACT.

Dashboard 2024-25

Theme	Unit	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	Target
INNOVAT - SKILLS	1.1 Events	17	10	6	5	38	12
	1.1 Participants	900	335	77	119	1,431	400
	1.1 InnovationACT	1	0	0	0	1	1
COLLABORATION	1.2 Events	5	5	4	3	17	12
	1.2 Participants	158	167	129	82	536	300
	1.2 Sectors engaged	8	9	14	10	19**	3
PIPELINE	2.1 Participants	248	220	122	207	797	200
	2.1 Intro Meetings	91	55	86	69	301	150
	2.1 ICON Rounds	0	1	0	1	2	2
	2.1 ICON Funds Deployed (\$)	0	236.5k	0	276.5k	513k	\$400k
	2.1 ICON Grantees	0	8	0	10	18	14
GROWTH	2.2 Ventures Assisted	63	80	80	83	138**	40
	2.2 Founder Sessions	126	128	98	115	467	90
	2.2 Engaged Mentors	77	57	63	103	111**	30
ENGAGEMENT	3.1 Events	64	79	47	85	275	150
	3.1 Participants	2,304	2,349	1,297	2,731	8,681	5,000
	3.1 Stories	7	12	6	6	31	20
	3.1 Events for under-represented	2	1	2	1	6	4
	3.1 Showcase	0	1	0	0	1	1
	3.1 External engagement	7	5	3	6	21	10
INNOVATION HUBS	3.2 Coworkers	161	158	216	216	216*	170
	3.2 Companies	73	74	81	74	81*	50
	3.2 Events at innovation hubs	17	21	17	14	69	20
	3.2 Scale Up & SME Hub Expansion	1	0	0	0	1	1

*Highest quarterly number, not cumulative data. Note coworkers are over capacity because not all coworkers are using the facilities full-time, some are one, two or three days / week. ** Unique total per year.

DIRECTION 1 INNOVATION CAPACITY BUILDING

Goal: Build capability in segments of the community that do not identify as entrepreneurs with the aim to drive more innovation, collaboration and job creating entrepreneurship.

The core activities CBRIN focuses on under this direction include (1) the development and delivery of events that introduce innovation and entrepreneurship to the community through outreach, (2) facilitation of collaborative innovation engagements, (3) partnering with educational institutions, industry, government and non-government partners for industry and community-focused innovation and entrepreneurship activity.

Theme 1.1 Innovation Skills

Objective: Deliver and collaborate on events, initiatives and programs that introduce and enhance innovation capability and skills in the broader community, including students, researchers, trades, government and other target groups.

CBRIN works with Foundation Members (FMs) and partners to participate in and co-deliver innovation and entrepreneurship events and activations with the aim to reach more broadly into the community. This includes events for people who don't identify as entrepreneurs. The activity formats include introductory innovation skill workshops and outreach presentations, webinars, drop-in sessions on campuses or partner sites and contributions to and support of programs delivered by others.

The activities are designed to stimulate interest of the participants in innovation and entrepreneurship, especially in groups not yet deeply involved in the ecosystem. Students, researchers and staff of academic and government agencies but also corporates and community organisations are targeted through these activities.

Outcomes: Enhanced innovation skills and better awareness of the ACT innovation ecosystem in the community and within FMs, more researchers and students engaging with entrepreneurship & innovation.

Overview

In Q4 2024/25 CBRIN delivered a range of activities to help promote innovation and enhance development of innovation skills in the community as summarised below.

Event	Date	Attendance/Engagement
Women in STEM* Leadership Conference Stall	1 April	46
ANU HDR Induction	9 April	8
Australian School of Entrepreneurship - Young Entrepreneur Sprint - Final Pitches	22 April	20
CSIRO Research to Value	16 June	43
UC HDR Pitching Workshop	19 June	2
TOTAL	5 events	119 participants

Women in STEM* Leadership Conference Stall

1 April 2025, 46 Participants, Australian National University: Marie Ray

CBRIN ran a stall at the Women in STEM* Leadership Conference market day to promote innovation and entrepreneurship pathways to one of CBRIN's key target demographics. The stall provided an strategic to connect directly with undergraduate women, helping them understand the impact pathways available to them within the ACT innovation ecosystem. Staff engaged participants in discussions about translating research into commercial opportunities, supporting women-led startups and innovation projects, and addressing gender representation challenges in STEM entrepreneurship. The conversations explored pathways from academia to startups, collaborative innovation methods, and CBRIN's programs designed to build entrepreneurial capacity among researchers. Multiple follow-up connections were established, with several participants expressing interest in CBRIN's female founders events, growth programs and collaborative events. This engagement strengthened CBRIN's network within the ANU student community and identified ways in which CBRIN could support women in STEM and encourage their involvement in the innovation ecosystem.

CSIRO Research to Value

22 April 2025, 43 participants, Canberra Innovation Network, Level 4

This quarter, CSIRO ON Innovation Program partnered with CBRIN to deliver a Research to Value workshop for researchers looking to explore the impact of their work through uplifting innovation and engagement skills.

The workshop had 79 registrations with 30 representing: ANU - 16 registrations, UNSW Canberra - 7 registrations, University of Canberra - 6 registrations, CSIRO - 1 registration. The number of participants in the room was 43 and that is a number we count towards attendance/engagement under 1.1 Innovation Skills.



Image: Research to Value workshop

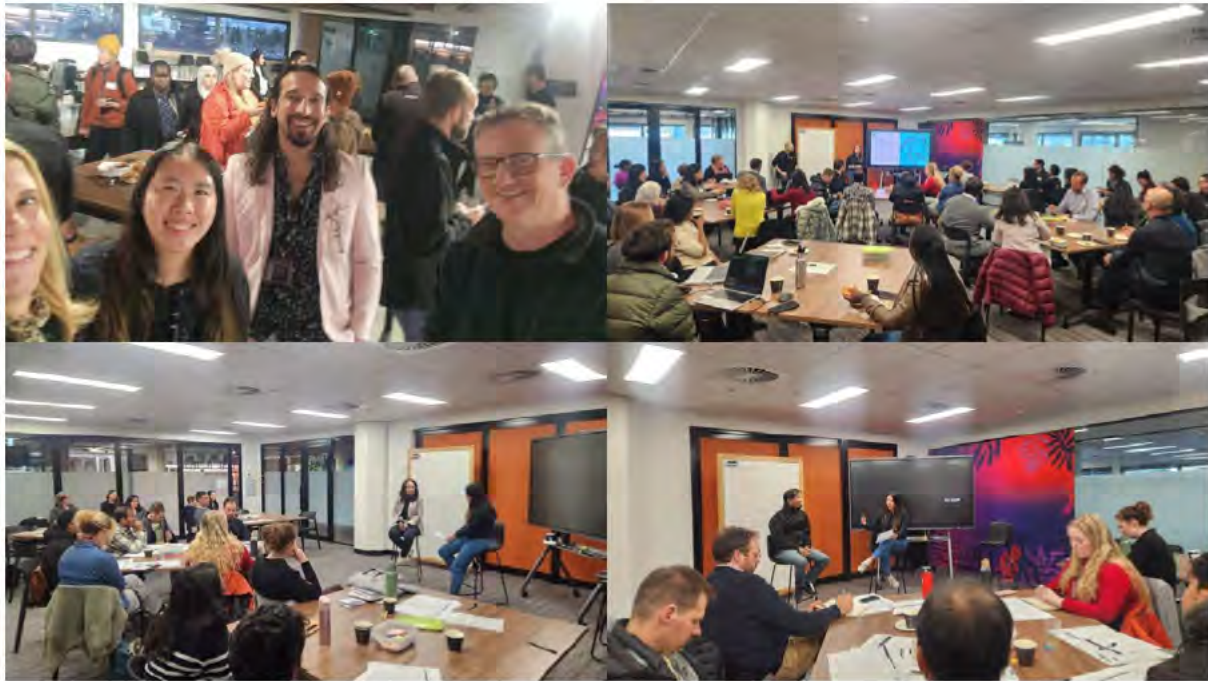


Image: Research to Value workshop collage

ON Research to Value Workshop Summary Report

Page 6

How likely are you to recommend the ON Program to others? (ranking out of 10)

9.0

Average Ranking

How satisfied were you with the information provided about the CSIRO ON Programs? (ranking out of 5)

4.6

Average Ranking

How satisfied were you with the facilitator? (ranking out of 5)

4.8

Average Ranking

How likely are you to implement the learnings from this session? (ranking out of 5)

4.4

Average Ranking

How satisfied were you with the venue and catering? (ranking out of 5)

4.6

Average Ranking

Overall, how satisfied were you with the event? (ranking out of 5)

4.6

Average Ranking

How satisfied were you with the delivery of the event? (This includes scheduling, logistics, event design, communications and resources.) (ranking out of 5)

4.7

Average Ranking

Image: Research to Value ratings

Testimonials (all anonymous participants)

"Overall, welcoming and informative"

"Way better than expected"

"Very practical and down to earth. No hype."

"Helpful to initiate discussions with academics interested in commercialisation."

Australian School of Entrepreneurship - Young Entrepreneur Sprint Canberra

Delivered by the Australian School of Entrepreneurship (ASE), this program helps provide key innovation and entrepreneurship skills to young people 16 - 24 years old.

The Young Entrepreneur Sprint in Canberra finished this quarter with a Shark Tank Pitching session with Petr Adamek and Alicia Payne as part of the judging panel.

Workshop	Date	Attendance/Engagement
Shark Tank Pitching	22 April	20

Key Highlights:

- Average participant rating: 86.25%
- 100% would recommend the program to a friend.
- 100% learnt something new.
- Participant highlights: Pitch presentations, networking games and facilitator enthusiasm

Testimonials:

"They're always focused on how we can improve."

"I loved their enthusiasm."

"Great presenter and facilitator. Engaging and able to manage the conversation."



Image: Pitchers and judges after the ASE Youth Entrepreneur Sprint



Image: Screenshot of Instagram post by Alicia Payne

Theme 1.2 Collaborative Innovation

Objective: Design and deliver collaborative events, challenges and hackathons that activate partnerships, support growth of key sectors and help academia, government, corporates, and community address problems through collaboration & innovation.

We work with higher education and research institutions, government, corporates, and non-government organisations to initiate and support customised open and collaborative innovation events and programs that leverage open innovation methods and stimulate collaborative and productive interactions with industry and entrepreneurship. We continue to grow our offering including events such as collaboration labs (collab labs), co-design sessions, hackathons, innovation challenges, competitions, and activations helping people and organisations address difficult challenges through collaborative innovation, engaging our innovation sector capabilities, generating deal-flow for other programs and building connections and momentum within ACT key sectors. We also support, organise and facilitate systemic collaborations that grow our innovation ecosystem and contribute to its innovation culture, coordination and vibrancy.

Outcomes: More collaborative activities in key sectors of the economy, more innovation and collaboration applied across government, academia and industry. Measured retrospectively in annual analysis of collab lab attendances, feedback surveys and reports.

Overview - Collaborative engagements

In Q4 2024/25 CBRIN delivered a range of collaborative innovation activities.

Collaborative engagements	Date	Attendance
.auDA Panel Night	1 April	45
Experience Innovation Workshop #2	20 May	16
CIT Link	24 June	21
Total	3 events	82

Sectors engaged: 3 (artificial intelligence, education, government)

.auDA Panel Night: What Will Local Business Look Like in 5-10 Years?

1 April 2025, 45 Participants, CBRIN: Level 4, Open Plan Area

CBRIN partnered with .auDA to host an engaging panel discussion exploring how AI, automation, and the gig economy are reshaping the future of work and local business in the ACT. The panel featured four industry experts: Petr Adamek (CBRIN CEO) as moderator, Mandy Snashall (strategic transformation leader), Greg Harford (Canberra Business Chamber CEO), and Aqeel Akber (tech entrepreneur and DSQ Studio founder). Panellists explored strategies for adapting to digital transformation, harnessing freelance talent, and evolving business models. They also discussed the broader social implications of widespread AI adoption and how changes to the policy landscape, or lack thereof, may impact the world in the future. The event provided practical insights into the future digital business landscape whilst creating networking opportunities for professionals to share experiences and discuss how to proactively shape a resilient and adaptable local business community now and in the future.



Image: Audience listening to the panel members at .auDA event

Testimonials:

"It's great to come along to a networking event that involves such interesting and timely topics because it gets you thinking and gives you something to talk about. Highly recommend and hope there are more events like this at CBRIN this year." - Anonymous

"Interesting ideas, great way to prompt discussion and network at the same time." - Emma Hall

Experience Innovation Workshop #2 | Veracity Innovation x CBRIN

20 May 2025, 16 Participants, CBRIN: Level 4, Events Room

CBRIN partnered with Veracity Innovation to deliver an immersive innovation workshop specifically designed for public sector professionals at EL1 level and above. The hands-on session helped government employees experience and think about innovation differently through interactive elements that engaged the senses.

Participants explored practical strategies for driving change in their workplaces, elevating team performance, and building resilience in their work environments. The workshop pushed participants to embrace discomfort and push boundaries to drive creativity. Following the workshop was a productive discussion on improving communication, coordination, and collaboration across participant workplaces.

Participants acknowledged that each workplace faces unique challenges and discussed which skills and practices could be effective across a range of different environments. This targeted approach provided public sector attendees with innovation tools tailored to government contexts and challenges.

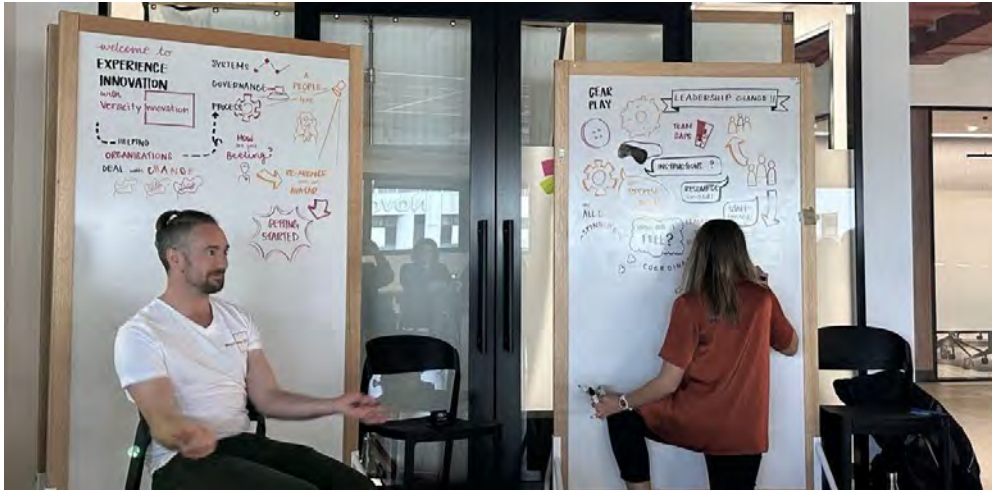


Image: Experience Innovation workshop with Veracity Innovation

CIT Link: Growing the Innovation Culture

24 June 2025, 21 Participants, Canberra Institute of Technology

CBRIN facilitated the final workshop for the CIT Link program, concluding an 18-month journey that began in November 2023 to align CIT leadership on innovation culture and values integration.

This fifth workshop focused on 'Growing the Innovation Culture' and was held at CIT's new Woden Campus, allowing participants to experience the potential of new facilities for innovation culture development. The session, opened by CBRIN with CIT's interim CEO Christine Robertson and incoming CEO Dr Margot McNeill, and facilitated by CBRIN CEO and Collaborative Innovation manager consolidated learnings from previous sessions and practical frameworks for embedding innovation culture across CIT.

Participants engaged in a structured activity including innovation framework development based on models from well-known global innovation company case studies - Amazon (customer-centricity), Tesla (bold horizon innovation), 3M (structured innovation pipeline), and Google (20% of time dedicated to unplanned and uncontrolled employee led innovation initiatives).

Each group adapted a model to CIT's educational context and values, addressing stakeholder resistance and compliance requirements. A gallery walk allowed peer feedback on solutions. Finally, the group formed a reflection circle and explored the innovation frameworks, risk tolerance, balancing innovation with institutional compliance and the CIT Link journey as a whole. Key outcomes included recognising existing innovation across CIT, developing frameworks for systematically trialling and implementing innovations, and identifying ways of leveraging the opportunities provided by the new campus and strategic work plan to create positive, long-term change.



Images: CIT Link workshop 24 June 2025

Other Collaborative Engagements

In addition to collaborative innovation events delivered by CBRIN as described above, the CBRIN team engages in or supports other activities that utilise or benefit from collaborative innovation methods and contribute to Direction 1 helping build capability in segments of the community that do not identify as entrepreneurs with the aim to drive more innovation, collaboration and job creating entrepreneurship.

Other Collaborative Engagements	Date	Attendance
Prototyping Voucher Pilot Steering Committee Meetings & Milestone 2	17 April, 8 May, & 12 June	23
PIEFA Presentation	21 May	23
Cobeco Collaboration Tools & Processes	29 May	22

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting #28	19 June	11
Total*	6 events	79

Sectors engaged: 7 (education, research, government, advanced manufacturing, community, sustainability, agrifood) *Numbers not counted under 1.2, only sectors engaged

PVP Milestone 2 & Steering Committee Meetings

17 April, 8 May & 12 June 2025, 23 Participants total, Hybrid: CBRIN Level 5, UNSW Canberra: ADFA Campus, Virtual

The ACT Prototyping Voucher Pilot (PVP) Steering Committee continued its monthly meetings throughout Q4 to oversee program implementation and progress. The 17 April 2025 meeting focused on processing applications and refining recipient selection criteria, particularly looking at how far along their designs needed to be before they were eligible. The 8 May 2025 meeting, hosted at UNSW Canberra, reviewed applications and the application process, and addressed operational improvements. The on-site meeting at UNSW Canberra was followed by a tour of the prototyping and testing facilities. The group found it useful to tour the space and learn about the tools and expertise that voucher recipients will have access to. The meeting on 12 June 2025 evaluated the pilot's progress toward Milestone 2 completion and prepared for the next phase of the project, which is voucher distribution. The committee also discussed the upcoming industrial design and PVP info session scheduled for 1 July 2025. These collaborative sessions maintained strong inter-institutional coordination between CBRIN, ANU, UC, CIT, and UNSW Canberra partners.

CBRIN Presentation to PIEFA

21 May 2025, 23 Participants, CBRIN: Level 4, Events Room

CBRIN hosted delegates from the Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia (PIEFA) as part of their biennial conference field trip program. The session featured a presentation highlighting the ACT's commitment to innovation and CBRIN's sector-agnostic role within the ecosystem, before going into more detail on the specific agricultural, food, and fibre startups and entrepreneurs supported through CBRIN programs. Examples included Goterra (modular autonomous waste management units using insects to consume food waste), Barbell Biltong, and Cybertongue (a biosensor designed for diagnostic testing of food and dairy). These examples demonstrated the breadth of innovations emerging from the ACT in the agfood sector. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session, providing delegates with insights into how innovation networks support entrepreneurship, the collaborative methods, events, and programs that CBRIN uses to help support and grow the innovation and entrepreneurial capacity in the region. The presentation prompted many good conversations and connections between delegates from a range of different states and territories. A number of teachers in attendance from Tasmania, NSW, and WA said they would share the work the ACT is doing and the support available through CBRIN as a model with their communities.



Image: CBRIN's presentation to the PIEFA delegation

Testimonial:

"I wanted to extend our sincere thanks to you and Petr for your time and efforts in presenting to our Field Trip delegates on May 21. Whilst we were quite rushed with our visit (so sorry about that), the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. CBRIN's mission to support entrepreneurs and the programs you offer that provide tangible support was really inspiring. Our 3 directors who were in attendance, said the CBRIN visit was THE highlight of a very full day!" - Dianne Murray, Communications & Business Manager, PIEFA

Cobeco Collaboration Tools & Processes: A Taster

29 May 2025, 22 Participants, Online Event

CBRIN participated in an online workshop led by the ANU's Dr Maya Haviland, co-founder of Cobeco, a toolkit for scaffolding cultural co-creation. The session explored research-backed methods for enhancing collaboration and co-creation across diverse groups and perspectives, providing valuable input for CBRIN's collaborative innovation work. Participants engaged with interactive activities and real-world case studies that demonstrated how to recognise and transform invisible collaboration patterns, navigate differences with greater understanding, and build capacity through people-centred approaches.

The workshop aligned closely with CBRIN's mission to strengthen collaborative practices across the ACT innovation ecosystem, offering practical tools for managing complex stakeholder relationships and addressing real-world challenges through collective action. CBRIN's participation reinforced connections with ANU research initiatives whilst learning about evidence-based approaches that can be applied to improve collaborative innovation methods and cross-sector partnerships within the ecosystem.

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting #28

19 June 2025, 11 participants, CBRIN

CBRIN held its 28th Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting with key ecosystem representatives. Petr Adamek announced CBRIN's shortlisting as a top 5 finalist for Innovation Ecosystem of the Year at the Triple E Awards in Prague, with an invitation to present in September 2025. The session's primary focus was exploring the development of an ACT innovation ecosystem map. The committee had an in-depth discussion examining potential use cases, including orienting newcomers, tracking user journeys, identifying gaps, and supporting external communication with partners and stakeholders on the work CBRIN does and where it sits within the innovation ecosystem.

Key themes emerged around accessibility and preferences for visualising the map, with participants reviewing different mapping approaches from static PDFs to dynamic interactive tools and overlaid heat maps. The committee identified challenges, including coordination complexity, the burden of maintenance, and uncertainty around who the end-users would be and what value it would provide them.

Whilst acknowledging the value of ecosystem mapping for strategic planning and identifying gaps, the committee emphasised that regular face-to-face interactions currently provide effective ecosystem coordination. The committee concluded that further discussion is needed to determine what approach to take and whether the value of the mapping would outweigh the ongoing cost.

Collaborative Innovation Pipeline

The following activities represent CBRIN's ongoing efforts to develop future collaborative innovation opportunities and secure funding for expanded programming that will strengthen the ACT's innovation ecosystem.

Collaborative Innovation Pipeline	Date	Attendance
PVP Project Coordinator Meetings	April - June	13
NFP Collaborative Innovation Forum Planning	16 April & 16 June	9
EIF Grant Shortlist Interview	23 June	10
Total*	3 events	32

Sectors engaged: 9* (energy, research, sustainability, advanced manufacturing, agrifood, biotech, health/wellness tech, ICT, community) *not counted in 1.2 numbers

PVP Project Coordinator Meetings

April-June 2025, 13 Meetings, Hybrid: virtual & various locations

Throughout Q4, the ACT Prototyping Voucher Pilot Project Coordinator conducted 13 individual meetings with potential applicants to assess the eligibility of their projects and guide them through the voucher application process. These one-on-one sessions allowed the coordinator to understand each applicant's prototyping needs, explain available

resources across partner institutions, and answer questions about application requirements and evaluation criteria.

Eight of the projects were eligible for the vouchers; the remaining five that were ineligible were given an intro meeting, steering them towards other resources, pathways, and connections to advance their projects. The eight eligible meetings covered the assessment of the projects' scope, technical feasibility discussions, and the process of matching applicants with appropriate prototyping facilities and expertise within the partner network of CBRIN, ANU, UC, CIT, and UNSW Canberra.

Following these consultations, the coordinator presented relevant applications to the monthly Steering Committee meetings for formal evaluation and approval. Committee members assigned themselves to meet with applicants to ask clarifying technical questions and determine which facilities were best suited to their needs. This consultative approach ensures that prospective voucher recipients receive tailored support while providing personal connections between potential applicants and the steering committee.

Not-for-Profit Collaborative Innovation Forum / Symposium - planning

16 April & 16 June 2025, 9 Participants total, Virtual

CBRIN participated in collaborative planning meetings initiated by Ben Alexander from Running for Resilience and Thomas Emerson from ACT Legislative Assembly to develop a NFP Innovation Forum focused on wellbeing. The planning group expanded to include Craig Fairweather from Millhouse and Genevieve Jacobs from Hands Across Canberra and Megan Fitzharris from the University of Canberra, bringing together key stakeholders from community, government, education and social innovation sectors.

The meetings focused on developing a full-day event that will bring together Canberra's NFP and community groups to share innovation practices and build collaborative relationships. The forum aims to apply collaborative innovation principles to strengthen the community sector's capacity to contribute to building a healthy Canberra as a city of wellbeing. Planning discussions have centred on identifying suitable themes, formats, and approaches that will encourage knowledge sharing and help develop partnerships among organisations working toward common community wellbeing goals.

CBRIN Energy Innovation Fund Grant Board Interview

23 June 2025, 10 Participants, ACT Government Office, Dickson

CBRIN presented to the Energy Innovation Fund Grant Board following shortlisting for the Accelerating Canberra's Energy Transition (ACET) proposal. The project aims to consolidate and grow the ACT's innovation ecosystem in the energy subsegment through four workshops aligning researchers and industry on electrification, grid resilience, gas transition, and component recycling; a Zero-Emissions-Transport Hackathon; tailored entrepreneur support via sponsored coworking and accelerator access; and an energy innovation showcase connecting the energy innovation ecosystem with investors and the wider community. The outcome of the application will be announced in August 2025 – if successful, work on ACET will begin in September 2025 and culminate in the showcase in late 2026.

DIRECTION 2 ENTREPRENEURIAL CAPACITY BUILDING

Goal: Grow the entrepreneurial capacity of our innovation ecosystem by developing, delivering, and linking programs and resources that support growth of ambitious innovation and technology companies.

Our activities under this direction focus on active development and support of a strong pipeline of entrepreneurs and their innovation projects. They will also include development, delivery and evaluation of growth programs to companies from pre-startups, startups, scaleups to SMEs. More broadly CBRIN connects companies to funding, expertise, tools, resources and opportunities that enhance their capabilities and progress.

Theme 2.1 Entrepreneur Pipeline

Objective: Build a strong pipeline of entrepreneurs and innovators and triage them into programs and services that support their progress, link them to funding, entrepreneur education and mentoring.

Under this Theme / Objective CBRIN delivers events and other engagements that inspire and inform entrepreneurs. We also deliver workshop programs that strengthen entrepreneurial skills and grow participants' capacity to build or contribute to high growth companies. We conduct introductory meetings with entrepreneurs and triage them into other activities, connect them with mentors and sources of funding and support. We also work on attracting a strong and diverse pool of applicants for INNOVATION CONNECT grants program in partnership with the ACT Government to provide matched funding to set innovation companies on their growth journeys.

Outcomes: Strong and diverse dealflow of quality participants apply to growth stage initiatives in the ACT. Measured by annual retrospective review of applications and reports.

Events, Workshops and Programs Overview

CBRIN delivers events, webinars, panel discussions, and other engagements that inspire and inform entrepreneurs. The workshop program strengthens entrepreneurs' skills in key areas and strengthens their capacity to build high growth companies.

The table below summarises the activities completed under this theme. Note that Net Promoter Score is used to measure participant satisfaction and is a harsh measure with scores ranging from -100% to +100%. A full explanation of how this is calculated is provided at the end of this report.

Workshop / Event	Date	Attendance	Net Promoter Score
Idea to Impact Workshop 2	9 April	23	100%
Idea to Impact Workshop 3	30 April	19	-
Female Founders	13 May	58	0%

Workshop / Event	Date	Attendance	Net Promoter Score
CSIRO ON Prime 17	6 May - 17 June	27	-
Idea to Impact Workshop 4	21 May	30	67%
CyberHub Workshop - Forging Successful Research Partnerships - Bridging Academia and Industry	24 June	17	-
Masterclass with Richard Cawsey - Key Stakeholders for Growth	27 June	33	-
Total	7 events	207	55.67%

Idea to Impact Workshop Series

Workshop 2: 9 April 2025, 23 participants, NPS 100%

The Idea to Impact Workshop Series continued this quarter with refreshed content that appeals to a broader segment of entrepreneurs and innovators. Following on from workshop one last quarter on "Finding Market Need", workshop two covered "Value Proposition and Pitching". This included clarifying the value delivered for your customers, developing your business model and building your pitch.



Image: Idea to Impact workshop two

Workshop 3: 30 April 2025, 19 participants

Workshop three was all about driving growth. This included marketing for start-ups, sales processes and the right metrics to track for growth.



Image: Idea to Impact workshop three

Workshop 4: 21 May 2025, 30 participants, NPS 67%

Workshop four covered funding and investor pitching. This included understanding how venture capital works, breaking down an investor pitch deck and evaluating funding options.



Image: Idea to Impact Workshop 4

Additional optional accountability sessions were run one week on zoom after each workshop. These are designed to track progress and answer questions as participants implement the tools and strategies taught in the main workshops.

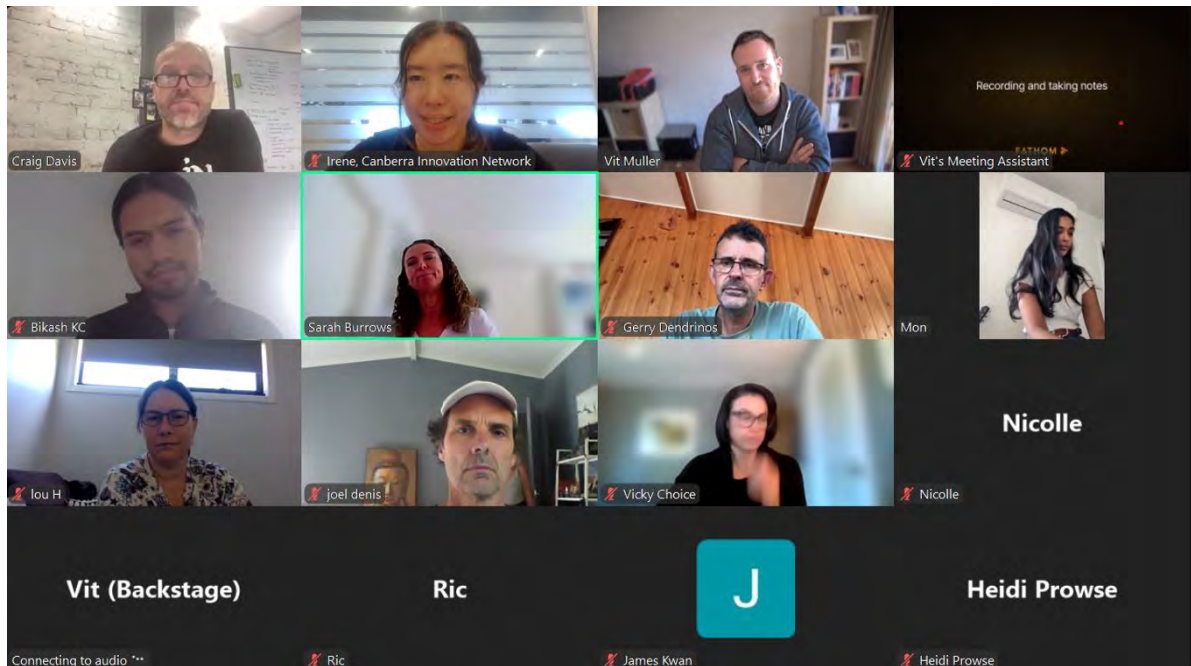


Image: Idea to Impact accountability session

Testimonials:

"If you are just starting - you'll learn a lot. If you have been around a while, you'll pick up a few gems that check and challenge you." - John Teres

"Workshop 2 on Value Proposition and Pitching was an incredibly valuable experience. Irene, Petr, and Craig were exceptional facilitators. They covered the topic thoroughly, and what truly stood out was their effective use of real-world examples and engaging hands-on projects. I left feeling empowered with a much stronger understanding of how to define my value proposition and craft a compelling pitch." - Pankaj Patole

"You'll develop a whole new perspective on creating and delivering value to other people." - Bikash KC

"Fun, informative learning. Helps bring different perspectives to your business think." - Nathan Steggel

"What a great program and very grateful to be included!" - Lauren Miller

"During the course my business doubled." - Sarah Burrows

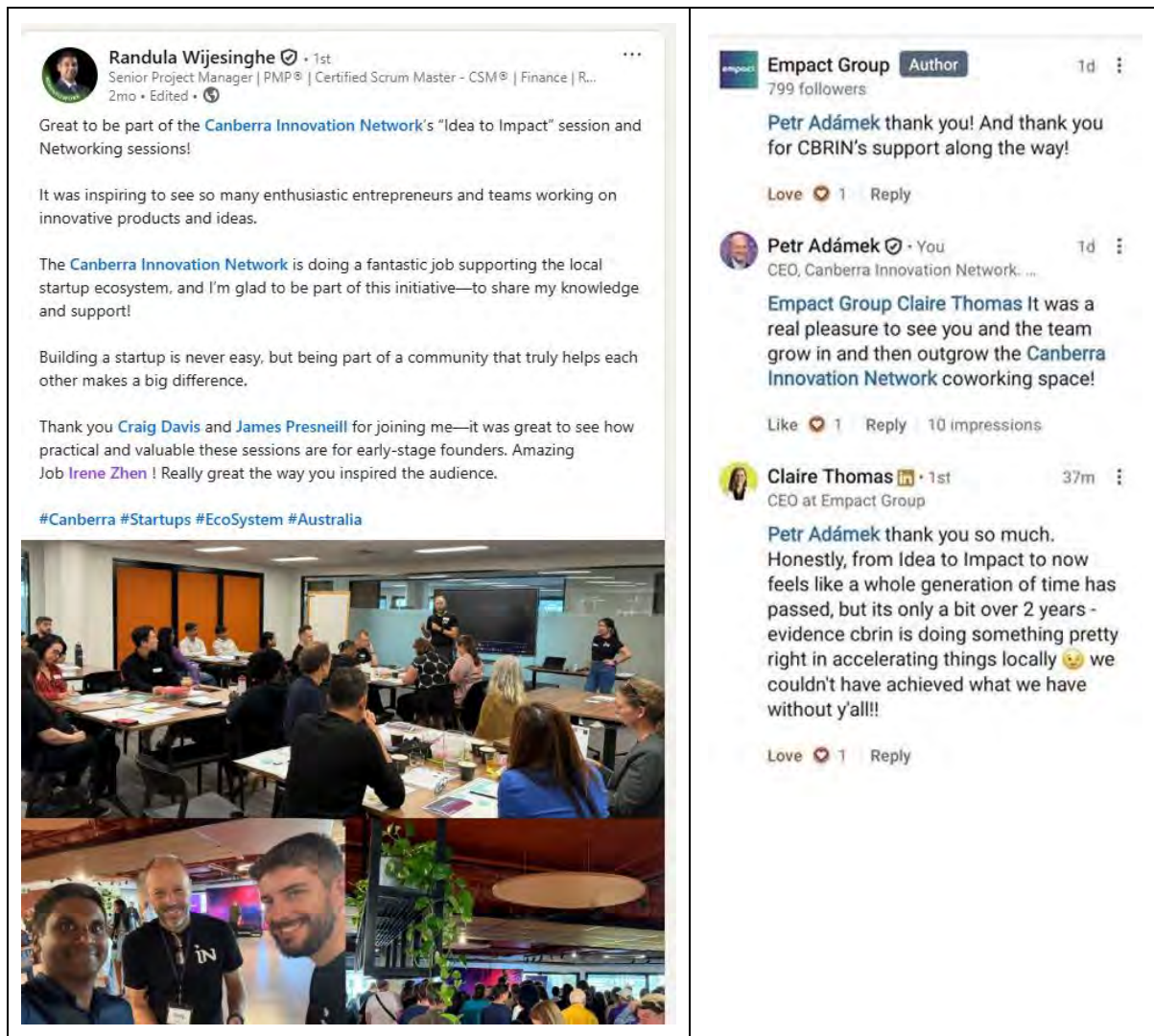


Image: Screenshot of LinkedIn post and comments from participants of Idea to Impact

CSIRO ON Prime 17

6 May 2025 - 17 June, 27 participants, Virtual

ON Prime 17 kicked off with 27 participants over 7 teams, covering areas like AI in education and aviation, renewable energy, biofuels and sustainable building materials.

In this quarter, CBRIN was part of the facilitation team for this program and delivered Immersion (6 & 7 May 2025), 3 sessions (20 May 2025, 1 June & 17 June 2025) and 4 coaching sessions.

Delivery of Workshop for Canberra Cyber Hub - Forging Successful Research Partnerships - Bridging Academia & Industry

14 June 2025, 17 participants, Launch on Northbourne

CBRIN was invited to co-deliver a workshop on partnerships for researchers and SMEs in the cyber security space. This was the last session of a 4-part program on improving connections between industry and research. Participants included several cyber SMEs and researchers from ANU, UC and UNSW.



Image: Participants in the Canberra Cyber Hub x CBRIN workshop

Masterclass with Richard Cawsey - Key Stakeholders for Growth

27 June 2025, 33 attendees, Canberra Innovation Network Level 5

As part of ramping up the promotions for Griffin Accelerator, Richard Cawsey, a Griffin Mentor, delivered a short masterclass on identifying key stakeholders to drive growth.



Image: Collage of Richard Cawsey Masterclass

Female Founders

There have been 1,848 registrations for 33 Female Founders events since 24 March 2020.

Female Founders Roundtable Event

13 May 2025, 64 registrations, 58 attendees, NPS 0 (explained by lower response rate and varied views as to what the events should focused on, overall very positive feedback)

CBRIN held a roundtable event on 13 May 2025 as part of the Female Founders series. This event featured eight female mentors, each leading a table covering a specific area of their expertise. The eight table leaders were Renee Beerworth, Pernille Aggerholm, Tina McIntosh, Annabel Griffin, Ilea Buffier, Andrea McCarron-Benson, Tamara Brown and Kylie Jackson. The conversations were robust, and attendees were presented with knowledge from multiple areas of expertise.



Image: Photo of the Female Founders Event

Testimonials:

"Opportunity to learn, gain insights from other woman leaders and contribute to the development of others through sharing / active engagement." - Tracy Shepherd

"If you're looking for a likeminded group to help you grow and evolve your strategy, this is the forum for you. Great content, approachable format and fantastic subject matter experts to help you navigate nurturing and strengthening your business." - Debbie Marshall

"Excellent event to connect and engage with like-minded businesswomen involved in the Canberra small business community."

Intro Meetings

69 held this quarter, 100% NPS

The CBRIN Growth team regularly engages with new Canberra-based innovators and entrepreneurs in one-on-one meetings that can be booked via the CBRIN website. At these intro meetings we listen, ask questions, provide feedback and triage after we assess the relevance of the projects and level of progress into various programs; including Innovation Connect (ICON), SME Program, GRIFFIN Accelerator, The Mill House and Idea to Impact.

Intro Meetings aim to add value to entrepreneurs by asking thought-provoking questions as well as linking them to relevant support networks, or activities.

Testimonials:

"Thanks for making it so easy to book and speak candidly about my idea! Very clear on next steps and actionable takeaways from the initial consult. Very practical and tangible." – Katey Battenally, The Wing

Innovation Connect Grants

Innovation Connect (ICON) is a grant program that CBRIN delivers in partnership with the ACT Government since September 2018. ICON provides between \$10,000 and \$30,000 matched funded grants to support innovative projects towards developing a proof of concept or prototype and assist with the early stages of commercialisation.

Current ICON Grant Funding Round

- ICON opened for expressions of interest from 13 January 2025, submissions were closed on 10 April 2025
- The panel for the current round have been selected and include experienced Canberra business people across various industries:
 - o Renee Beerworth, HR and culture specialist, and Founder of Spinach Ventures
 - o Edward Bertram, Strategic Partnerships at Australian National University
 - o Vicki Williams, Experienced senior executive, Adjunct Professor at University of Canberra
 - o Shooby Kandel, Innovation & Growth Expert, Founder & Managing Director of What Works Global
- 60 projects submitted an expression of interest and 19 projects were shortlisted to pitch before the judges
- Following pitch day on 22 May 2025, 10 projects were allocated funding for a total of \$276,500

Company	Funding Amount (\$)
Aratherm Heat Battery Web App - web application designed to inform policy makers and industrial heat users of the benefits of switching from gas to electricity for mid-temperature industrial process heat	22,000
Hydro-Sense Technologies (Autonomous Multiparameter Water Analyser) - developing an unmanned surface vehicle for real-time water quality monitoring	22,500
Clubland Australia - building digital clubhouses for sports clubs to better connect players to the club and the club to the community.	30,000

Nansen.io - a zero-trust cloud storage solution that guarantees your data remains untouchable, even in the event of a security breach.	30,000
Meos - a mobile-based personal OS that uses AI-powered agents to instantly capture, organise, and execute your ideas, eliminating mental clutter and turning thoughts directly into results.	30,000
Pawl AI - Digital platform keeping vets connected with pets beyond the clinic	30,000
Simply SecOps - a platform that automates Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) gap analysis, enabling Security Operations Centres (SOCs) to enhance response efforts to cyber threats	30,000
SKSOFTWARE Pty Ltd - a purpose-built compliance platform that streamlines export control legislative and regulatory obligations for government, academia, and industry	22,000
Dapple - Friend-making and graduate networking app for university students	30,000
Statekraft - revolutionises the democratic process through real-time contextual intelligence and predictive analysis of legislative and policy processes, empowering stakeholders to make informed and timely decisions	30,000



Image: Photo of the panel, CBRIN representatives and ACT Government representative from the pitch day on 22 May 2025

Grant acquittals this quarter

5 projects acquitted their ICON grants this quarter, demonstrating how they met the milestones in their agreements. Key achievements included progress with early sales and team growth.

Company	ICON Round	Highlights
Flex EV High performance modular vehicle electrification for the most challenging applications demanding zero emissions.	April 2021	ICON funding fast-tracked market validation and engineering design by an estimated 12 months, enabling us to present a compelling category concept to regulators and investors ahead of schedule.
Lingosing! AI-enhanced, grammatically-correct nursery rhymes that teach languages through music.	April 2022	Over the course of the grant, Lingosing participated in a number of workshops to develop capacity in startup operations. Notably, Lingosing was accepted into the 2023 first session of the Blackbird Giants program, which included several mentoring sessions with startup founders.
Hosking Bikes Hosking Bikes, founded by former professional cyclist Chloe Hosking and her husband Jack Lindsay, is a pioneering bike brand aiming to make cycling more accessible, offering affordable and customizable bike options while advocating for inclusivity and greater representation of women in the cycling industry.	October 2023	Made significant progress, successfully aligning the development of both Carbon and Alloy frame designs, ensuring consistency in shape, feel, and cross-compatibility across materials. Additionally, they established key retail partnerships in Canada, Singapore, Sydney, Canberra, Perth, and Adelaide. Became the first female-founded brand to race in the Professional peloton at the 2024Tour Down Under. In addition to this, they have begun exploring the potential for Australian manufacturing for an Alloy range.
GC Precision Developments Test, evaluation, production revision and final test phase of a unique, patent pending, quick takedown, modular precision rifle for the law-enforcement, defence, invertebrate pest control and civilian target shooting markets.	May 2024	Discovered even more market applications for the system due to its unique modularity, ease and speed of reconfiguration. Since the project commenced, they have seen more commercial opportunity for the rifle and as a foundation product which will spur on the manufacture of

Company	ICON Round	Highlights
		various other models which follow the same design architecture.
Nuvento - NU42 NU42 is a totally unique A.I. tool, which dramatically increase efficiency across a wide range of personal and business tasks.	May 2024	Secured pilot agreements with multiple Commonwealth Government agencies and private sector clients including Channel 7, Sky News, The Australian, Commonwealth Bank, and Elevate Legal. Advanced patent applications in both Australia and USA for our unique AI approach. Expanded development team and established key partnerships for market expansion. NU42's unique "air-gapped" deployment capability has generated significant interest from security-conscious organizations. Successful demonstrations to government agencies resulted in multiple paid Proof of Concept requests

ICON Testimonials:

"Being recipients of the ICON grant contributed to keeping our business alive financially and supporting us to get our MVP to market. As founders using emerging technology our development costs are high, the grant enabled us to ensure security and privacy levels were reached, along side enabling us to demo the MVP at industry events, which in turn meant we had early customers." - Careen Redman, Humaneer

"It has been an enormous help, it has allowed us to pay for the development of critical areas of our AI/ML product, which simply would not have been possible without the grant. This in turn has allowed us to produce the base product as per the grant and get a head-start on other related products as well." - David Hohnke, Nuvento

"Besides enabling the R&D of a core product line, the ICON Grant helped me to establish legitimacy and create further opportunities in the business realm. I've been able to leverage the relationships established by the ICON program into further investment into my company." - Maddi Easterbrook, FutureSwirl

"The application process was run smoothly and it was really helpful to be able to do a practice pitch beforehand. The fact that our vision for scale landed with the panel was validating. The grant enabled us to do software development that has positioned us for scale, that we were otherwise not funded to do." - Tina McIntosh, BOOST Health Labs

Theme 2.2 Growth Programs

Objective: Coordinate and deliver programs and services that contribute to growth of innovative ventures, including deep-tech, social enterprises, startups, scaleups and SMEs.

Under this theme / objective CBRIN supports the MILL HOUSE Ventures to deliver programs that grow innovative social enterprises (such as via their GRIST accelerator program). We also work with local mentors and investors to support a high-growth startup accelerator program for pre-investment startups (GRIFFIN Accelerator). In addition, CBRIN delivers a set of its own Growth Programs for scale ups, research-intensive spinouts and ambitious innovative SMEs and builds a network of mentors and investors to connect them to founders and innovative projects including through an annual investor showcase.

Outcomes: Significant achievements of local innovation companies, Investments in local innovation companies

Overview

CBRIN acceleration services are delivered to assist growth stage startups (>\$100k investment or revenue) and accelerator startups selected by mentors including research spinouts.

The SME program engages with established Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with innovation potential.

The incubation and scale up programs aim to deliver targeted, impactful engagement with projects that are innovation driven and report one or more of: significant capital raised, customer revenue or team expansion. Companies with substantial intellectual property assets are included where there are good prospects for commercialisation.

The above growth programs are delivered in a range of formats for specific groups:

- The Mill House Ventures - programs targeting social impact ventures through our supported partner the Mill House Ventures
- Founder Sessions - value add one-on-one engagement with entrepreneurs
- Mentor network activation
- Investor connections
- Growth labs - targeted, intensive workshops with companies
- SME Accelerator
- Scale Up Leaders Group - small-group facilitated peer-to-peer discussions for leaders of companies at the scale up stage
- Scaleup Masterclass - advanced workshop content for scaleup companies
- GRIFFIN Accelerator - mentor-led 3-month intensive program for startups selected by mentors
- External program referrals

This quarter 83 ventures were assisted by CBRIN growth programs. This includes the ICON Grant, GRIFFIN Accelerator, SME Accelerator, Scaleup Program, investor connections and founder conversations, feedback sessions, growth discussions and strategic discussions.

Ventures assisted in these programs are well spread across startup, early growth, scale up and small business as shown in the table below.

Seventeen (20%) of the ventures currently engaged are in the “deep tech” category, with significant intellectual property from research. 51 (61%), out of the 83 assisted this quarter are ventures beyond startup stage.

Distribution of Active Companies (by Category)	#	%
Startups	32	39%
Early Growth: 100k to 1m raised, or 3+ FTE and innovation driven	19	23%
Small business 3 – 20 FTE and innovation potential	20	24%
Scaleup: Innovation-driven and >1m raised, or 20+ FTE employees	12	14%
Total ventures assisted this quarter	83	

The Mill House Ventures Limited

The Mill House Ventures (TMHV), co-funded by CBRIN, supports social innovators to explore trading models that sustain and accelerate measurable impact in Canberra and region. The Mill House Ventures creates complimentary pathways through entrepreneurship for founders who are Change Agents looking for viable and sustainable ways to create, measure and sustain impact to address systemic disadvantage.

The Mill House Ventures offers programs specifically catering to emerging and maturing social enterprises of our region. TMHV also provide work-integrated learning experience to University of Canberra students to provide them with exposure to this asset class and raise awareness of this way of trading.

Activities during Period

ACT Social Enterprise Grant

- TMHV announced 13 successful recipients of the 2nd-year (of 2) of the pilot ACT Social Enterprise Grant (ASEG) program which provided \$360k in matched grant funding for early stage and start-up social enterprises. Funding provided by ACT Government.
- 39 Applications requesting \$1.05million in funding
- 20 Shortlisted to participate in Independent Assessment Panel Q&A sessions
- Independent Assessment Panel members are Miranda Garnett (BellChambers Barrett), Kashif Cheema (CFO Service One Mutual) and Irene Zhen (CBRIN)
- 13 successful recipients announced (funded from ASEG):

Enterprise Name	Founder Name	Description	Amount funded \$
Earthly Remains	Tui Davidson	Earthly Remains advocates for human composting as an environmentally sustainable alternative to traditional disposition methods.	27,000

Hydro-Sense Technologies	Yagnesh Naidu	Advanced water quality monitoring technology using innovative sensors and real-time analytics to enhance efficiency, accuracy, and accessibility, supporting proactive water resource management and ecosystem sustainability.	30,000
Himayat Support Services	Waheed Jayhoon	Himayat is providing disability care, aged care, and employment support to migrants, refugees, and CALD communities while creating jobs through tailored pathways and training.	30,000
Edventure Care	Karl Warrener	Provides specialised care and activity programs for kids with additional needs, helping them build friendships, independence, and confidence through fun, supportive adventures	30,000
Queer Food	Andy de Groot	Queer Food is a boutique catering and food retailer social enterprise run by Trans* and Queer* people, dedicated to increasing representation and improving community lives through storytelling, employment, and direct support.	30,000
Allara Creative	Jessica Wright and Ruth Oettle	Allara Creative sells quirky black-and-white products and offers graphic design services, with every purchase supporting employment and mentoring for refugee women in Canberra.	30,000
Inhabit Place Pty Limited	Obelia Tait	Inhabit Place transforms public space design and management by prioritizing the needs of vulnerable groups to create safer, more inclusive, and accessible environments	30,000
PKLD Conditioning	Chris Harris	Pickled Conditioning (PKLD) specializing in sports nutrition, strength training, and metabolic health management for individuals over 30 dealing with metabolic	30,000

		syndrome, insulin resistance, and hormonal imbalances.	
Sun Baby	Amy Nixon	Sun Baby offers eco-friendly, full-coverage hemp baby clothing with natural UPF 50+ protection, designed to keep babies safe, comfortable, and cool while minimizing environmental impact.	30,000
Bright Smiles Mobile Dental Pty. Ltd.	Brenda Fry	Delivers essential, gentle, and conservative oral care to seniors and homebound individuals in the comfort of their homes, aiming to prevent dental pain and systemic diseases while enhancing quality of life.	30,000
Matre	Pallavi Dutt Singh	Preserves traditional handcrafted weaves, prints, and fabrics by transforming them into contemporary clothing and accessories, supporting artisans and preserving cultural heritage.	30,000
Sapling Minds	Aliesha Embleton	Strengthens children's resilience, authenticity, and entrepreneurial mindset through wellbeing workshops and coaching to proactively prevent mental health challenges,	17,600
Pressed Coffee Co / Ability Pathway Group	Amanda Wheeler	Transforms the lives of young adults with disabilities by providing tailored hospitality training and direct employment pathways through hands-on experience in our café and personalized learning tools	15,400
			360,000

GRIST25 Cohort announced and opening Retreat held

GRIST is recognised as one of Australia's premier social enterprise accelerator programs offering early-stage and start-up Founders in the Canberra Region a proven three-month capability building and enterprise validation methodology.

Enterprise Name	Founder Name	Description	Female Founder	Impact Area
People Place Play	Cathy Hope	Aims to reduce loneliness and social isolation in the ACT by developing a suite of tours, events and resources to help newcomers "make sense" of Canberra and build social connectors. Led by a seasoned cultural researcher with deep local networks and a strong record in community activation, including the Haig Park Experiments and UC ConnectUp.	<u>Yes</u>	Inclusion Community
Centre for Collective Leadership	Kathy Hilyard & Mary-Claire McDonald	Equips for-purpose leaders to navigate complex challenges by updating outdated leadership models through capability building, storytelling and network facilitation. The vision includes low bono /pro bono service model where full-fee leadership development work cross-subsidises impact-driven support for those working on systemic change.	<u>Yes</u>	Inclusion Disadvantage
Glow Getaways	Disha Taneja	Tackling mental health and social wellbeing through affordable counselling, inclusive wellbeing travel, multicultural safe places, certified training, and a global psych community. The model supports both early-career professionals and underserved communities, with strong demand already shown through sold-out pilots and growing waitlists.	Yes	Health & Wellbeing
Pathway Ability Group	Mandy Wheeler	Empowers young adults with disabilities through hospitality training and inclusive employment pathways, combining structured learning with real-world experiences in a purpose-built café.	Yes	Disability Inclusion

		The long-term vision is to scale across industries, transforming individual potential into capability and driving systemic change in the local workforce.		
Sapling Minds	Aliesha Embleton	Delivers early intervention wellbeing education to primary aged schoolchildren, building resilience, emotional intelligence, and problem-solving skills. Their proactive model aims to prevent long-term mental health issues while strengthening families, schools and communities.	Yes	Health & Wellbeing Community
Purpose Media CBR	Heidi Prowse	Intends to grow into a sustainable social enterprise that connects Canberrans to health and community services through positive, educational storytelling. By formalising its model and reinvesting profits, it aims to scale impact, strengthen partnerships, and make service navigation more accessible and engaging.	Yes	Health & Wellbeing Community
Queer Food	Andy de Groot	Aims to improve the lives of Queer and Trans people through food - storytelling, employment and direct support. They combine inclusive hospitality with community impact, reinvesting profits into Trans medical care access and Queer-led ventures.	No	Inclusion Disadvantage
Bright Smiles Mobile Dental Group	Brenda Fry	Delivers in-home dental care, primarily to aged care residents and homebound individuals who face barriers to access traditional clinics. With growing demand and untapped market potential, they aim to expand community awareness and reach more people in need of accessible oral health services.	Yes	Disability Inclusion Health & Wellbeing

TMHV engaged Social Entrepreneur-in-Residence, Zoe Piper, to begin new REFINE activation with Her Kitchen Table. The REFINE program targets established social enterprises in need tailored short term consulting to refine practices, overcome a

challenge, gain access to a new opportunity, or any other assistance you may require through funding provided by Snow Foundation.

- CEO participated as a panellist for Screen Canberra Director nominations committee
- TMHV Board conducted regular meeting
- CEO attended launch of "Australia We Want" report commissioned by AMP Foundation & Community Council of Australia - the third comprehensive assessment of a national agenda for change at National Press Club
- CEO attended Social Enterprise Australia "Jobs Summit" in Melbourne
- CEO participated in CBRIN FWC & Extended Team Monthly meetings

Key Activities

Total for Q4 (Apr - Jun)	Total
Social Enterprise Consultations	42



Image: GRIST 2025 Retreat

Founder, Mentor and Outreach Conversations

One of the most important ways the growth programs add value to entrepreneurial ventures is through team members meeting directly with entrepreneurs and mentors.

Engagement	Numbers
Founder Conversations	115
Intro Meetings	69
Mentor / Expert / Investor Engagement (# of mentor conversations)	29
Feedback meetings	38
Coworker Engagement (subset of Founder Conversations)	14
Deep tech company engagement (subset of founder conversations)	16
SME meetings (subset of founder conversations)	27
Total Meetings	240*

* Note total meetings is less than sum of the listed meetings as some meetings serve a dual purpose e.g. feedback + founder conversation or SME meeting + founder conversation.

Intro Meetings are early contact with entrepreneurs – see section 2.1

Founder Conversations with entrepreneurs focus on discussing business challenges or opportunities and coaching participants.

Mentor / Expert / Investor Engagement conversations enable the team to better understand the skills and interests of mentors, experts, and investors.

Feedback meetings refer to meetings specifically booked and held with participants who were unsuccessful in program applications and were interested to understand the feedback from selection panel or CBRIN.

Coworker Engagement are Founder conversation with coworkers and are also tracked to support coworking – section 3.2

Testimonials:

“Thank you very much for your time today. Really appreciate your advice” - Pete Wallace

Mentor Network Activation

A key element of CBRIN’s mission is to connect a wide range of mentors (including investors and experts) with relevant experience to entrepreneurs with the goal of empowering those entrepreneurs to have more impact. Mentors engage through showcase events, small networking sessions, individual meetings, and a mentor newsletter. Recent activity includes but is not limited to:

- 103 mentors engaged or active
- 35 external connections tracked (referrals between entrepreneurs, mentors and investors)
- 2 mentor/investor events (hosted or attended by CBRIN)
- 161 current subscribers of the Mentor Newsletter
- 135 Investors registered for Investor Showcase (held on 2 April)

Entrepreneur in Residence

The Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) program provides a coordinated effort to connect founders with experienced entrepreneurs, experts and mentors. This program is complementary to other services and programs, with the goal to offer fresh input from highly experienced advisors, as well as help founders identify the key challenges and opportunities to improve their business.

The EIR program was paused this quarter due to limited availability of resident experts. Ken Kroeger is confirmed to resume sessions next quarter.

Mentor and Investor Events

As part of the Mentor Network, CBRIN organises and participates in events. This quarter, CBRIN hosted and participated in one mentor / investor event other than investor showcase:

- Angel Investor Panel – 19 angel investors engaged – 18 June 2025



Image: Angel Investor Panel

Mentor Highlights

Harry Hoang, founder of Tailored Accounts, an active mentor in Griffin Accelerator and in the innovation community, a supporter of social enterprises and the Vietnamese community was awarded Member of Order of Australia for significant services to the community.



Image (from LinkedIn): Harry Hoang, Griffin mentor, awarded OAM

Investor Showcase

2 April 2025: 177 participants; NPS 63%

CBRIN hosted our largest investor showcase ever with 38 presenting companies and over 100 investors. This annual event connects growing companies looking to raise capital with investors in the ACT and interstate. It is a great event for companies to promote their start-up and for investors to find potential investments.

After the main event, CBRIN hosted an investor dinner, bringing together the investment community and the Canberra start-up ecosystem.



Image: Investor Showcase Event

Testimonials from Investors:

"Terrific event, we loved every minute of it" - Stephen Angus

"An awesome event. I found it highly useful for potential investments. Some excellent companies and great investor turnout." - Murray Rankin

"An excellent mix of emerging companies and a good response from investors and ecosystem partners." - Pat Mooney

"It's a great opportunity to mix with founders, investors, and other ecosystem folks in a friendly environment. I'd recommend the event to both local founders and interstate investors." - Raaj Rayat

"A great group of investors and companies seeking investment" - Neil Hamilton

"A fantastic event held in a relaxed and informal setting, the afternoon fostered genuine conversations and meaningful connections. The showcase featured a wide range of innovative ideas from passionate founders, and it was exciting to see the depth of talent emerging from Canberra's startup ecosystem." - Erica Collins

"Great event. Love the format of nothing-but-networking. Lots of energy. All in all a very valuable use of time." - Robin Fieldhouse

Testimonials from Presenting Companies:

"This activity saved us six months of work if we tried to meet this number of investors one-on-one." - Nick McNaughton

"I just wanted to say a massive thank you for having us. ... It's been a huge help" - Michelle Turtabuti

"Great event to connect to the investment community. Large attendance but still felt intimate, with purposeful connection and effort made by investors to meet the teams. Great opportunity to showcase Canberra founded innovation and bring national investors to the capital." - Michael

"We had some meaningful conversations with investors and were also able to connect with other founders, giving us inspiration and further insight into the startup ecosystem." - Elizabeth McGrath

"Great to meet so many people in the innovation space, really inspiring and demonstrates Canberra's capability for sustainable innovation!" - Jay Humble

"Heaps of meaningful conversations with investors, entrepreneurs, innovation enablers and likeminded professionals." - Omar Zuaiter

"Very well organised with amazing companies and quality investors." - Gokul Chandrasekaran

"Excellent networking opportunity and a great way to improve pitching skills." - Paul Murphy

"We've attended the event three years in a row and it keeps getting better every year. Great work CBRIN team..." - Victor Croker

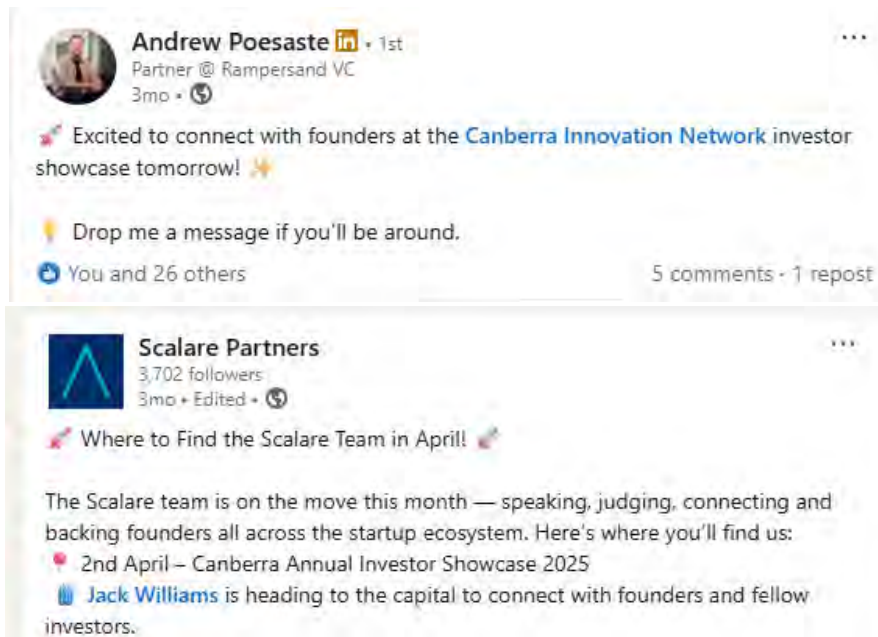


Image: Collage of screenshots of interstate investors promoting the event

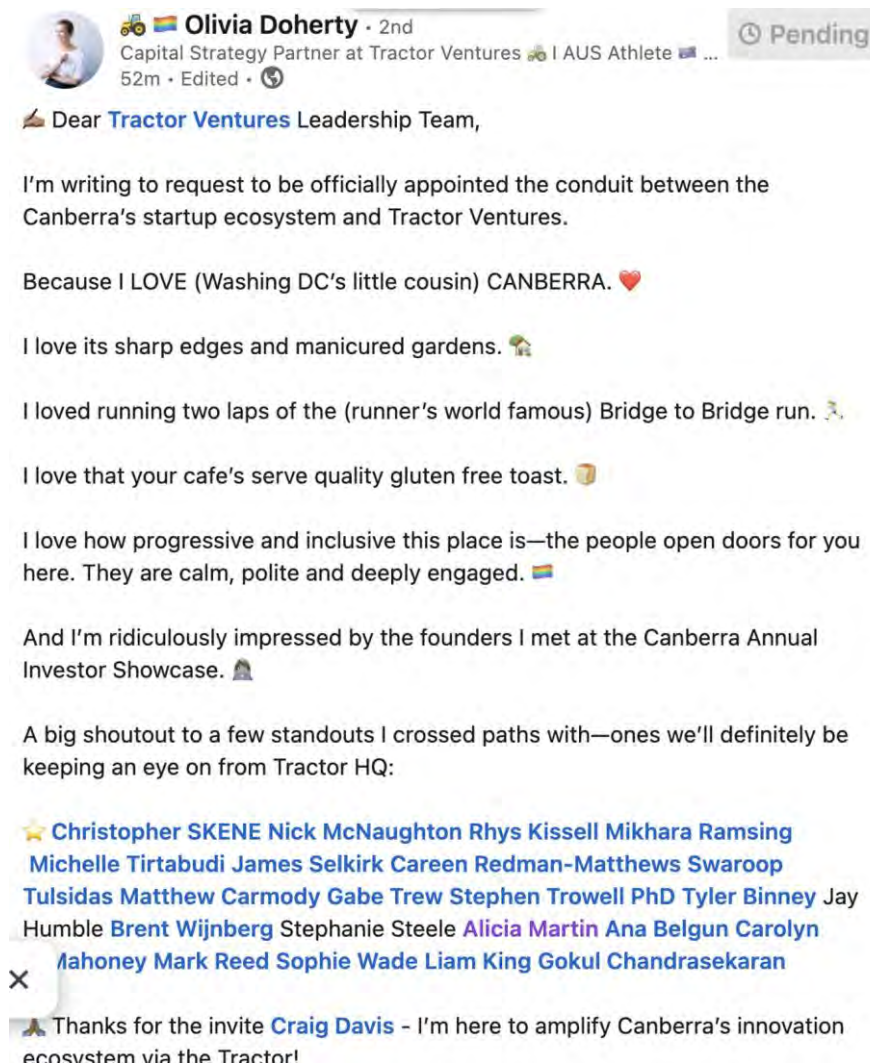


Image: Screenshot from Olivia Doherty, Tractor Ventures, LinkedIn post

Scaleup Program

Scaleup Leaders Sessions

Scaleup leaders' sessions are facilitated high-value group conversations between leaders of ambitious technology companies at the growth stage. Specifically, the companies are:

- Raising significant capital, typically Series A+
- Commercialising substantial IP or competitive advantage
- Rapidly growing their team or sales.

CBRIN holds two types of session as part of Scale Up Leaders program:

- Inner Circle sessions: an experienced facilitator enables discussions between the business leader peers about relevant challenges they are experiencing or likely to experience soon, reflecting on progress and success in a high-trust confidential peer group conversation.
- Deep Dive sessions: we invite a guest to share beyond the general on a particular experience or topic.

Session	Topic	Participants
15 April 2025	Inner Circle Session - Governance discussion facilitated by the CBRIN team	12



Image: Photo of Scaleup Leaders session

Growth Lab - Zendir (formerly Nominal Systems)

8 May 2025, 6 participants

Zendir engaged CBRIN to deliver a short, targeted growth lab to clarify key milestones for product and team in order to raise the next round of investment.

Growth labs are short, intensive sessions (usually 2-3.5hours) to put ideas under pressure and help clarify thinking for the executive teams in scaleups.

SME Business Accelerator

28 May 2025, 17 attendees

CBRIN held the second SME Business Accelerator of the 24-25 Financial Year, with 17 SME representatives, including a variety of new SMEs who have not engaged with CBRIN previously, as well as repeat participants. Based on previous feedback, the program was consolidated into a one day intensive. Participants were challenged to look at deeper causes when seeking to understand their barriers to growth and encouraged to utilise focus to free up internal resources to execute on an ambitious growth roadmap which they developed during the workshop.

Questions and insights flowed freely in the group setting and participants enjoyed engaging in pair work with their peers - challenging and testing their assumptions with each other. CBRIN was supported by AusIndustry who attended to present their services, and Canberra Cyber Hub who sponsored four cyber businesses to participate.

Participant companies representing a total of approximately 60+ FTE included:

- Sightdata.ai is a construction safety technology company using computer vision to analyse and report on safety adherence.
- Grit n Grace Collective offers professional development coaching for neurodivergent professionals seeking to achieve sustainable professional success.
- Morris Wellness is a small practice offering traditional medicine as well as mind-body medicine strategies to create long-lasting results in health and wellbeing.
- Cogitant professional services use systems engineering to make sense of complexity, bring structure to chaos, and support meaningful progress in defence, space and environment.
- Michael Coaching is a tennis and running coaching business.
- Nansen.io is a platform for anonymous, secure and incorruptible transfer and storage of documents using blockchain and related technologies.
- Trent McDougall Consultancy works in the interplay between strategic policy, governance and operations management.
- Solution Tech is an IT Managed Service Provider, providing IT & Cyber Security services for business.
- Aerial sports is a training facility in Canberra for aerial acrobatics, circus arts & holistic wellness.
- Simply SecOps are a small team of passionate technologists that specialise in the enhancement of Security Operations (SecOps) monitoring capabilities.
- Cyburton is a sovereign Australian company providing robust cybersecurity solutions built on three pillars: awareness, testing & response.
- Mojo Guitar Teachers is one of the longest running and most successful schools for guitar lessons in Canberra. They are currently spinning out a music school management app called Mojo Dojo music.

- Renewables Warehouse is an importer and wholesale supplier of solar panels and related hardware to solar installers.
- Clubland is a digital club house and fundraising platform for sporting clubs.
- Cypher Brewing Co is a brewery based in Gungahlin, trading as a brewpub while also investing in R&D to expand into new product lines and markets including indigenous ingredients and non-alcoholic.



Image: Collage of photos from the SME Accelerator 28 May 2025



Image: Screenshot from Malisa Lengyel, Simply SecOps, participant in SME Accelerator

Testimonials:

"This is my second time participating in the Business Accelerator program, and it was absolutely worth coming back. When you're running a small business, things can change quickly, and often! Taking the time to step back, refocus, and tap into the industry knowledge and experience of the CBRIN team is incredibly valuable. Highly recommend this program to any business owner looking to gain clarity, direction, and practical insights." – Malisa Lengyel, Simply SecOps.

"The event is a great setting to get you thinking about your business, your goals, your impact and your future." – Cam Smith, Mojo Dojo.

"The workshop helped me conduct some active introspection and bounce ideas off like-minded individuals." – Nicholas Gover, Cogitant.

"Firstly, I wanted to pass on my thanks for the Accelerator Program on Wednesday. I was a late addition, having decided to join at the last minute, but I am glad I did. I took away a few really valuable points from the day and met some like-minded people with whom I look forward to staying in contact." – Lauren Mowen, Clubland.

"One of my key takeaways from yesterday was the concept of "Doing Less." It's about reducing time spent on activities that don't add meaningful value to your business, allowing you to focus on what truly drives impact. It's so easy to get caught in rabbit holes or waste time on tasks that, at best, offer no benefit – and at worst, detract from your business's success."

"The highlight of my day was, without a doubt, the people. The INCanberra team did an outstanding job running the event, and connecting with other Canberra CyberHub

businesses was fantastic. It was a great opportunity to share insights, experiences, and build valuable connections within our local cyber community.” – Jane Burton, Cyburton.

Selected ecosystem company updates

Canberra innovation companies raised more than \$50 Million in Q4 2024-25

This figure includes capital raised from venture capital, angel investors and grant funding announced during the quarter. This figure reflects transactions that have been announced, noting the amount may be higher, in some cases raises are not publicly announced for various commercial reasons. The figure this quarter includes Acorn \$19M, Foremind \$1.5M, Gridsight \$7.5M, as well as other transactions not named due to commercial sensitivity.

Two companies which have engaged significantly with growth programs announced trade sales in the quarter – SignOnSite and Rotor Lab.

The table below summarises alumni companies highlights this quarter. This includes significant progress updates and highlights for those companies that have benefited from CBRIN's assistance or have been an active part of our ecosystem.

Key:

- Griffin Accelerator = GA
- Scaleup Leader Sessions = SLS
- SME Programs = SME
- Investor Showcase = IS
- Founder Conversations = FC
- Coworking = CW
- Founders Collective = Col

Company, description, update	Engagement (alumni)
Accessilife - an online system to support people living with a disability, illness or medical condition Update: Accepted into the AMP Tomorrow Makers IGNITE Program	FC
Acorn - corporate learning and performance technology Update: Raised \$12.3M USD in funding	N/A
Capyble - HR compliance software Update: Selected for Polished Innovators Pilot Accelerator	FC
CatQ - developing a high efficiency, high quality quantum error correction solution that will make optical quantum computers practical and scalable Update: selected to showcase at Cicada's Tech23 event	FC
Cosive - consulting and engineering for cyber security operations Update: has been named a 2025 iAwards Finalist in the Technology Platform category for the ACT	CW

Company, description, update	Engagement (alumni)
Dentroid - created an LED-light therapy to numb pain during dental procedures, removing the need for needles or numbing gels Update: conducting a clinical trial with around 900 patients in Queensland	FC, GA, SLS, IS
Impact Group - management consultancy focused on empowering clients to act - building internal consulting capability and co-designing & co-delivering change. Update: Has been recognised as AFR BOSS Best Places to Work 2025	CW, SME, SLS, FC
Foremind - a proactive wellbeing and compliance system for businesses Update: Raised \$1.5M led by Giant Leap	GA, FC, CW
Goterra - Food waste management services using insects Update: New waste facility opened in Sydney	FC
GRIDSIGHT - Cloud software to future-proof electricity grids, fast. Update: Announce raise of \$7.5M in series A funding round	CW
Haast - business compliance software provider Update: Raised \$6M round led by Airtree	GA, SLS, FC, CW, IS
Liquid Instruments Launched disruptive new product Moku Delta 'Generative Instrumentation'	FC
Modern42 - provides cybersecurity solutions to Australia's largest organisations Update: awarded the Beyond Trust Technical Excellence Partner of the Year	SME, CW, FC,
MTE (Membrane Transporter Engineers) - developing novel membrane separation technologies for the sustainable extraction and recycling of critical resources from waste Update: selected to showcase at Cicada's Tech23 event	FC, GA, SLS
Padel 360 - Padel court developer Update: secured 2 key investors, increased 1 FTE, fully funding first club in Perth for padel	SME, FC
Penten - Cybersecurity solutions for Defence Update: Merger with Amiosec to form PentenAmio, to create company with \$125M revenue	FC
Rotor Lab - developing next-generation electric motor technologies Update: acquired by US company Unusual Machines (NYSE:UMAC) for US\$7M	FC
SecureBits - Custom high-quality hardware for defence customers	FC

Company, description, update	Engagement (alumni)
Update: Recognised as one of Australia's Top 50 Innovative Manufacturers by AuManufacturing	
She Shapes History - provides walking tours revealing the diverse ways women have shaped Australia Update: Released the 'She Shapes History' Book. Accepted into the AMP Tomorrow Makers IGNITE Program	FC, CW
Shoelace Creative - A creative agency providing marketing solutions for business growth Update: The founder, Ty, was featured on the Canberra Business Chamber podcast	SME, FC, CW
SignOnSite - software for WHS in the construction industry Update: acquired by competitor 1Breadcrumb	GA, FC, CW
Sprout Materials - developing sustainable plastic materials Update: selected to showcase at Cicada's Tech23 event	IS, FC
Tailored Accounts - an award winning management accounting and business intelligence company Update: Founder Harry Hoang won an Order of Australia Medal	FC
Terria - building advanced maps and digital twins for spatial analysis Update: selected to showcase at Cicada's Tech23 event	FC, CW, IS, SME, SLS
Yarn - an early intervention speech pathology app Update: Accepted into the AMP Tomorrow Makers IGNITE Program	FC, CW
Zendir (formerly Nominal) - Zendir is the next-generation satellite digital twinning platform designed from the ground-up to get your mission into orbit faster. Update: CEO, Christopher Capon is a finalist for Executive of the Year in Space Connect's Australian Space Awards 2025	IS, SLS

DIRECTION 3 PLACEMAKING

Goal: Strengthen the role of CBRIN as the ACT's central innovation hub with active linkages to a powerful network of innovation precincts that work together to grow new industries and solve complex problems by leveraging science, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Activities under this direction include:

- Designing and delivering engagement, marketing and promotional activities and events that showcase success stories and facilitate access to opportunities.
- Managing and enhancing the physical infrastructure of the central innovation hub in the ACT.
- Building and nurturing partnerships that connect other innovation hubs and grow vibrancy, diversity and connectivity of the ecosystem.

Theme 3.1 Ecosystem Engagement

Objective: Collaborate to design and deliver a comprehensive set of engagement activities and events that connect, empower and diversify our innovation ecosystem and support delivery of this workplan through effective communication and marketing.

Our Engagement and Marketing Initiatives under this Theme and Objective include:

- marketing and events to connect people to programs and initiatives of the ACT innovation ecosystem,
- profiling of and strengthening engagement with entrepreneurs and under-represented groups,
- public relations and related activities to tell the stories of Canberra-born innovation and entrepreneurship and to position Canberra as the place where science and research meets innovation and entrepreneurship,
- activities to strengthen engagement with Foundation Members, Partners, innovation precincts, key sectors, other connected innovation hubs and initiatives, and the broader region (additional and complementary to activities in Direction 1)
- target relevant regional, national or international events and engagements (such as inbound and outbound visits and delegations) to promote the Canberra innovation ecosystem,
- marketing campaigns to promote Canberra as a city of innovation and to promote all opportunities to the broader ecosystem.

Outcome: Canberra innovation ecosystem breadth, connectivity, diversity, and brand reputation strengthened.

Overview

The CBRIN marketing and events team hosted many events with high attendance numbers which can be directly attributed to our marketing efforts across traditional media and social media platforms.

Summary: In this quarter CBRIN held or hosted 85 events, all marketed to our ecosystem, attracting a total of 2,731 registrations.

CBRIN held 3 First Wednesday Connect events, April: 247, May: 312, and June: 252. Average: 270 registrations. We also held one Female Founders Series: May: 64 registered.

Marketing Efforts: The marketing team focused on keeping event attendance strong through the traditionally quiet mid-year period. CBRIN created content for Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn to keep our innovation community engaged. This worked well for the First Wednesday Connect event at ANU; 312 registrations made it our biggest event this quarter.

CBRIN engagement team ran social media campaigns throughout April, May and June, bringing back past participants to show the benefits of staying involved in the CBRIN network.

CBRIN engagement team also promoted Level 4 and Level 5 coworking spaces using Google Ads and social media. The campaign highlighted the collaborative workspace and flexible options for both casual and full-time coworking. CBRIN used coworking photos and the affordable pricing as selling points. Highlighting the community atmosphere attracts entrepreneurs and small businesses looking to connect.

The team will continue building on this success with targeted campaigns to grow both event attendance and coworking memberships.

Media & PR

- [54 Top startups in Canberra for July 2025](#)
- [Two Aussie startups that raised \\$26 million this week](#) - April 2025
- [How long does it take to become a Canberran? We asked the city's top thinkers](#) - 21 April 2025
- [Scale-ups are singing praises for Canberra's new innovation HQ](#) - 7 May 2025
- [Canberra cyber firm merges with UK company to form PentenAmio](#) - 13 May 2025

Video, Photo, Web & Design

- FWC captured by David Beach- April 2025
- FWC captured by David Beach- May 2025
- Female Founders captured by David Beach- May 2025
- Business Accelerator captured by David Beach- May 2025
- FWC captured by David Beach- June 2025

Region Media Engagement Metrics

- 1 article published delivering 531 views
- Articles were included in our EDM distributions and received 13,245 views and 56 clicks
- Digital banners received 8.2k impressions and 19 clicks

- Articles published on our social media platforms received a reach of 1.4k and 25 engagements

Innovation Station

CBRIN's regular blogging platform engages with the innovation community, profiles entrepreneurs, innovators, and businesses, and shares industry news and CBRIN highlights. Articles are shared on owned-and-operated channels.

Topics for this quarter included:

- [First Wednesday Connect Pitch List April 2025](#) - 3 April 2025
- [Connect with the Canberra Innovation Community](#) - 17 April 2025
- [What is the SME Business Accelerator?](#) - 20 May 2025
- [What It Feels Like to Build an Innovation Company in Canberra?](#) - 21 May 2025
- [First Wednesday Connect Pitch List May 2025](#) - 8 May 2025
- [First Wednesday Connect Pitch List June 2025](#) - 5 June 2025

Paid Advertisement Insights

To expand our reach, CBRIN executed multiple advertising campaigns during the quarter to promote various events and programs. Campaign objectives ranged from driving link clicks to building general brand awareness.

CBRIN targeting approach focused geographically on Canberra residents and those within a 100km radius, encompassing regional centres such as Yass, Goulburn, and Braidwood, without specific gender or age restrictions. Behavioural and psychographic targeting was tailored to individuals with interests in entrepreneurship, innovation, Canberra small business, and related business topics, with specific parameters adjusted according to each advertisement's focus.

Campaign name	Reach	Impressions	Link clicks	CPC (cost per link click)
FWC April	955	1027	10	\$0.43
First Wednesday Connect May 2025	18145	29910	124	\$0.56
Female Founders Roundtable	17230	29343	208	\$0.34
FWC June	12242	23446	162	\$0.49
Coworking	7506	16696	102	\$0.71
First Wednesday Connect July 2025	15771	27250	144	\$0.56
Announcing InnovationACT 2025	10965	18724	135	\$0.44
Totals	82,814	146,396	885	Avg \$0.50

Social media insights

	Facebook	Instagram	LinkedIn
Reach	61,763 64.7%	3,961 65.3%	11,307 47.4%
Profile visits	3,386 42.8%	527 22.4%	1024 36.2%
Followers	5,786	2,733	7,644
New followers	84 61.5%	111 31.5%	175 32.4%
Post engagement	214 18.6%	226 20.4%	208 57.9%

Top Performing Organic Posts

Facebook

 Top content by views

Boost content

See all content



Image: Facebook top performing posts

Instagram

 Top content by views

Boost content

See all content

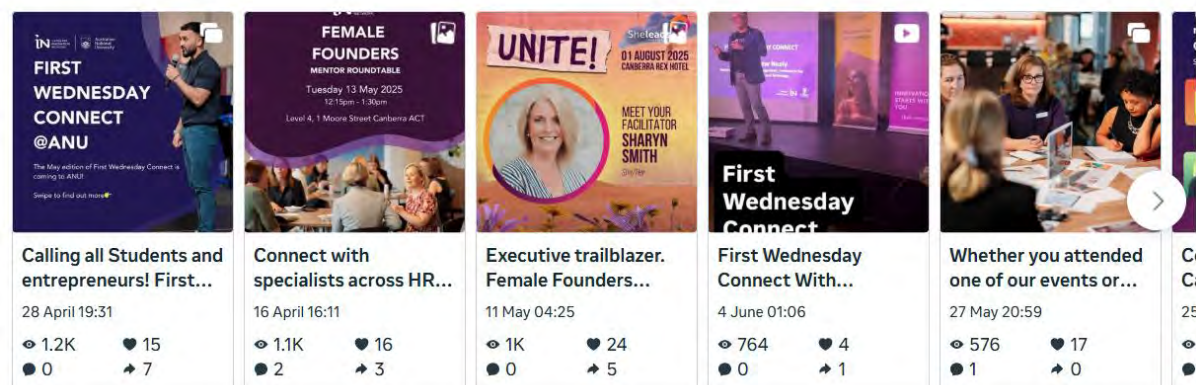


Image: screenshots of reach breakdown for Instagram and Facebook

Weekly Newsletter Statistics

10,843 (224 new) contacts, 6,330 subscribers (103 new) (44.5% female)

Table: Weekly Newsletter Click rates

Stats	1 April	8 April	15 April	23 April	29 April	6 May	13 May	20 May	27 May	3 June	10 June	17 June	24 June
Av. Open Rate	29.7%	29%	29.4%	30%	29.5%	29.8%	31.1%	31.9%	32.6%	33.4%	31.1%	32%	31.4%
Av. Click Rate	1.6%	2%	2.2%	2.0%	1.7%	1.3%	1.3%	1.7%	2.1%	2.1%	1.2%	1.7%	2.2%

Website performance



Image: Website performance statistics

The site recorded 12,770 sessions, representing an 8% increase compared to the previous 91-day period, while generating 33,864 pageviews, a substantial 52% increase that indicates improved user engagement and deeper content exploration.

- **Total Sessions:** 12,770 (↑8% vs. previous period)
- **Total Pageviews:** 33,864 (↑52% vs. previous period)
- **Average Session Duration:** 55 seconds (↑19% vs. previous period)
- **Bounce Rate:** 38.5% (↑23% vs. previous period)

Events & Engagement

This quarter: CBRIN registered 85 events held with 2,731 participants

Year-to-date: 8,321 participants for 275 events

	Events	Participants
April 2025	23	914
May 2025	37	1045
June 2025	25	772

Regular Recurring Events: CBRIN Extended Team Meeting, First Wednesday Connect (monthly with exception of January), Female Founders (bi-monthly), Stakeholder Advisory Committee (quarterly)

First Wednesday Connect

Overall, as at the end of the quarter, CBRIN has had 11,917 unique registrations for 110 First Wednesday Connects and Innovation Showcase events since 1 July 2015.

First Wednesday Connect 3 April 2025

Level 4, 1 Moore Street

247 registrations: 36% new participants

Audience: 32% entrepreneurs, 16% students, 13% Corporate, 5% public servants, 9% creatives, 6% SME, 6% researchers, 2% investors and 11% other

Speakers:

- Significant Capital Ventures - Michele Troni, Nina Kuzmina
- Capital Angels - Anne-Marie Perret
- Campus Plus - Nick McNaughton
- Defence Trailblazer - Liz Kobold
- Dentroid - Omar Zuaiter
- Copyble - Mikhara Ramsing
- POP Local - Gabe Trew
- Wait Once - Carolyn O'Mahoney
- Sprout Materials - Stephanie Allison-Logan
- PPB Technology - Raquel Rocha, Jessica Kelly
- UC & Evolutioned - The AI Advantage - Erin Stacey
- ACTivate Capital - Mick Cardew-Hall
- [Blog Post](#)



Image: collage from FWC April 2025

First Wednesday Connect 1 May 2025

ANU Research School of Physics, 60 Mills Road

312 registrations: 38% new participants

Audience: 27% entrepreneurs, 30% students, 7% Corporate, 2% public servants, 2% creatives, 4% SME, 9% researchers, 2% investors and 17% other

Speakers:

- ANU Entrepreneurship Club - Tejas Tagra
- Pawl AI - Bronwyn Orr
- Formswell - Dan Armstrong
- ANU Institute for Space - Kate Ferguson

- MiniGrav - John Close
- TechLauncher - Rebecca Moorby
- ACTS Education - Nick Jensen
- ANU Commercialisation and IP - Danielle Neale
- Cobeco - Sejul Malde
- UNSW Founders 10x Accelerator - Sasha Whittle
- Ability Optics - Daniel Lim
- ChangeForge - Tina Chawner
- School of Engineering (CRC) - Mike Hanauer
- Membrane Transporter Engineers (MTE) - Caitlin Byrt
- NSSN Women in Sensing Summit - Don McCallum
- Soret Tech - Felipe Torres
- [Blog Post](#)



Image: Collage from FWC May 2025

First Wednesday Connect 5 June 2025

UNSW, Verity Lane Markets

252 registrations: 39% new participants

Audience: 24% entrepreneurs, 11% students, 16% Corporate, 7% public servants, 5% creatives, 7% SME, 11% researchers, 0% investors and 19% other

Speakers:

- UNSW Founders New Wave Program - Victoria-Rose Tucker
- UNSW Bio-Engineering Group - Abhi Veda
- Industry HDRs Program - Warrick Lawson
- Microforest Collective - Purdie Bowden
- Resilient Australia Event Series - Gonzalo Cubillo
- Pip Wilkes | AFII
- Amar Khennane | Advancing Sustainable Construction Materials
- Daniel Munro | PentenAMio
- Hayley Maddox | Prototyping Voucher Program & Research to Value Workshop
- Malisa Lengyel | SpiderHawk
- [Blog Post](#)



Image: Collage from FWC June 2025

Testimonials:

- *"This was so great. The variety of people attending and talking about their ideas was so inspiring. The atmosphere was welcoming to a newcomer."* - Natalie Ison
- *"It was our first time attending and pitching at a Wednesday Connect, and we were not disappointed. The event flowed from start to finish and we enjoyed the opportunity to network with a broad cohort of peers. We have made some valuable connections from the event and look forward to attending the next one. Thank you!"* - Malisa Lengyel
- *"This was the first, First Wednesday Connect I have been to. It was thought provoking, interesting and inspiring. Going to First Wednesday Connect has helped me with direction and contacts for my project."* - Kirsten Zinner
- *"It is an important forum for start ups and other new business ventures - it enables us to move from the public or NGO sector and learn from others that innovation and small business is possible."* - Julia Tresidder

Regional, National and International Engagement

- Conducted two meetings this quarter with the Embassy of Switzerland in Canberra in preparation for two hackathons that CBRIN will run in late 2025 and 2026
- CBRIN was the subject of a case study on best practices within Australian innovation hubs commissioned by the Ministry of National Development Planning of the Republic of Indonesia (Bappenas), research conducted by the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) on 3 April 2025
- The Thai Ambassador, H.E.Arjaree Sriratanaban visited the CBRIN office on 30 April 2025
- CBRIN hosted the ON Accelerate Networking and Pitch Event on 1 May 2025
- Hosted National PIEFA Delegation, showcasing CBRIN and its support of the ACT's Agrifood and fibre sectors on 21 May 2025



Image: Thai Ambassador, H.E. Arjaree Sriratanaban visited the CBRIN office on 30 April 2025

Other Event Support & Engagement

Events held in the CBRIN space:

- **Gridsight Team** Offsite - 12 attendees (3 events)
- **CSIRO On Prime** Showcase - 60 total attendees - Petr Adamek was a speaker
- **AI CoLab** Workshops - Approximately 608 total attendees (across multiple sessions)
- **ASE (Australian School of Entrepreneurship)** Programs: 35 attendees (Marketing: 20, Pitching: 15)
- **RD Consulting** Workshops: 57 attendees (4 events)
- **Australian Small Enterprise (ASE)** - 15 attendees
- **World Commerce & Contracting National Chapter** Alliance Community Group Coffee Catch Up- 9 attendees - Petr Adamek was keynote speaker
- **AuDA/CBC/CWIB (collaborative)** - 127 attendees
- **Terria Pty Ltd "Terriacon"** - 9 attendees (3 events)
- **Dentroid** - 10 attendees
- **GPN Vaccines Ltd** - 5 attendees
- **Willyama Togetha** - 25 attendees
- **EUXCBR Meetup** - 25 attendees
- **Lighthouse Innovation** Export Awards Networking Evening - 30 attendees
- **Veracity Innovation** - 16 attendees



Image: AI CoLab event with OpenAI and Australian Chief Economist, held in CBRIN Event Space

Theme 3.2 Innovation Hub(s)

Objective: Deliver and grow coworking in the central innovation hub, work with others to connect their hubs into a network offering for entrepreneurs & innovators in Canberra and beyond.

Under this Theme / Objective CBRIN will:

- Deliver entrepreneur-focused subsidised coworking and office space for scale ups and SMEs, including community building activities as a fundamental building block of the Innovation Hub at Level 5, 1 Moore St, Canberra.
- Work with the ACT Government to grow availability of space within the 1 Moore Street and work with operators of other innovation hubs and precincts across in Canberra, including Foundation Members, to coordinate a connected offering for innovative entrepreneurs.

Outcome: Capacity and interactivity of diverse offerings that accommodate innovative companies in Canberra grows.

Coworking at Canberra Innovation Network

CBRIN's Coworking space is a thriving community of entrepreneurs, startups, researchers, innovators, scaleups, and SMEs. Located in the heart of Canberra's CBD, spanning two floors, CBRIN Coworking is dedicated to connecting and energising the innovation community.

CBRIN Coworking incorporates an open-plan coworking space on Level 5, with 112 full time desks and 26 community desks, and a ScaleUp and SME Hub on Level 4, with 21 furnished offices ranging in size from 4 person to 23-person capacity.

Offering “more than just a place to work”, CBRIN coworking residents have access to mentors, experts and events tailored to their needs. Coworking events are designed to activate and encourage the collaborative community across the 2 floors.

With access to meeting rooms, breakout spaces, shared kitchens and dining spaces, end-of-trip facilities, high speed internet with Wi-Fi coverage, printing facilities and support, as well as access to private mentorship, we aspire to create the perfect place to launch and grow an innovative business in Canberra.

Coworking is an integral part of the CBRIN pipeline, with coworking residents frequently participating in growth programs, events, and collaborative events as attendees, panel members, and mentors.

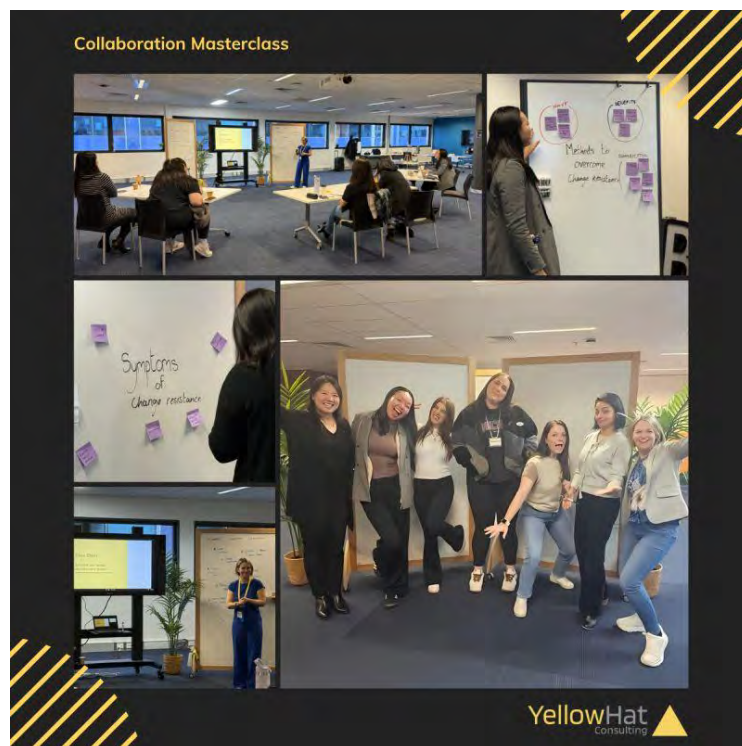


Image (from LinkedIn): Yellow Hat running a Collaboration Masterclass in the space

Key Achievements & Activities this Quarter

- 4 new companies / teams moved into the Level 4 ScaleUp Hub
- 8 events held for the community to encourage networking and collaboration, including connecting of communities on Levels 4 and 5
- The coworking newsletter has 181 active subscribers with an average open rate of 46.2%.
- As of 30 June 2025 there were: