

- 2 September 2025 - CBRIN hosted Defence Trailblazer (UNSW Canberra) board meeting
- 3 September 2025 - CBRIN hosted a stall for the ANU HDR Induction
- 4 September 2025 - CBRIN conducted a PVP pitch session, featuring Steering Committee members from ANU, UC, UNSW Canberra, and CIT
- 9 September 2025 - CBRIN attended the Chief Minister's Export Awards
- 15 September 2025 - CBRIN attended award ceremony for EIF grant, delivered by Suzanne Orr MLA and ACT Government CED
- 18 September 2025 - CBRIN ran the monthly PVP Steering Committee meeting, joined by members from ANU, UC, CIT, and UNSW Canberra
- 19 September 2025 - CBRIN team delivered workshop for UC mid-career researcher development (Ignite) program
- 19 September 2025 - CBRIN participated in ACT Government Business and Economic Development Consultative Forum - 19 September
- 24 September 2025 - CBRIN hosted a NFP Innovation Forum planning meeting, attended by ANU and UC representatives
- 24 September 2025 - CBRIN held Innovation forum 2025 with representatives from ACT Government, ANU, UC, UNSW, and CIT
- 25 September 2025 - CBRIN hosted Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting #29 with partner representatives from the ANU and Canberra Airport Group
- 30 September 2025 - CBRIN hosted a NFP Innovation Forum planning meeting, attended by ANU and UC representatives
- This quarter - The Prototyping Voucher Pilot Steering Committee met monthly with representatives from CBRIN, ANU, CIT, UC, and UNSW Canberra
- Early stage researcher & deep tech engagement:
 - ANU
 - o Arash Araghi
 - o Sophie Zhao
 - o Tirath & Sridivya
 - o Membrane Transporter Engineers



Image: photo of Extended Team meeting held at CIT Woden on 1 August 2025, with representatives from ACT Gov, ANU, CIT, CSIRO, BADJI, OIE, Dept Industry, Mill House Ventures

Methodology

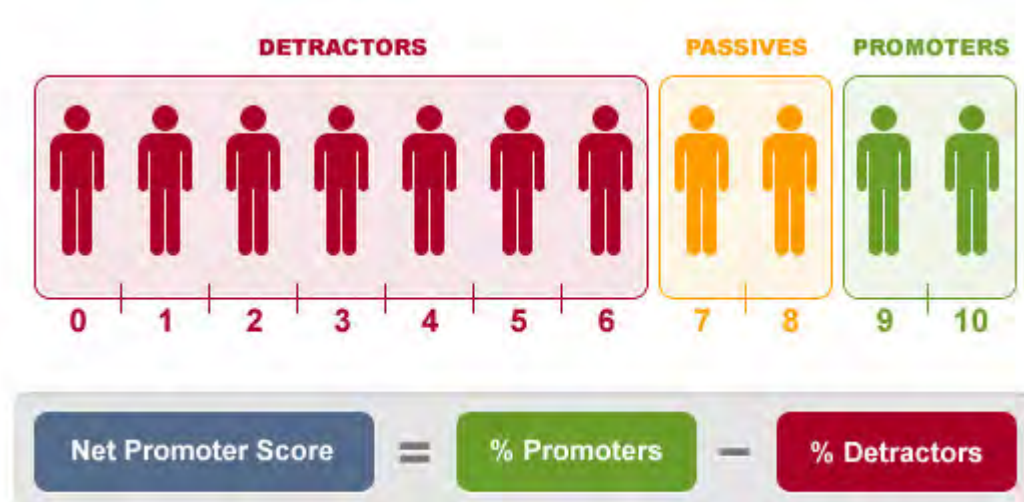
Participant Feedback

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 OCTOBER – 31 DECEMBER 2025

ABN: 90 601 492 826

SUPPORTED BY



ACT
Government





CANBERRA
INNOVATION
NETWORK

Quarterly Report Q2 2025-2026

Coworking



75 companies in CBRIN coworking

62 on Level 5 plus 13 on Level 4

76% Occupancy in the L4 ScaleUp Hub

241 active members, of which

97 Female members (40%)

1 Non-Binary members (1%)

77 CALD members (32%)

Events & Collaboration



69 events held this quarter

2,612 participants in those events,
of which

5 Collaborative innovation events

172 Participants in collab events

13 Sectors engaged through
collaborative innovation

Growth Programs



82 Intro Meetings

70 Total Ventures Assisted

34 of which beyond startup stage

122 Founder Sessions

273 Pipeline Event participants

50 Mentors active this quarter

Ecosystem highlights



\$27M capital inflow into the ecosystem (\$4.1M in companies)

818 registrations for the annual Innovation Showcase

22 shortlisted ICON applicants, 8 projects allocated funding of \$237,500.

MAJOR FUNDER, FOUNDATION MEMBERS, EDUCATION AND GOLD PARTNERS



“This was a fantastic event that brought together people from across Canberra who might not normally meet to discuss a topic they are all passionate and committed to. It was a great way to learn from others experiences, ground an approach in data, and explore the various ways we can contribute to tackling a big issue facing our community. It is definitely worth attending and I'll be going again for sure. – Sarah Walker, Not For Profit Innovation Forum

“The SME breakfast is the perfect opportunity to connect with other business peers in a low pressure, delicious environment. I made useful connections, discussed some big topics and was given some good wisdom from my table group. The more the merrier!” – Leah Collins (SME breakfast participant)

“Participating in the CBRIN Idea to Impact workshop program provided me with valuable insights, strategy and tools supporting my entrepreneurial journey. The workshop presenters are highly knowledgeable and engaging, and other workshop participants highly motivated to share their experience which is greatly beneficial to everyone. I highly recommend the CBRIN Idea to Impact Workshop Program to all founders seeking success in their path to innovation.”
– Natalie Emmett

“This forum was a genuinely valuable space for deep reflection and connection. It pushed me to think differently about loneliness, not as an individual issue, but as a structural challenge that requires shared responsibility. The mix of personal insight, practical tools, and cross-sector collaboration made it one of the most impactful community-focused events I have attended. I walked away with clarity, motivation, and a sense of collective purpose.”
– Sarah Ahmed, Not For Profit Innovation Forum

“Outstanding! I especially appreciated the course's practical focus and ability to provide information that could be quickly implemented. Terrific materials, facilitation, and presenting by the entire team.” – Justin Stanic

“It was one of the most well organised events I've been to with a great variety of the types of activities and ways to engage with new people and it was all helped by excellent facilitators who were passionate, articulate and eloquent.”
– Jess Wright, Not for Profit Innovation Forum

“It was incredible to hear from CBRIN, Swiss Embassy and Innosuisse, on r&d, innovation ecosystem development and pathway opportunities, which supports my confidence in discussion innovation, and innovating in the innovation space!”
– Anonymous, Swiss Innovation Mini-Hackathon on Trust

“Another excellent event from CBRIN, delivering tangible value to the innovation and start-up community!”
– Anonymous, Industrial Design and Prototyping Info Session

“Thanks again for your wonderful support through the ICON Grant. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to bring this project to life. Looking forward to catching up soon ”
– Helen Hoang, ICON recipient

WORKPLAN 2025-26

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: ECOSYSTEM PLACEMAKING

Operate ACT's central innovation hub with active linkages to a connected 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 Deliver and collaborate on events, initiatives and programs that introduce and enhance innovation capability and skills in the broader community.

Activities Innovation-focused educational, networking and introductory events

KPIs
12 outreach events
1 InnovationACT (all city competition)
400 participants

➤ 1.2 COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION

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

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

KPIs
12 events, 300 participations, 5 sectors

➤ 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.

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

➤ 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.

Activities Mill House support, Griffin Accelerator, Scale Up & SME Program, Mentor & investor network and targeted founder conversations

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

➤ 3.1 ECOSYSTEM ENGAGEMENT

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

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

KPIs 150 events, 5,000 participants, 20 stories, 4 events for under-represented, 1 showcase, 15 external engagements (reg., nat., int.)

➤ 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 operation, events, coordination w other hubs

KPIs
170+ co-workers in 50+ companies
20 connected events at hubs

CBRIN 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

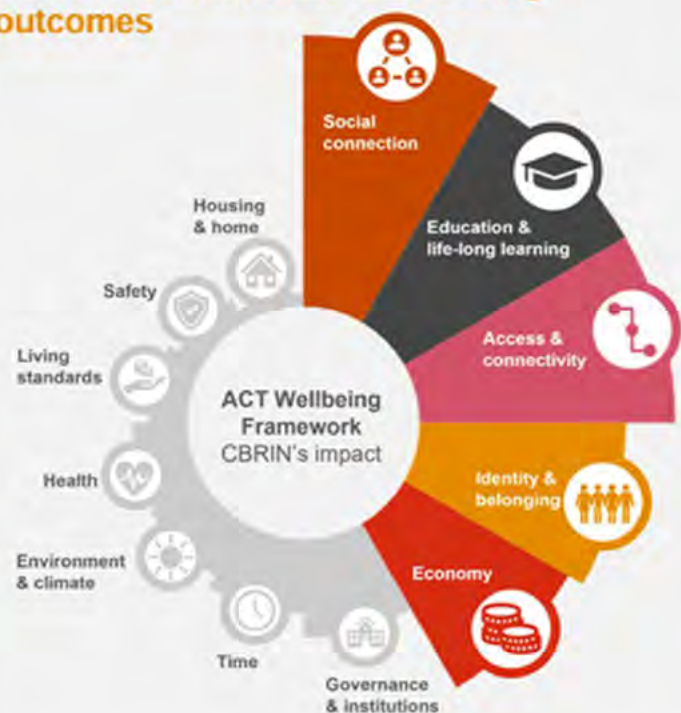
Think more commercially

Establish connections

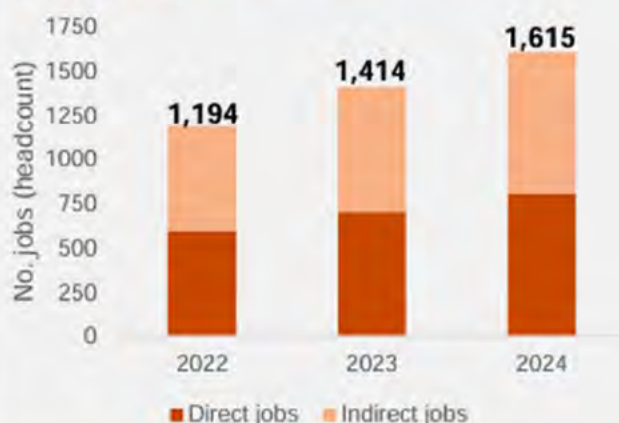
Ambition, purpose & vision

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 2025-26 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.

Q2 2025-26 Performance: Executive Summary

This reporting period covers the quarter from 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025.

The Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) maintained strong momentum throughout the quarter. The period was characterised by record-breaking engagement at major community events, the launch of key sector-specific programs and events, and a continued commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Key Performance Highlights

Innovation Hub & Coworking: As of 31 December 2025, CBRIN supported 75 companies and 241 active members across its facilities. The community remains diverse, with 40% female, 32% CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse), and 1% non-binary representation.

Events & Engagement: CBRIN delivered or hosted 69 events attracting 2,612 participants. A significant highlight was the November Innovation Showcase, which achieved a record 818 registrations (highest number of registrations to any event in CBRIN's eleven-year history), 41% of whom were new people to the network (never attended CBRIN event before).

Venture Support: The network directly assisted 70 ventures this quarter. Notably, 49% of these were beyond the startup stage and 11% were classified as deep tech, indicating a maturing ecosystem. The growth team held 88 intro meetings and 122 founder sessions.

Capital & Growth: This quarter we recorded announcements of over \$27 million in capital raised (\$4.1M in companies and \$23M in ACTivate Capital). Major new contracts were also secured by the ACT innovation ecosystem participants, including \$228 million by EOS and \$6.6 million by Cognitive Advantage.

Strategic Direction 1: Innovation Capacity & Collaboration

CBRIN delivered a total of 13 collaborative engagements reaching 444 participants, focusing on building entrepreneurial skills in sectors that do not traditionally identify as entrepreneurs and innovators.

Sector Partnerships: CBRIN launched the "Accelerating Canberra's Energy Transition" program, supported by the Energy Innovation Fund. This initiative coordinates partners across ANU, UC, UNSW Canberra, CIT, and the National Electric Vehicle Centre of Excellence to bolster the local energy innovation ecosystem.

Community Innovation: The inaugural Not-for-Profit Innovation Forum engaged 80 participants plus 20 across a collaborative alliance of organisers and supporters to address loneliness and strengthen community wellbeing through new collaborative partnerships.

Inclusive Entrepreneurship: CBRIN entered partnership with Navitas Skilled Futures to help with entrepreneurship pathways for CALD communities.

International Links: Collaborated with the Swiss Embassy for a Trust focused Hackathon and Awards Ceremony, celebrating innovative solutions in trustworthy AI.

Strategic Direction 2: Entrepreneurial Pipeline & Growth Through intensive programs and funding, CBRIN continues to nurture the next generation of high-growth businesses.

Innovation Connect (ICON) Grants: Eight ventures were awarded ICON grants this quarter, with \$237,500 in funds committed to support early-stage commercialisation and development.

GRIFFIN Accelerator: Eight teams completed the intensive three-month mentor-led program, with four (50%) of these teams led by women.

Mentorship: The mentor network remained highly active, with 50 mentors providing critical support to founders and assisting in investor-readiness activities.

Research Commercialisation: Facilitated strategic reviews for research spinouts, including a cross-team development day for an ANU spinout in advanced manufacturing.

Strategic Direction 3: Placemaking & Ecosystem Engagement

The network's role as Canberra's central innovation hub was reinforced through high-impact communication and physical infrastructure management.

Digital Reach: Social media engagement saw dramatic increases, with Instagram reach up 200.5% and LinkedIn engagement up 178.3% compared to previous periods. The weekly newsletter continues to reach over 11,000 contacts.

Events: The new format for the showcase with parallel streams and festival like atmosphere has seen a significant increase in interest and engagement. The showcase attracted over 300 people this quarter who have never been to a CBRIN First Wednesday Connect or Innovation showcase before. The showcase not only promoted some of the most exciting Canberra deep tech stories but also brought into one serial experience major events such as female founders, investor panel, creative panel and innovation ecosystem panel that

represented academia, government, business and community organisation views on the future of innovation and entrepreneurship in the ACT.

Facility Management: The Level 4 ScaleUp and SME Hub sat at 76% office occupancy, housing 13 companies focused on growth and scaling operations. Across both floors CBRIN had over 240 members engaging this quarter.

Conclusion: By exceeding activity targets and fostering deep collaborations between universities, government, and industry, CBRIN is well-positioned to deliver a record year of impact for the ACT innovation ecosystem. We remain focused on diversifying the pipeline of entrepreneurs and facilitating how Canberra's research excellence is translated into economic and social value that benefits people of the ACT.

Dashboard 2025-26

Theme	Unit	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	Target
INNOVAT. SKILLS	1.1 Events	7	4			11	12
	1.1 Participants	594	148			742	400
	1.1 InnovationACT	1	0			1	1
COLLABORATION	1.2 Events	6	5			11	12
	1.2 Participants	227	172			399	300
	1.2 Sectors engaged (unique)	16	13			29	5**
PIPELINE	2.1 Participants	306	273			579	200
	2.1 Intro Meetings	99	82			181	150
	2.1 ICON Rounds	0	1			1	2
	2.1 ICON Funds Deployed (\$)***	0	\$237k			\$237k	\$400k
	2.1 ICON Grantees	0	8			8	14
GROWTH	2.2 Ventures Assisted	54	70			100**	40
	2.2 Founder Sessions	142	122			264	90
	2.2 Engaged Mentors	51	50			64**	30
ENGAGEMENT	3.1 Events	98	69			167	150
	3.1 Participants	3,059	2,612			5,671	5,000
	3.1 Stories	12	5			17	20
	3.1 Events for under-represented	2	2			4	4
	3.1 Showcase	0	1			1	1
	3.1 External engagement	25	16			41	15
INNOVATION HUBS	3.2 Coworkers	256	241			256*	170
	3.2 Companies	91	75			91*	50
	3.2 Events at innovation hubs	16	15			31	20

*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. ***The number may be shortened presentation purposes, e.g. \$237,500 shown as \$237k.

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.

CBRIN works with Foundation Members and partners to participate in and co-deliver innovation and entrepreneurship events and activations with the aim to reach more broadly into the community and make innovation more accessible and relatable.

This involves events for people who don't identify as entrepreneurs, including from under-represented groups. The activity formats include introductory innovation skill workshops and outreach presentations, 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 institutions and government agencies but also corporates, industry associations, schools and community organisations are targeted through these activities to introduce innovation more broadly.

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

Overview

In Q2 2025-26 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
TEDxCanberra Innovation Alley stallholder	18 Oct	80
ANU ARC Centre of Excellence for Transformative Meta-Optical Systems Strategy Day participant	3 Nov	15
Canberra AI -Producing AI Capability workshop co-hosted by Trellis Data & Harshil Siyani	26 Nov	24
13 th Natural Convection Workshop hosted by UNSW	1 Dec	29
TOTAL	4 events	148 participants

Selected Overview of Events

This section provides more details on selected events in this section.

TEDxCanberra Innovation Alley Stallholder

18 October 2025, National Film & Sound Archive, 80 participants engaged

CBRIN was invited to be a stallholder in Innovation Alley during the annual TEDxCanberra festival and showcase events, programs and opportunities to the audience of 80 participants.



Image: CBRIN team at TEDxCanberra event

Canberra AI

Producing AI Capability workshop co-hosted by Trellis Data & Harshil Siyani

26 November 2025, Canberra Museum & Art Gallery, 24 participants

CBRIN was invited to be a supporter of Canberra AI's Producing AI Capability workshop alongside Trellis Data (Cheng Yu) and Newscorp (Harshil Siyani). This workshop covered how organisations can use AI, and CBRIN exposed the participants to the opportunities in the innovation community.



Image: Canberra AI Producing AI Capability Workshop

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.

CBRIN works with its Foundation Members and other education and research providers, government, corporates, industry, non-government organisations and industry associations to initiate and support customised open and collaborative innovation events and programs that leverage modern innovation methods and strengthen triple helix linkages and collaboration. This includes a structured peer support groups and events, such as meetups, collab-labs, co-design sessions, hackathons, innovation challenges, prototyping support, competitions and activations helping people, organisations and entire sectors address key challenges through collaborative innovation, engaging our innovation sector capabilities, generating a pipeline for other programs and building connections and momentum within ACT key sectors. The activity will include development of an innovation ecosystem map to identify elements and visualise support networks.

Horizontally, under this objective, CBRIN also supports, initiates, hosts and co-delivers events and engagements that contribute to collaborations and solutions that target any of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Outcomes: More collaborative activities in sectors that matter to Canberra's economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

Overview - Collaborative engagements

In Q2 2025-26 CBRIN delivered a range of collaborative innovation activities.

Collaborative engagements	Date	Attendance
Industrial Design & Prototyping Voucher Info Session	15 October	30
Swiss Embassy Mini-Hackathon & Information Session	16 October, 21 October	19

The Gathering by Changeforge	20 November	43
Not-For-Profit Innovation Forum	2 December	80
Total	5 events	172

Sectors engaged: 10 (advanced manufacturing/prototyping, industrial design, education (tertiary), international partnerships, technology/AI, policy, not-for-profit/philanthropy, social innovation, community sector, co-design)

Industrial Design & Prototyping Voucher Info Session

15 October 2025, 30 Participants, CBRIN: River Oak Room Level 4

CBRIN delivered a combined information session and capacity-building workshop on industrial design and prototyping, led by Ashley Marsh-Croft. The session opened with an overview of the \$10,000 prototyping vouchers available through the pilot program, including eligibility criteria and application requirements, before transitioning into a practical workshop on product development approaches.

The workshop covered core design principles and common development frameworks, guiding participants through prototyping approaches with emphasis on testing assumptions, managing risk, and selecting appropriate prototype fidelity. Ashley demonstrated various prototypes he had developed, using them to illustrate different design choices and the thinking behind each project decision.

Following the session, several participants booked project coordinator meetings and submitted voucher applications, demonstrating the workshop's effectiveness in connecting innovators with practical prototyping support.

Testimonials:

"Another excellent event from CBRIN, delivering tangible value to the innovation and start-up community!" – Anonymous, Industrial Design and PVP Info Session

"Speaker was excellent. Very knowledgeable & informative. His process helped me to think in more detail than I had previously, and to clarify my path forward." – Pete Wallace, Industrial Design and PVP Info Session

Swiss Embassy Mini-Hackathon & Information Session

16 October, 21 October 2025, 19 Participants, Online and CBRIN: River Oak Room Level 4

CBRIN partnered with the Embassy of Switzerland to deliver a two-part innovation program exploring trust in technology. An online pre-hack information session introduced the trust theme and challenge areas while providing space for participants to clarify ideas and form teams ahead of the main event.

The half-day mini-hackathon brought student teams from Canberra's tertiary institutions together for an intensive innovation sprint. Teams worked through problem definition, ideation and pitch development with support from expert mentors. The winning team addressed AI implementation in schools through a secure, teacher-led system operating within local school networks to ensure reliability while preventing misuse. They were subsequently invited to the Swiss Embassy to present their concept again as part of their prize. The collaboration strengthened international partnerships while activating student

innovation around trust challenges, demonstrating how collaborative methods can bridge education, government and industry perspectives on emerging technology issues.



Image: The judges and the winning hackathon team with their certificates and Swiss Embassy hats

Testimonials:

"Great event! Facilitation was just right with an inspirational start to the event, then collaboration time at a very nice office, access to CBRIN team to brainstorm and get a mentor's feedback and of course an opportunity to present an idea that we came up with was great. It was truly empowering because we managed to create a team and collaborate effectively not having met each other before and not even being the brightest SMEs on the topic - rather we focused on finding a topic area in the middle of our circles of knowledge. ... Just a massive thank you for you organising this event" – Anastasia Makshakova, Swiss Innovation Mini-Hackathon

"It was incredible to hear from CBRIN, Swiss Embassy and Innosuisse, on r&d, innovation ecosystem development and pathway opportunities, which supports my confidence in discussion innovation, and innovating in the innovation space!" – Anonymous, Swiss Innovation Mini-Hackathon

"The speaker was excellent and highly relevant to the hackathon. It was great to have an in-depth background session before the actual event. Since this is a mini hackathon, the schedule felt a bit rushed, and there wasn't much time for self-introductions beforehand. ... The event was very well set up and well executed. With a small group participating, we had good access to resources, mentors, and guidance throughout the day. ... A special mention to Kate, one of the facilitators—she did an amazing job helping us develop our ideas. I know she's new, so please pass on this recognition to motivate her. ... Loved the hackathon! Stepping out of my comfort zone to come up with ideas and pitch them was nerve-wracking, but the mentors made it such a supportive and fun experience.

... I'd love to get involved in more events like this in the future!" - Harriet Huynh, Swiss Innovation Mini-Hackathon

The Gathering by Changeforge

20 November 2025, 43 Participants, CBRIN: Levels 4 & 5

CBRIN hosted The Gathering, a full-day conference for Australia's collaborative co-design community. The event activated both Level 4 and 5 to accommodate a participant-led program of workshops, speaker sessions, case studies and collaborative conversations about designing change in complex systems.

Participants included designers, facilitators, policymakers, community leaders, creative practitioners and social innovators working across climate, technology, inequality and governance challenges. CBRIN CEO, Petr Adámek and others shared insights on innovation ecosystem building, practical co-design methods, accessibility-conscious program design, and change-management frameworks. The event demonstrated how bringing diverse expertise together can shift systems and reshape thinking. The cross-sector nature of participants strengthened connections across disciplines, with the co-design community showing deep commitment to growing their practice through sharing perspectives and testing ideas. The Gathering reinforced collaborative innovation's role in creating lasting change across Canberra's social, environmental and economic landscape. It was an opportunity for a variety of like-minded co-design experts to share their experiences, tools, and stories in an effort to connect and collaborate rather than compete.



Image: The Gathering - full day innovation design (un)conference held in CBRIN

Not-For-Profit Innovation Forum

2 December 2025, 80 Participants, University of Canberra: Ann Harding Conference Centre

CBRIN partnered with Hands Across Canberra, the University of Canberra and a coalition of sector, research and government partners to deliver the inaugural Not-for-Profit Collaborative Innovation Forum. The forum brought together community organisations, funders, researchers and innovators to build innovation capability in the NFP sector, with loneliness selected as the first annual challenge theme.

The program combined expert presentations, experiential demonstrations and facilitated workshops grounded in local evidence and lived experience. Participants worked across diverse disciplines, unpacking key challenges around collaboration and coordination in the sector. They developed practical solutions, new partnerships, and innovative delivery pathways. The forum demonstrated how structured cross-sector collaboration can address systemic social challenges while strengthening community wellbeing and sector capability across the ACT.



Image: A presentation and resilience walk during the Not-For-Profit innovation forum hosted at UC

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 Milestone 4 & Steering Committee Meetings	23 October, 13 November, 8 December	20
Swiss Innovation Prize & Hackathon Awards Ceremony	23 October	60
ACT Government Climate Leadership Forum & Workshop	27 October, 11 November	46
GovHack Awards Ceremony	11 November	15
City & Environment Directorate Networking Night	19 November	60
RenewMap Energy Capital 2.0 Networking Night	27 November	50
Prototyping Voucher Pitch Session	4 December	11
Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting #30	11 December	10
Total*	11 events	272

Sectors engaged: 9 (advanced manufacturing/prototyping, research institutions, government, international partnerships, climate/environment, civic tech/open data, sustainable business, energy/clean tech, innovation intermediaries) *Event and participation numbers not counted under 1.2, only unique sectors engaged

Milestone 4 and Prototyping Voucher Steering Committee Meetings

23 October, 13 November, 8 December 2025, 20 Participants Total, CBRIN: Level 5 & Online

The Prototyping Voucher Pilot Steering Committee maintained strong collaborative governance through three quarterly meetings. October's meeting reviewed information session outcomes and processed new applications. November evaluated pitch presentations and refined assessment criteria based on program insights. December focused on pitch session outcomes, newly awarded vouchers, overall progress, and 2026 planning, including an Industrial Design Expert-in-Residence session for Q3. This structured approach has strengthened partnerships between ANU, UC, CIT and UNSW Canberra, creating shared understanding of distributed prototyping capabilities across the ACT while ensuring the program evolves to meet innovation needs.

Swiss Innovation Prize & Hackathon Awards Ceremony

23 October 2025, 60 Participants, Swiss Embassy

CBRIN attended and supported the Swiss Innovation Prize Awards Ceremony at the Swiss Embassy, celebrating innovative mindsets across Switzerland and Australia. The event recognised outstanding student work exploring trust themes through the Embassy's essay competition delivered with ANU.

The ceremony celebrated the winners of the Swiss Essay Prize and the Trust Innovation Hackathon delivered by CBRIN and the Swiss Embassy. Awards were presented by the Ambassador of Switzerland to Australia, Mr Nikolas Stürchler. The winning hackathon team re-pitched their trustworthy AI solution for schools, presenting a concept designed to operate within secure local networks while supporting teachers and preventing misuse. CBRIN's role in delivering the hackathon and strengthening ongoing collaboration with the Swiss Embassy was recognised, reinforcing the value of international partnerships in collaborative innovation. The Hackathon and subsequent networking opportunities at the awards ceremony created new relationships between CBRIN and the student entrepreneur community, providing pathways for future engagement.



Image: CBRIN team, Ambassador of Switzerland to Australia Mr Nikolas Stürchler and embassy team, and the winning Hackathon team at the awards

ACT Government Climate Leadership Forum & Business Workshop

27 October, 11 November 2025, 46 Participants, ACT Government Innovation Centre and Online

CBRIN facilitated the ACT Government Climate Leadership Forum, bringing together public sector leaders, researchers, community organisations and climate practitioners to launch stakeholder engagement for the ACT's next Climate Change Strategy. Minister Suzanne Orr opened the forum, which combined expert insights, panel discussion and facilitated dialogue exploring how innovation, collaboration and sector-focused pathways can accelerate climate ambitions. Discussion highlighted Canberra's advantages as a small, nimble jurisdiction, opportunities for non-competitive collaboration, circular economy initiatives, and government levers for coordinated climate action.

Building on the forum, CBRIN delivered a targeted online Business Workshop exploring business engagement in climate action. The small-group format enabled deeper discussion of innovation partnerships, green procurement, and practical government support for

businesses transitioning to net zero. Together, these sessions strengthened cross-sector connections and generated actionable input for the ACT's climate strategy, demonstrating collaborative innovation's role in addressing complex environmental challenges.



Image: Leadership forum panel discussion

GovHack Awards

11 November 2025, 15 Participants, CBRIN: Level 4 Open Plan Area

CBRIN hosted the ACT GovHack Awards Ceremony, bringing the local GovHack community together to celebrate teams using open government data to tackle real-world challenges. The event recognised participant creativity and effort while reinforcing open data's value as an enabler for citizen-led digital innovation. Sponsored by technology consultant Vivanti, the ACT regional awards focused on Optimising Transport Networks for School Kids. Winning projects showcased practical, data-driven solutions from Canberra-based and interstate teams. CBRIN engaged with Govhack participants throughout the evening and connected with the Vivanti team to discuss how the promising concepts the Hack gave rise to. The ceremony strengthened connections between innovators, sponsors, and the public sector, supporting collaborative innovation and open-data problem solving in the ACT.

City & Environment Directorate Networking Night

19 November 2025, 60 Participants, Verity Lane

CBRIN co-hosted the Sustainable Business Networking Night with the ACT Government's City and Environment Directorate and the Industry Capability Network, connecting Canberra's sustainable business community with innovation and transition support. Around 60 business leaders, SMEs, innovators, and support organisations gathered in a relaxed setting to connect, reflect on the year, and discuss future opportunities.

Bluebell Sustainable Business Award winners shared their sustainability journeys, blending storytelling with informal networking. CBRIN's team presence, supported by promotional

materials and banners, connected businesses with practical resources across the energy transition, including CBRIN's energy innovation fund grant project. Attendees were also informed of the free CBRIN SME Accelerator tickets available to energy innovation businesses. Overall, the night reinforced CBRIN's role in supporting business capability development for Canberra's sustainable economy.



Image: Participants networking at Verity Lane

RenewMap Energy Capital 2.0 Networking Night

27 November 2025, 50 Participants, The Assembly Pub

CBRIN partnered with RenewMap to support Energy Capital 2.0, an informal networking night connecting Canberra's clean energy and sustainability community. The event brought together professionals from startups, research institutions, consultancies, government and industry, creating space for open conversation and relationship-building around the ACT's energy transition. CBRIN used the event to strengthen connections within the energy innovation community and build relationships relevant to the forthcoming Accelerate Canberra's Energy Transition program. The relaxed format supported meaningful discussion on shared challenges and opportunities, reinforcing sector collaboration and building a pipeline of partners and participants for future energy innovation activities.



Image: RenewMap Energy Capital 2.0 Networking Event

Prototyping Voucher Pitch Session

4 December 2025, 11 Participants (6 applicants + 5 Steering Committee), CBRIN Level 4

CBRIN hosted a pitch session for the Prototyping Voucher Pilot where six innovation projects presented their prototyping needs to the Steering Committee. Projects spanned racing wheelchair fitting systems, physiotherapy models for physiotherapy training, sustainable building materials, automated flytraps, and gardening gloves for a circular economy. Three projects received vouchers, with two more conditionally approved pending confirmation from the partner institutions that they can be accommodated. The session highlighted strong demand for prototyping support and reinforced the program's role in accelerating product development across the ACT innovation ecosystem.

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting #30

11 December 2025, 10 Participants, CBRIN: Level 4

CBRIN's 30th Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting focused on strategic ecosystem development opportunities. The committee reviewed Level 5 facility upgrades, potential service expansion through UNSW Reid, and recruitment for new program officers. Discussion centred on activating 1 Moore Street's ground floor (~1,800 sqm) as Canberra's public innovation interface. Members provided input on creating an accessible space serving three purposes: acting as Canberra's innovation gateway, providing neutral government-industry engagement infrastructure, and activating citizens who are curious but not yet engaged with the innovation network. The committee's insights will inform the business case for this significant expansion of collaborative innovation capacity.

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	Attendances
PVP Project Coordinator Meetings	Various dates	6 meetings (1:1)
Navitas Skilled Futures x CBRIN Partnership Meeting	10 November	3
Accelerate Canberra's Energy Transition	4 December	4
Not-for-Profit Innovation Forum Debrief & Planning	17 December	11
Total*	4 initiatives	24

Sectors engaged*: 8 (prototyping/advanced manufacturing, innovation support, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, inclusive entrepreneurship, not-for-profit/philanthropy, social innovation, community sector, energy transition) *not counted in 1.2 numbers

Prototyping Voucher Project Coordinator Meetings

Various dates, October, November, December 2025, 6 Meetings, Online and in-person

CBRIN's PVP Project Coordinator conducted six consultations throughout the quarter with prospective applicants and voucher recipients. These meetings provided guidance on

application requirements, connected innovators with technical experts, and monitored project progress. The consultations generated multiple applications, with three vouchers approved or pending approval. Further applications are expected following the Industrial Design Expert-in-Residence session in early 2026, which will connect the innovation community with specialist expertise from partner institutions.

Navitas Skilled Futures x CBRIN Partnership Meeting

10 November 2025, 3 Participants, Navitas Skilled Futures: Civic

CBRIN met with Navitas Skilled Futures to progress a partnership focused on inclusive entrepreneurship. Discussion explored connecting Navitas's education, language and workforce programs for culturally and linguistically diverse communities with CBRIN's innovation ecosystem, creating pathways into entrepreneurship and mentoring programs. Partners will circulate an expression of interest to the Navitas cohort to understand engagement preferences, with feedback informing a CBRIN workshop for the cohort in 2026. The collaboration establishes shared commitment to access, capability building and inclusive participation for groups underrepresented in the innovation network.

Accelerate Canberra's Energy Transition

4 December 2025, 4 Participants, Online

CBRIN secured Energy Innovation Fund support to deliver the Accelerating Canberra's Energy Transition program through January 2027. The program comprises four thematic workshops, a zero-emissions technology hackathon, business support services, and an innovation showcase.

Workshop venues are confirmed at CBRIN and partner facilities, with the first electrification session scheduled for March 2026. Project partners from ANU, UC, UNSW Canberra, CIT and the National Electric Vehicle Centre of Excellence have been briefed, and ACT Government EIF representatives engaged on upcoming activities. Planning begins in January for the electrification workshop, which will convene researchers, industry and government stakeholders around key policy areas. The hackathon at UC's Ann Harding Conference Centre is coordinated with NEVCE for April 2026. The business support component provided two free SME accelerator tickets this quarter for energy innovation businesses and will continue in 2026.

Not-for-Profit Innovation Forum Debrief & Planning

17 December 2025, 11 Participants, Online

CBRIN, Hands Across Canberra, Millhouse Ventures, the Snow Foundation, Running for Resilience, and ANU's McCusker Institute debriefed the successful Not-for-Profit Innovation Forum and planned 2026 activities. Partners confirmed commitment to building innovation capability in the community sector through ongoing collaboration. Work will commence on an executive summary and follow-on activities, strengthening partnerships, and designing future forums that align research, industry and community needs. The group explored potential 2026 themes, including hunger and homelessness. The meeting celebrated the forum's success and the shared values underpinning it. The partnership will continue going forward to address community challenges through structured cross-sector collaboration and innovation.

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 objective CBRIN collaborates on and delivers events and engagements that inspire entrepreneurs (including those in Foundation Member institutions). Specifically, we:

- deliver workshop programs that strengthen entrepreneurial skills and grow participants' capacity to build or contribute to innovation and high growth companies.
- conduct introductory meetings with entrepreneurs and triage them into other programs, connect them to mentors and sources of funding and support.
- attract 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.
- seek partnerships that can help activate and support a pipeline of innovations addressing any of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Outcomes: Strong and diverse dealflow of quality participants apply to growth stage initiatives in the ACT.

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
ICON Group Meeting	2 October	28	-

Workshop / Event	Date	Attendance	Net Promoter Score
Lunch & Learn: Understanding the R&D Tax Incentive	13 November	15	-
Idea to Impact Workshop 2	15 October	20	29%
Idea to Impact Workshop 3	12 November	23	100%
Idea to Impact Workshop 4	3 December	19	100%
Office Hours at AIE GamePlus	22 October	8	-
CSIRO ON Prime 18, Session 3 – 4	2 October, 16 October	20	-
CSIRO ON Prime Session 5 Showcase	30 October	100	-
Female Founders – part of Canberra’s Innovation Showcase program	5 November	40	-
Total	10 events	273	76%

Note: NPS does not indicate a percentage of people who were satisfied with the event. In fact, all of them could be satisfied. It indicates so called promotability (how likely are the attendees going to promote the event to others). The event testimonials provide a qualitative evaluation of the event from participants’ perspectives. NPS can also fluctuate widely if there are low responses. For more information, refer to the last page of this report for more information on how NPS is calculated.

Lunch & Learn: Understanding the R&D Tax Incentive

13 November 2025, 15 participants

CBRIN hosted Noel Gerahty from the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) to help navigate the R&D Tax Incentive program. The event saw Noel presenting to attendees what the program was, what qualifies for the program, real-world success stories, how to effectively apply and the common pitfalls that they’ve seen companies fall into. The session also featured a Q&A format, where participants asked specific questions to help them best navigate the program and understand the benefits.



Image: Lunch and Learn: Understanding the R&D Tax Incentive

Idea to Impact Workshop Series

Idea to Impact Workshop 2: 15 October 2025, 20 participants, NPS 29% (7 responses)

The Idea to Impact Workshop Series continued this quarter. This workshop focused on "Value Proposition and Pitching" where participants further clarified and developed their value proposition through lean startup methods including value proposition canvas and continuing to work on customer conversations. They also developed a pitch using our lean pitch canvas tool.



Image: Idea to Impact Workshop 2

A week following Workshop 2, CBRIN held an accountability session for participants of the program to reflect on the past week of progress, counting customer conversations, sharing wins and challenges, and connecting with the rest of the cohort with any asks they may have.

Idea to Impact Workshop 3: 12 November 2025, 23 participants, NPS 100% (4 responses)

Workshop 3 focussed on driving growth. The workshop started with business model design paying attention to price discovery and understanding unit economics and business viability. Participants developed a growth roadmap including marketing, sales, metrics interactive activities.



Image: Idea to Impact Workshop 3

Idea to Impact Workshop 4: 3 December 2025, 19 participants, NPS 100% (2 responses)

Workshop 4 focussed on funding options and investor pitching. The workshop started with big impact story activity, then an in-depth interactive session on how equity investing works and what investors may be looking for. The session ended with participants designing and practicing an investor pitch.



Image: Idea to Impact Workshop 4

Testimonials:

"Outstanding! I especially appreciated the course's practical focus and ability to provide information that could be quickly implemented. Terrific materials, facilitation, and presenting by the entire team." - Justin Stanic

"Dear team, thank you so passionately helping Ken Behrens thrive! The workshop was inspiring, practical & motivational. It was also facilitated in a way that helped us connect with the presenters and with other attendees. Thank you!" - Anastasia Makshakova

"Participating in the CBRIN Idea to Impact workshop program provided me with valuable insights, strategy and tools supporting my entrepreneurial journey. The workshop presenters are highly knowledgeable and engaging, and other workshop participants highly motivated to share their experience which is greatly beneficial to everyone. I highly recommend the CBRIN Idea to Impact Workshop Program to all founders seeking success in their path to innovation." - Natalie Emmett

Office Hours at AIE GamePlus

22 October 2025, 8 participants

The CBRIN growth team visited the AIE GamePlus incubation space to provide knowledge and experience to any interested teams in the space. The CBRIN team met with 4 GamePlus teams (8 individuals total across the 4 teams) to discuss their specific projects and games, and had in-depth conversations on a range of topics, including: go-to-market strategies; focus; and how to pitch their unique value propositions (whether that be to investors or through real markets like Steam).

CSIRO ON Prime

ON Prime 18

This quarter, CBRIN continued to be a part of the facilitation team for ON Prime 18 sessions 3-5, and 2 more coaching sessions delivered.

The teams include 4 teams from Canberra (3 ANU and 1 UC), covering space instrumentation, AI small language models, novel energy production techniques and software-enabled systems thinking tools.

The program concluded with an in-person Session 5 showcase in Sydney, with 100 people in attendance. The OpenSI team from University of Canberra received the Facilitator's prize.

Testimonials:

"Irene was approachable, knowledgeable, and was great at seeing what we wanted out of the program (which isn't millions of dollars of investment) and met us where we were at."

"This program was great in helping researchers think critically about how to transfer knowledge into real-world applications."



Image: ON Prime Showcase in Sydney



Image: Collage of images from ON Prime Showcase in Sydney

Female Founders

There have been 1,969 registrations for 35 Female Founders events since 24 March 2020.

Female Founders | Canberra Innovation Showcase

5 November 2025, 40 attendees

This edition of Female Founders was hosted as part of the Canberra Innovation Showcase on 5 November, which featured Megan Gilmour (Cofounder MissingSchool and 2025 ACT Australian of the Year) and Hala Batainah (CBRIN Chair) as a facilitator. The panel explored the Megan's journey in founding and building MissingSchool, covering lessons learnt and growth.



Image: Photo of the Female Founders panel - Megan Gilmour & Hala Batainah

Intro Meetings

82 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:

"It was great - got the idea instantly even though it is niche. Lots of interesting opportunities. Could have heard more about funding - seeing as it's a fairly developed concept, and I can see some additional funding opportunities on the site, although that's not an issue really :)"
– Angus Mitchell

"I have already suggested a fellow entrepreneur/innovator get in contact with the Network Team. James provided invaluable assistance, and I am looking forward to working with CBRIN." – Kim Lowrie, Play Lunch

"Shashank was great to talk to. I definitely have a much better understanding of what CBRIN is all about now." – Austin Reid

"Really friendly and practical - approachable people / very welcoming and informed about different support that is available." – Steph Waddon, Sandesa Pty Ltd

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 on 21 July and closed on 9 October 2025.
- A Last-Minute Group Intro Meeting was held on 2 October for those that were unable to book an intro meeting in time to apply before the cutoff date. There were 28 participants.
- 105 applicants were invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI). A total of 70 EOIs were received, with 70 being eligible applications.
- The Independent Panel for this round:
 - o Belinda Newham, Founder of Decision Revolution, Partner at Parbery
 - o Tina McIntosh, Founder & Managing Director of BOOST Health Labs
 - o Colin Anstie, Mentor, Founder & CEO of RD Consulting
 - o Tim Matthis, Mentor, Investor, Co-Founder of AI in Australia
- Of the 70 EOIs, 22 were selected by the independent panel to be on the shortlist to pitch before the judges.

- Pitch Day was held on Level 4 / 1 Moore Street in the Canberra Innovation Network ScaleUp Hub. 22 applicants pitched their projects, and the panel chose 8 projects to allocate funding for a total of \$237,500.

Company	Funding Amount (\$)
Capital Shield Capital Shield is a Canberra-based AI startup transforming how Australia's leaders prepare for crisis. Capital Shield uses AI-driven simulation to recreate complex, fast-moving environments, helping organisations rehearse strategy, coordination, and response.	30,000
Cox Coach Cox Coach is the world's first online training platform for coxswains adopting a B2B model through working directly with rowing programs to solve one of their biggest problems.	30,000
Clipper Aeronautics Flight testing a subscale model to finalise the design for a <500kg Autonomous Aerial Firefighting Vehicle and subsequently, attract investors based on progress achieved.	30,000
Economics for Kids / EconTech EconTech (Economics for Kids - The Games) is a research-based, tech-led platform built on Amazon Best Selling children's books on money and saving by Dr Helen Hoang, an experienced economist and author, turning proven lessons into interactive games and dashboards for families and schools.	30,000
High-E Photonics: High-E Photonics is developing highly efficient laser driver systems that will enable reliable, cost-effective fusion energy and unlock pathways to clean power at industrial scale.	30,000
Neylo Neylo is a platform purpose built for sport, allowing athletes to showcase their skilfulness and scouts to use AI powered tools to find and recruit talent in minutes - revolutionising sport recruitment across Australia.	27,500
Soret Technologies Pty Ltd Redefining water treatment: a new resource recovery method for fresh water and valuable materials.	30,000
Xync Patented augmented reality synchronisation technology that transforms any museum exhibit or invisible live performance into an interactive experience by perfectly aligning streaming video with ambient audio through smartphones, revolutionising how millions engage with culture globally.	30,000

Grant acquittals this quarter

4 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	Participants reported
Aratherm Developing a Heat Battery Web-App that will be a free and accessible 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 (150°C-600°C).	April 2025	The app is now an integral part of the sales and marketing process, typically to demonstrate the potential value of electric heat to their use case and location, and to demonstrate that Aratherm has the internal capability to complete detailed analysis. Industry thought leaders are using the app as part of their presentations at events. European markets have shown interest in a version for European markets. Demonstrations to ARENA (of the app and Aratherm's broader IP and process) were of particular interest and Aratherm is in continued discussion with ARENA for development funding to pursue more detailed feasibility and development work for potential customers.
Clubland Australia (For Future's Sake Pty Ltd) Building digital clubhouses for sports clubs to better connect players to the club and the club to the community.	April 2025	Business growth: • Maintained 5 active clubs with consistent engagement and zero churn • Advanced partnership negotiations with Netball Queensland and Rugby ACT, representing potential access to 150+ clubs Platform development: • Successfully completed v2.0 framework transition from v1.0 multi-tenant WordPress to headless CMS architecture • Implemented Next.js/React frontend with GraphQL API layer • Established Azure cloud infrastructure foundation (App Service, CDN, Azure Front Door) • Resolved critical WordPress performance bottlenecks through architectural redesign • Built foundation for scalable growth targeting 50+ clubs through new architecture

Company	ICON Round	Participants reported
		Technical validation: • Coaches Reports successfully deployed and in active use with two pilot clubs • v2.0 architecture validated through real-world testing and customer usage • Performance improvements confirmed through elimination of previous platform constraints
Meos Meos is 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.	April 2025	With this funding we contracted a full-time engineer that relocated from Brisbane, they were able to uplift dramatically and understand the project. We are now at the point of raising pre-seed and having this contractor on board with equity for Meos Labs as another founder.
Pawl Developing a digital platform that keeps vets connected with pets beyond the clinic.	April 2025	We were admitted into the Griffin Accelerator 14 cohort, which has been a fantastic experience. We have Ken Kroeger on our advisory board, and Anne-Marie Perret, Adah Janiszewski and Tim Hirst as Griffin Mentors. We have a developer onboard as our first hire, and significant enquiries from vet clinics in Australia and overseas to start offering Pawl plans to their staff. We have given numerous presentations in Australia, both in person and virtually, about Pawl as well as several media interviews such as this one: https://www.vetpracticemag.com.au/pawl-ai-connecting-vets-with-pets/

ICON Testimonials:

Without this grant we would not have been able to fund the development of our tool, and we are incredibly grateful for the ecosystem of advice and support we also received. It made a massive difference in our journey.” - Harriet Farlow, Mileva Security Labs

“The ICON grant allowed us to accelerate development of our prototype and complete initial feasibility assessment. This then allowed us to raise an Angel round and obtain a government grant.” - Chaturica Athukorala, AURA box

“It gave us liquidity during the raising capital phase, which allowed us to accelerate our growth, thus strengthening our position and receiving a better outcome.” - Liam King, Haast

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 70 ventures were assisted by CBRIN growth programs. This includes companies shortlisted for or receiving ICON Grants, GRIFFIN Accelerator, SME Accelerator, Scaleup Program, investor connections and important 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. Startup is slightly higher this quarter due to ICON grant shortlisted applicants.

Eleven (16%) of the ventures currently engaged are in the “deep tech” category, with significant intellectual property from research. 34 (49%), out of the 70 assisted this quarter are ventures beyond startup stage.

Distribution of Active Companies (by Category)	#	%
Startups	36	51%
Early Growth: 100k to 1m raised, or 3+ FTE and innovation driven	12	17%
Small business 3 - 20 FTE and innovation potential	14	20%
Scaleup: Innovation-driven and >1m raised, or 20+ FTE employees	8	11%
Total ventures assisted this quarter	70	

The Mill House Ventures Limited

The Mill House Ventures plays a crucial role in nurturing and sustaining the social enterprise ecosystem in the Canberra region. As a social enterprise accelerator, business advisory and innovation hub, we provide the programs and activities, infrastructure, guidance, and networks necessary for mission-driven entrepreneurs to thrive.

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

- **Snow Foundation**

Snow Foundation have advised increase of their financial support and become a TMHV Funding Partner for 2025-26 through to 2027-28.

- **ACT Social Enterprise Grant**

*TMHV and the ACT Government have executed the Deed of Grant for the administration of the 2025-26 ACT Social Enterprise Grant (ASEG3) with \$250,000 in funding available. Program was announced on 12 December 2025 with applications closing 11 February 2026.

*TMHV continues to administer the 2-year pilot ACT Social Enterprise Grant (ASEG) programs.

For Year 1 (ASEG1: 13 of the 14 successful recipients have finalised their ASEG Agreement, completed the scheduled activities, submitted a Final Report and have been paid in full.

For Year 2 (ASEG2): All 13 successful recipients have signed their ASEG Agreement and been paid the initial 50% milestone payment. 3 of the recipients has finalised

their ASEG Agreement, completed the scheduled activities, submitted a Final Report and have been paid in full.

- **GRIST25 Program**

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.

The GRIST25 Graduation & Impact Showcase was held at the Rex Hotel on the evening of 22 October 2025. 6 of the original participants will graduate on the night. More than 100 guests were in attendance.

- **Scale For Impact25**

Now in the second year of the 2-year pilot funding provided by the ACT Government, the Scale For Impact is designed to provide tailored business support to create and explore pathways to connect developed social enterprises in Canberra to growth, sponsorship and philanthropic opportunities.

The Scale For Impact25 Retreat was held at Novotel Canberra 14-16 October 2025 with the 3 Participants ([Catalyst Living Skills](#), [TheStoryChapel](#) and [Adapt Homes / Adapt Impact](#)). Following the retreat, each participant has participated in specialised and tailored consulting session to progress through either a Scale & Growth or an Impact Investment Readiness Diagnostic eport. Consultations have been held and Final Diagnostics reports are being finalised.

- CEO participated in successful NFP Innovation Summit
- CEO delivering Semester 2 Social enterprise unit for UC Faculty of Business, Government and Law
- Programs Manager delivering INSPIRE25 with Galilee School cohort
- TMHV successful in receiving funding from [future2 Foundation "Make the Difference Grant Program"](#) to deliver two workshops programs in financial literacy. Separate workshops will be delivered to cohorts of 10 participants from Migrant & Refugee Women and Social Enterprise Female Founders.
- TMHV CEO's contract has not been renewed and their contract will end on 16 March 2026
- CEO participated in CBRIN FWC & Extended Team Monthly meetings

Table 1: Key Activities

Total for Q1 (Jul-Sep)		Notes
	Social Enterprise Consultations	Total - 31



Image: photo collage from The Mill House Ventures GRIST Graduation 2025

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	122
Intro Meetings	82
Mentor / Expert / Investor Engagement (# of mentor conversations)	36
Feedback meetings	47
Coworker Engagement (subset of Founder Conversations)	21
Deep tech company engagement (subset of founder conversations)	31
SME meetings (subset of founder conversations)	33
Entrepreneur in Residence Sessions	27
Total Meetings	264*

* 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:

"James was excellent; his time was incredibly valuable. It was a great opportunity to reflect on our project and get valuable feedback on how to tailor information about our idea into a concise pitch. I have quoted my conversation with James multiple times since. Thank you" – Brendan Paliaga

"I have already suggested a fellow entrepreneur/innovator get in contact with the Network Team. James provided invaluable assistance and I am looking forward to working with CBRIN." – Kim Lowrie

"My dealings with the Canberra Innovation Network have always been professional, informative, and most important there has been constructive follow-up after the event. Thanks to James Presneill for all his focus and attention. I look forward to working with Canberra Innovation Network as we develop our projects." – Mac Thomson

"I met with James Presneill last week and he provided an introductory outline of what CBRIN is and how they work with businesses in the ACT to connect people in the right way. James was a great listener and followed through with everything that he said he would. He provided comprehensive and professional advice. It was an extremely useful session." – Mike Wilson

"Shashank was great to talk to. I definitely have a much better understanding of what CBRIN is all about now." – Austin Reid

"Really friendly and practical - approachable people / very welcoming and informed about different support that is available." – Steph Waddon

"Thanks again for your wonderful support through the ICON Grant. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to bring this project to life. Looking forward to catching up soon 😊" – Helen Hoang

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:

- 50 mentors engaged or active
- 53 external connections tracked (referrals between entrepreneurs, mentors and investors)
- 4 mentor/investor events (hosted or attended by CBRIN)
- 17 mentors engaged in Griffin Accelerator

- 161 current subscribers of the Mentor Newsletter
- 36 in-depth meetings with investors and mentors, including with Main Sequence, ACTivate Capital, Boson Ventures and Beaten Zone Ventures

Entrepreneur in Residence

The Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) program connects founders with experienced entrepreneurs. This program is complementary to the broader mentor network and our other programs. The goal is to offer fresh input from highly experienced advisors, as well as help founders identify the key challenges and opportunities to improve their business.

Current entrepreneurs in residence are Ken Kroeger of ACTivate Capital and Nick McNaughton of OzReps. In this quarter:

- Ken Kroeger conducted 10 1-hour EIR sessions
- Nick McNaughton conducted 17 30-minute EIR sessions

Mentor and Investor Events

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

- Hosted and co-promoted with Aussie Angels and Pinery Capital an event on angel syndicates – 9 October, 30 participants
- GRIFFIN Annual Update and Mentor Mixer - 23 October 2025, 41 mentors and entrepreneurs
- Participated in Local Leaders discussion with 16 senior business people – 31 October 2025
- Griffin Accelerator final pitch and mentor investment decision day 24 November 2025 – see description in Griffin Accelerator section below.
- 2025 Innovation Showcase – Investor Panel Session – Facilitated by Simon Thomsen (Startup Daily), panellists included Olivia Doherty (Tractor Ventures), Mike Nicholls (Main Sequence Ventures) and Anne-Marie Perret (ACTivate Capital)



Image: Investor Panel at Innovation Showcase 2025



Image: Snedden Hall and Gallop hosted local leaders mentor engagement

Mentor Highlight

Tailored Accounts founder Harry Hoang awarded Order of Australia Medal. Harry is a very active mentor and supports Griffin Accelerator with accounting services. He attends First Wednesday and other events frequently. He also supports social ventures and the Vietnamese community.

GRIFFIN Accelerator

The GRIFFIN Accelerator is a three-month intensive program run by a group of seasoned Canberra entrepreneurs who invest in, host, coach and mentor selected startups to create successful high-growth businesses. CBRIN growth team run weekly workshops to help the companies become more "investment ready". At the conclusion of the program, teams pitch to the mentors to raise capital for their startups.

GRIFFIN 12 Cohort

A total of 17 mentors with extensive experience across various industries have agreed to take part in both mentoring the teams throughout the program and investing in the trust. This includes 3 new mentors.

8 teams were selected by the mentors for the program; 4 projects are female lead:

- **ACTS Education** - Bring learning to life with ACTS Education. We develop face-to-face, conversational avatars for students, staff and customers that are repeatable, scaleable and improve learning outcomes at a fraction of the price of existing methods.
- **Clubland Australia** - Clubland transforms static sporting club websites into dynamic digital clubhouses that automatically integrate with competition systems to reduce volunteer workload while strengthening community engagement.

- **Cypher Brewing** - Cypher Brewing Co delivers great drinks, service, and a relaxed vibe, co-designing beer, food, music, and events with the community to unlock the secrets to greatness and inspire creativity across Canberra. They are working with local elders to bring-to-market a new line of Native Bush drinks
- **Dapple by Social Creatures** - Social media made connection performative. Dapple makes it real again. Backed by research and built for your social life. Helping you move past awkward moments and missed opportunities to grow friendships, expand social circles, and keep your social momentum going.
- **Mojo Dojo HQ** - Designed by music teachers, for music teachers - MojoDojo is a learning management platform that streamlines the admin of music teaching and amplifies the teacher/student connection.
- **Pawl** - A preventative health app for pets, designed by veterinarians, Pawl is your pet's co-pilot in life, helping pets live long, healthy and happy lives.
- **TaperMate** - Founded by a Pharmacist, TaperMate helps people who are ready to stop long-term prescribed medicines, like antidepressants, do so safely. Our app guides people through an often-complex process of gradual tapering to achieve freedom from side effects and withdrawal symptoms.
- **You.InControl** - You.InControl enables next-gen wireless electricity control. It's long-range, encrypted electrical switching built for total reliability and privacy.



Image: GRIFFIN 12 Cohort with CBRIN team at the Annual Update Event

Program Content

In addition to teams meeting regularly with the mentors, the cohort meets for weekly sessions to engage with relevant content, business discussions and accountability check-ins.

- 7 October - Mentor and accountability session.
- 13 October - Business roadmap workshop facilitated by Craig Davis.
- 20 October - Accounting and finance workshop facilitated by Harry Hoang
- 27 October - Marketing and sales workshop facilitated by Colin Anstie

- 3 November – Stakeholders workshop facilitated by Richard Cawsey
- 10 November – Business discipline and governance facilitated by Tim Hirst
- 17 November – Pitch Practice facilitated by the CBRIN Growth Team

Each company has been actively engaging with program content and mentors throughout the quarter resulting in substantial progress in their businesses and investment readiness.



Image: GRIFFIN workshop on marketing facilitated by Colin Antsie (coworker) who volunteered his time

GRIFFIN Annual Update and Mentor Mixer

23 October 2025, 41 mentors and entrepreneurs, Canberra Innovation Network

GRIFFIN Accelerator Mentors and Alumni were invited to engage in a yearly meet and greet of past and present participants, including company updates, portfolio updates and pitches from the new cohort. The GRIFFIN community continues to grow and support the growth of significant Canberra companies as well as angel investment and mentorship.



Images: GRIFFIN Accelerator Annual Update

"Convivial and informative with a strong range of presentations and subject matter; but consistently high quality and concise communication from confident and competent founders." - Trevor Lee

"The quality of Griffin Teams have been improving over the years, we are seeing more quality team and startups with very high commitment to the program. Most importantly, I see the cohesive cohort between different teams. Looks like they are sharing the challenges, difficulties and opportunities. Growing together makes everyone stronger."- Harry Hoang

GRIFFIN Accelerator Final Pitch Day

24 November 2025, 8 pitches (12 founders), 15 mentors, Canberra Innovation Network

- At the conclusion of the program, each team pitched to the GRIFFIN mentors for up to \$100,000 investment from the GRIFFIN Trust. The mentors decided to invest in 5 of the eight teams; total investments to be finalised but likely approximately \$200,000. 3 of the 5 invested companies were female led.
- Invested teams are: Pawl, Clubland, Dapple (Social Creatures), ACTS Education and Mojo Dojo
- Each of the teams had a follow up meeting with the CBRIN team to discuss mentor feedback and next steps.
- Teams will continue to engage with mentors and will be invited to present at the next Investor Showcase in April 2026.



Image: Alicia and Christian pitching TaperMate at GRIFFIN Accelerator Final Pitch Day, 24 November 2025

SME Business Accelerator

27 November 2025, 13 attendees, NPS 0 (1 response)

CBRIN held the first SME Business Accelerator of the 25-26 Financial Year, with 13 SME representatives, including a variety of new SMEs who have not engaged with CBRIN previously, as well as repeat participants. The program was a one day intensive where participants were challenged to deeply understand their barriers to growth and

encouraged to utilise prioritisation and focus strategies 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 exercises with their peers – for example challenging and testing their assumptions with each other. CBRIN also highlighted programs with partners which the SMEs could find value in, including UC Capstone Projects, ACT Government Business Assist team and CBASS. Canberra Cyber Hub sponsored three cyber businesses to participate, and the Accelerate Canberra's Energy Transition program funded by an Energy Innovation Grant sponsored two participants focusing on energy transition. 2 companies were registered, but unable to attend due to sickness. They have expressed that they are looking forward to attending the next opportunity.

Participant companies representing a total of approximately 47+ FTE included:

- NeuroAccess is a social impact and DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging) consultancy that helps organizations create accessible practices, environments, and systems to support neurodivergent individuals.
- JJ Talent Solutions (Jenni Jordan Talent Solutions) is a human resources consultancy specializing in talent management, recruitment process support, psychometric assessments, and career development coaching for individuals and organizations.
- Liarbird is a cybersecurity company that delivers a globally unique active cyber defence platform.
- Aryal is an IT consulting and digital solutions firm that specializes in cloud services, cybersecurity, software development, and managed IT support for businesses and government clients.
- Aratherm is a renewable energy services company that develops high-frequency simulation models to optimize industrial heat and energy systems. Their solutions focus on reducing carbon intensity and improving cost efficiency for heat demand in manufacturing and processing sectors.
- Progressive Cyber Solutions is a specialist technology consulting and professional services firm that delivers ICT expertise to government and enterprise clients, with a strong focus on secure, ethical, and transparent technology adoption.
- Indigitise is a technology consultancy that provides services in IT strategy, cloud solutions, cybersecurity, and digital transformation for businesses and government clients.
- Rhodium Solutions is an IT services and consulting firm specializing in cybersecurity and cloud technologies including Essential Eight assessments, uplift and sustainment.
- CBR Group is a consulting and technology services firm that helps organizations innovate through strategic planning, enterprise architecture, and emerging technology integration.
- FusionForm models and manufactures discontinued functional parts for the automotive industry, because no functional vehicle should end up at a wrecker because of hard-to-find parts.

- Nice Advisory is a management consulting firm that provides strategic advisory services in areas such as business transformation, governance, and leadership development. They focus on helping organizations achieve sustainable growth



Image: SME Accelerator 27 November 2025

Testimonials:

"This workshop is a fantastic opportunity to step back from day-to-day operation to develop a better aligned, more strategic approach to accelerate growth, scale or simply improve an area of your business." – Jake Haynes, Fusion Form 3D

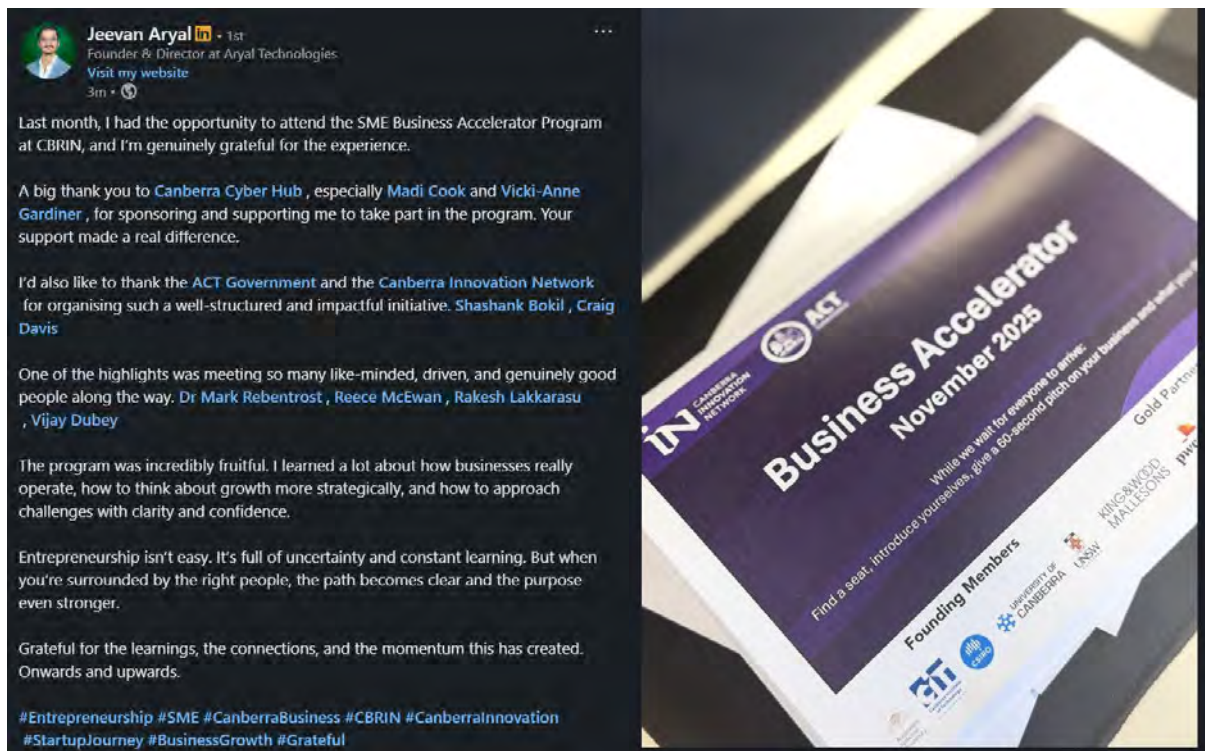


Image: LinkedIn post of Jeevan Aryal, participant of SME Accelerator

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
25 November 2025	Fireside chat with Michelle Melbourne on founding, scaling up, dealing with private equity and more	16



Scaleup Leaders 25 November 2025. Companies represented include WhatWorks, Evaluate8, Wildlife Drones, mhits, Viden, Prism Neuro, Skykraft, Humaneer, Traceably, Wastechek, Quantum Brilliance, jdoodle, Meos and Trellis Data

ANU Transformative Meta Optical Systems review panel

5 November 2025 - CBRIN participated in a one-day intensive review of the ANU-led Centre for Transformative Meta Optics. This included a review of the legacy strategy and opportunities for research translation.

Growth Lab - Syenta

21 November 2025 - CBRIN facilitated operations strategy review and cross-team development day for ANU spinout Syenta. This was delivered in Sydney.



Image: Syenta operations and engineering team leads participating in planning session

Selected ecosystem company updates

Canberra innovation companies raised more than \$27 Million in Q2 2025-26

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 Boresight 1.45M, ACTivate Capital \$23M, Goterra \$2.25M, Aristotle \$400k (venture debt).

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 Leaders Group = SLG
- SME Accelerator = SME
- Investor Showcase = IS
- Growth Lab = GL
- Founder Conversations = FC
- Coworking and incubation space = CW
- ICON Grant Recipient = ICON

Company, description, update	Engagement (alumni)
ACTivate Capital announced launch of \$23M fund	CW
Aristotle Metadata announced \$400k venture debt raise	SLG, FC

Company, description, update	Engagement (alumni)
Boresight announced \$1.45M capital raise led by Perth based investors	FC, IS
Cognitive Advantage: won \$6.6M defence contract, featured in federal Finance Minister announcement on procurement reforms	FC, SLG
Impact Group listed number 12 on AFR fast starters (fastest growing companies) list	FC, SME, CW
EOS won 108M defence contract, \$120M deal in Korea	
Full Point Films states of mind film funded and completed 2 years after pitching at CBRIN	
Goterra raised \$2.25M crowd funded equity, recognised as one of Norrsken Impact 100 annual list of world's most promising startups	ICON
Humaneer founder Careen Mathews won Innovation Business Woman of the year at Canberra Women in Business awards	GA, ICON, FC, CW, SLG
MCI announced opening of "Myrtle" carbon utilisation factory in Newcastle, COO Sophia Hamblin-Wang presented at COP30 in Brazil	FC, CW, GL
Pawl featured in Vet Practice magazine	GA, ICON, SLG, CW
Quantum brilliance named in Times top 100 (global) inventions of 2025, opens Diamond Foundry in Melbourne, listed in Times best inventions of 2025	SLG, IS, FC, ICON
QuintessenceLabs founder Vikram Sharma won Prime Ministers prize for innovation	IS
Syenta Jekatarina Vitorova named in The Australian top 100 innovators of 2025	GA, FC, SLG, IS, GL, CW
Terria won major contract for whole of WA government digital twin	SLG, CW, FC



Image: CBRIN's team visit to Samsara ECO in Jerrabomberra

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.
- connecting key CBRIN events like innovation showcase, female founders, First Wednesday, Billion Dollar Panel into an innovation festival-like offering.

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

Overview

The CBRIN marketing and events team delivered strong results this quarter through targeted campaigns across digital platforms and community engagement. Our efforts

directly supported high attendance numbers and strengthened connections within the innovation ecosystem.

Summary: This quarter CBRIN held or hosted 69 events, all promoted to our community, attracting 2,612 participants.

CBRIN held 3 First Wednesday Connect events. October: 224, November Showcase: 818, and December: 177. Average: 407 registrations. This showcase was our biggest yet beating last year by 205 registrations.

Marketing Efforts:

The marketing team maintained momentum through strategic content creation and community storytelling this quarter. We developed campaigns across Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn that kept our innovation community connected and informed.

Our social media presence grew significantly, with Instagram reach increasing 200.5% and LinkedIn engagement up 178.3%. We maintained 11,165 newsletter contacts with consistent open rates averaging 32% throughout the quarter. The website delivered 11,684 sessions, with traffic peaking in late November during key event periods.

Paid advertising campaigns achieved strong results, with cost-per-click rates between \$0.29 and \$0.85. The Over the Break campaign delivered the strongest performance at \$0.29 per click, while the Innovation Showcase campaign reached 14,035 people and generated 221 link clicks.

In the final months of the year, we focused heavily on promoting the Innovation Showcase and the coworking space. We developed targeted campaigns highlighting collaborative workspace environments and flexible arrangements for both casual and full-time members. New promotional video content showcased the genuine community atmosphere that attracts entrepreneurs and small businesses seeking meaningful connections.

The quarter saw strong community participation, with 69 events attracting 2,612 participants. Regular programming including First Wednesday Connect and Female Founders continued to anchor our community engagement efforts.

Media & PR

- Construction starts on UNSW Canberra City Campus | 20 October 2025
- ACU means business with new innovation partnership | 31 October 2025
- Backing Innovation With New Venture Capital Fund | 3 November 2025
- Canberran wins PM's science prize for innovation | 4 November 2025
- ACTivate Capital gains ISA approval | 10 November 2025
- How this Canberra female-led firm beat big consulting to win Australia's first AI security tender | 18 November 2025
- New Canberra Screen And Games Fund Launching | 4 December 2025
- The Founders: Petr Adamek on entrepreneurship, AI | 21 December 2025

Video, Photo, Web & Design

- WhatWorks Website Construction
- First Wednesday Connect October @ UC/Cyber Hub
- First Wednesday Connect November @ Innovation Showcase
- Curated Visuals Video @ Innovation Showcase
- First Wednesday Connect December @ CBRIN

Region Media Engagement Metrics

- Published 7 articles on our platforms which delivered 3,112 views
- Articles were shared through our email distributions and delivered 47,688 views and 163 clicks
- Best in Canberra articles received 97 views and 2 listing interactions
- Social media posts delivered a reach of 5.3k and 141 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 October 2025](#) | 10 October 2025
- [So, you're thinking of coming along to a Female Founders event?](#) | 13 October 2025
- [Meet the team: Kate Stevens](#) | 28 October 2025
- [GRIFFIN Accelerator Welcomes Eight Innovative Teams to 2025 Cohort](#) | 18 November 2025
- [2025 End of Year Message](#) | 15 December 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*
Showcase Main 2025	14035	30402	221	\$0.45
Business Accelerator – One Day Intensive	2518	4605	58	\$0.85
Over the Break 25-26	31765	50311	912	\$0.29

*Cost Per link Click

Social media insights

	Facebook	Instagram	LinkedIn
Reach	89,606 41.5%	33,600 14%	31,577 30.8%
Profile visits	4,672 29.5%	571 5.3%	1053 14.0%
Followers	5,916	2,889	8241
New followers	90 15.4%	161 10.3%	210 21.1%
Post engagement	201 37.2%	205 27.8%	345 40.1%

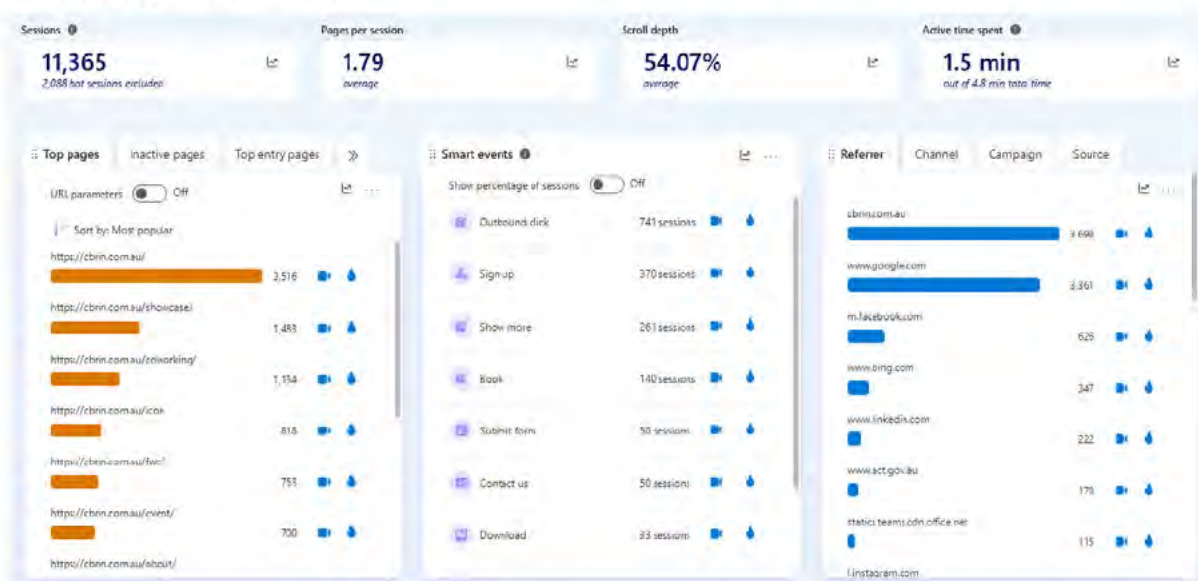
Weekly Newsletter Statistics

11,165 (166 new) contacts, 6,416 subscribers (75 new) (40.8% female)

Table: Weekly Newsletter Click rates

Stats	7 OCT	14 OCT	21 OCT	28 OCT	4 NOV	11 NOV	18 NOV	25 NOV	2 DEC	16 DEC
Av. Open Rate	31.3%	32.5%	32.6%	33.1%	33.4%	32.5%	33.3%	32.2%	30.9%	27.2%
Av. Click Rate	2.3%	2.7%	2.7%	2.9%	2.7%	2.5%	2.6%	2.0%	2.4%	2.6%

Website performance



Overview

Traffic peaked in late November during key event periods.

Traffic Performance

Direct traffic led our channels, followed by organic search and email. Notable spikes occurred around 21 and 26 November, aligning with event promotions.

User Engagement

Strong content engagement with low quick backs (10.24%). Site performance scored 82/100, with opportunities to improve loading speed. This will change in Q3 when we plan to launch new website (redesign).

Key Insights

Consistent growth in direct traffic and returning visitors shows strong brand awareness. Peak traffic aligned with Innovation Showcase and First Wednesday Connect promotions. Traffic diversity across channels demonstrates healthy reach, with opportunities to strengthen email and referral pathways in 2025.

Events & Engagement

This quarter: CBRIN registered 69 events held with 2,612 participants

Financial Year-to-date: 5,671 participants for 167 events

	Events	Participants
October 2025	24	680
November 2025	30	1530
December 2025	15	402

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 of the end of the quarter, CBRIN has had 12,627 unique registrations for 116 First Wednesday Connects and Innovation Showcase events since 1 July 2015.

First Wednesday Connect 2 October 2025

Ann Harding Conference Centre

224 registrations: 41% new participants

Audience: 27% entrepreneurs, 17% students, 11% Corporate, 8% public servants, 5% creatives, 9% SME, 7% researchers, 2% investors and 14% other

Speakers:

- Bec Alexander, Syconic Cyber
- Richie Allan, Cypher Brewing

- Mien Nguyen, SecureSME
- Erin Stacey, Innovation Central Canberra
- Lorne Cummings, Canberra Behavioural Lab
- Callie Elward-Barrett, ND WILD: #GoWILD for Neurodiversity
- Andy de Groot, Queer Food
- Bruhith Indires, bruhith.com
- Louise Wakefield, Industry Capability Network
- James Presneill, SME Accelerator
- Aliesha Embleton, Sapling Minds
- Nick McNaughton, Entrepreneur In Residence
- [Blog Post](#)



Image: Collage from FWC October 2025

Canberra's Innovation Showcase

National Film and Sound Archive

818 registrations: 42% new participants

Audience: 31% entrepreneurs, 8% students, 13% Corporate, 8% public servants, 6% creatives, 8% SME, 6% researchers, 4% investors and 16% other

Speakers:

- Megan Gilmour
- Daniel Morton Jones
- Hala Batainah
- Mike Nicholls
- Meegan Fitzharris
- Simon Thomsen
- Shannon Wilson-McClinton
- Darren Ashton

- Anne-Marie Perret
- Michael Pettersson MLA
- Holly Trueman
- Monica Penders
- Olivia Doherty
- Petr Adamek
- Genevieve Jacobs
- Greg Boorer
- Collaborative Robotics Lab, MTE, Meos.ai, Terria, Zendir, Viortec, PPB Tech



Image: collage from Innovation Showcase 2025

First Wednesday Connect 3 December 2025

CBRIN Level 4 Scaleup Hub

177 registrations: 51% new participants

Audience: 38% entrepreneurs, 12% students, 8% Corporate, 11% public servants, 3% creatives, 5% SME, 9% researchers, 3% investors and 11% other

Speakers:

- Walter Pope, Zephyria
- Jess Kelly, PPB Technology: Cybertongue
- Pip Wilkes, ANU Agrifood Innovation Hub
- Ken Kroeger, ACTivate Capital
- Bronwyn Orr, Pawl.Ai
- Tim Green, ANU Agrifood internships
- Karen Li, Dapple
- Phil Keaton, NatureHelm
- Irene Zhen, Female Mentor Network

- Allen Wen, Plant Synbio Australia (ANU)



Image: Collage from FWC December 2025

Testimonials:

"CBRIN First Wednesday Connect events are always one of the highlights of the month. CBRIN is a great connector for networking." – Malcolm Towney

"It's inspiring to see a network so committed to offering skills, support, and funding opportunities to help innovative businesses grow. I left [First Wednesday Connect] feeling energised, connected, and grateful to be part of such a vibrant community. Thank you for creating such a positive space for entrepreneurs in Canberra." – Diana Flora Padron Novoa

"Very welcoming informal setting, attendees are genuinely interested in your business and try to connect." – Soelily Consen-Lynch

"It is a great way to understand what is happening in the innovation eco system in Canberra. I was surprised how much is happening in the region and will continue to stay involved with the community. A great initiative." – Paula Adamson

"It amazed me the number of innovators who attended. CBRIN is doing a good job." – John Miller

"One of my favourite events in Canberra, always nice to hear from innovators and great panels perspectives." – Paulius Gutasukas

Regional, National and International Engagement

In this reporting period CBRIN tracked the following 16 engagements with reach outside of the ACT. Specifically, 8 can be characterised as regional (impact in Canberra region beyond ACT), 3 national, and 5 as international engagement.

- 18 October 2025: CBRIN hosted a stall at TedxCanberra

- 21 & 23 October 2025: CBRIN delivered an info session and mini-hackathon for the Embassy of Switzerland in Australia
- 27 October 2025: CBRIN attended the ACT Climate Leadership Forum
- 30 October 2025: CBRIN attended OnPrime showcase in Sydney
- 3 November 2025: CBRIN attended the National Innovation Policy Forum
- 10 November 2025: CBRIN discussed 2026 collaboration opportunities with partner Navitas Skilled Futures, the Australian division of global education provider Navitas
- 11 November 2025: CBRIN hosted the GovHack regional ACT Awards Ceremony
- 20 November 2025: CBRIN delivered a session at the Gathering, a community event for co-design experts from across Australia
- 21 November 2025: CBRIN facilitated operations strategy review and cross-team development day for ANU spinout Syenta, now based in Sydney
- 27 November 2025: CBRIN sponsored and attended the Renewmap Energy Capital 2.0 Networking Night, connecting with ACT and regional energy sector businesses
- 27 & 28 November 2025: CBRIN attended the Makerspaces Australasia Symposium 2025 hosted by ANU, connecting with makerspaces across Australia
- 1 December 2025: UNSW's 13th Australasian Natural Convection Workshop hosted on Level 5
- 16 December 2025: CBRIN met with Regional Development Australia NSW & ACT about collaboration opportunities in 2026
- 17 December 2025: CBRIN met with the Embassy of France in Australia to discuss collaboration opportunities in 2026
- Extended reach to communities within 100km radius of Canberra, including Yass, Goulburn and Braidwood through targeted advertising campaigns



Image: Climate Leadership Forum

Other Event Support & Engagement

Events held in the CBRIN space:

- 2 October: Pearcey Prize Presentation hosted on Level 4 by AI Colab
- 9 October: Angel Investing Information Session hosted on Level 4 by the Aussie Angels
- 21 October: Mini-Hackathon hosted on Level 4 by the Switzerland Embassy and CBRIN
- 11 November: GovHack Awards hosted on Level 4 by ACT Government
- 20 November: Google DevFest hosted on Level 4 by Google
- **AI Colab** - 256 attendees (15 sessions covering research, policy, local innovation, public accountability, and economics of transformative AI)
- **RD Consulting** - 47 attendees (3 sessions including one with Cam Sullings)
- **Yellow Hat** - 266 attendees (7 sessions)
- **Build Club** - 32 attendees (2 sessions)
- **Project Independence** - 34 attendees
- **EUXCBR & Product Tank** - 29 attendees



Image: Participants presenting ideas at the Swiss Embassy's Mini-Hackathon, held in CBRIN

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 24-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, 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.

Key Achievements & Activities this Quarter

- 9 new companies / teams joined the CBRIN Coworking Space
- 11 events held for the community to encourage networking and collaboration, and connecting the communities on Levels 4 and 5

- The coworking newsletter has 248 subscribers with an average open rate of 41.3%.
- As of 31 December 2025 there were:
 - o 75 companies and 241 active members across the 2 floors
 - o 62* companies active in CBRIN Level 5 Coworking with 134 members
 - o 13 companies active in the CBRIN Level 4 ScaleUp and SME Hub with 107 members
 - o 76% office occupancy in the ScaleUp and SME Hub
 - o 71 full-time memberships (dedicated desks), 49 part-time and casual memberships**
 - o Female members: 97 (40%)
 - o Non-Binary members: 1 (1%)
 - o CALD members: 77 (32%)

**Note: The number is at end of quarter - total number of companies working in the space during the quarter will be higher as some companies ended their membership before 31 December 2025.*

***There are also 14 Canberra Innovation Network Employee Full Time Memberships, not counted here*

Overview of Coworking Companies and Members this Quarter

	Numbers of companies at end last quarter	Number of companies that worked in the space overall during the quarter	Number of companies that joined the space	Number of companies that left the space or became inactive	Companies Active on 31 December 2025
Level 4	13	13	0	0	13
Level 5	78	72	9	25	62
Total	91	85	9	25	75

New companies:

1. Inten Tree Pty Ltd
2. European Energy
3. AI in Australia
4. See me Please
5. Avian
6. Ozone Circle / Docify
7. Levers
8. Aryal Technologies
9. Green Mile Tech

Notes on drop in numbers from Q1:

- 13 companies with casual memberships were deactivated due to inactivity (Adaectiv, Angel Hellyer, Capable, Cybercy, EVER Change, FronterSI, Mude, Project North, Stand out from the Pack, Health Horizon, Joyful Frugalista, Your Season, HMMG)
- 4 companies paused membership over December/January period (with plans to reactivate in January or February 2026) (Suthisa Jaempittayakorn, AI in Australia, PaidX/Bruhith, MojoDojo HQ)
- 6 companies ended sponsored membership due to completing GRIFFIN Accelerator (Cyber Brewing Co, Social Creatures/Dapple, TaperMate, Pawl, ACTS Education, Clubland Australia)
- 2 other companies ended their membership (not mentioned above): Jay Siyani, Think Boldly!

Companies working the CBRIN ScaleUp Hub (Level 4) this Quarter

Count	Company	Capacity	ANZSIC Code (4-digit)	Growth Stage	Description
1	Modern42 / Apporetum	24	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	Scale Up - innovation driven and >1M raised or 20+ FTE	Modern42 provide cyber security services for organisations across Federal, State and Local Government and private organisations. Modern42 specialise in Identity and Access Management (IAM), Privileged Access Management (PAM), Cloud Engineering, and Cloud Infrastructure. Apporetum is an Identity and Access Management Product developed by Modern42's founders.
2	AI CoLab	18 (3 offices)	8101 - Technical and Vocational Education and Training	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	The AI CoLab Alliance comprise of purpose-driven allies from governments, nonprofits, industry and academia, combining strengths to advance inclusive, impactful uses of AI. (3 offices)
3	MCI Carbon	7	2139 - Other Basic Chemical Product Manufacturing n.e.c.	Impact Company - high growth and 50+ FTE	MCI Carbon have developed 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
4	GPN Vaccines	7	1841 - Pharmaceutical Product Manufacturing	Scale Up - innovation driven and >1M raised or 20+ FTE	GPN Vaccines are a clinical-stage company focused on creating innovative vaccines that offer robust protection against the world's most important bacterial pathogens.
5	Bluebird Advisory Note: Bluebird Advisory moved from a 10 desk office to a 5 desk office halfway through the quarter due to most staff working on client sites.	5	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	Bluebird provide innovative solutions in digital transformations, data analytics, cyber security, project delivery, change management, and financial optimisation.
6	Redacted	4	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	Redacted Information Security provides strategic level systems security planning, IRAP assessments, security training, and consulting.
7	What Works	10	6940 - Advertising and Market Research Services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	What Works provide tailored brand, product, and growth services to business with an innovation focus.

Count	Company	Capacity	ANZSIC Code (4-digit)	Growth Stage	Description
8	RD	17	6940 – Advertising and Market Research Services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	RD is a creative communication agency focused on cutting-edge tech, digital innovation (2 offices)
9	Mesh Cyber	8	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	Mesh Cyber are a specialist cyber security company currently working in Federal Government and Critical Infrastructure space, building an automated assessment tool.
10	ACTivate Capital	4	6240 – Financial Asset Investing	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	ACTivate Capital, backed by the ACT Government and our local universities, is a Canberra focused investment fund, working closely with the Territory's research institutions to help transform new ideas into investable opportunities, strengthening connections between academia and industry
11	Dentroid	5	2419 – Professional and Scientific Equipment Manufacturing n.e.c.	Scale Up - innovation driven and >1M raised or 20+ FTE	Dentroid is an Australian startup company pioneering a paradigm shift in dental treatment making it more precise, pain-free and convenient for patients and dental practitioners.
12	Yellow Hat	11 (2 offices)	6962 – Management Advice and Other Consulting Services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	Yellow Hat supports executives to drive change through co-design and change services.
13	QX Tech	7	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	QX Tech provide outsourced IT services, industry-specific software, and innovative business platforms.
	Total	127			13 companies in 16 offices

Note: 13 tenants in 16 out of 21 offices (76% office occupancy) with capacity of 127 out of 169 available (75% capacity occupancy rate) taken as of 31 December 2025. Capacity = number of desks in an office that the resident company occupies.

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

#	Company Name	Summary	Growth Stage	Primary ANZSIC (4-digit)	Secondary ANZSIC (4-digit)
1.	3DS Group	Engineering and drafting services specializing in 3D modelling.	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	6923 – Engineering Design and Engineering Consulting Services	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services
2.	ACTS Education	AI-powered avatar conversational training simulation software for educational institutions.	Startup idea	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services	8101 – Technical and Vocational Education and Training
3.	ADS Solar Australia	Solar installation services targeting energy sector	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	3232 – Electrical Services	2611 – Fossil Fuel Electricity Generation
4.	Agape	Gaming/educational software for STEM education	Startup or idea	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services	8101 – Technical and Vocational Education and Training
5.	AI in Australia	AI consulting and training services specialising in AI strategy, readiness assessments, data architecture, governance frameworks, and AI implementation for organisations.	Startup or Idea	6962 – Management Advice and Other Consulting Services	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services
6.	Aratherm	Energy consulting for industrial clients	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	6962 – Management Advice and Other Consulting Services	1090 – Other Mining Support Services
7.	Aryal Technologies	Software engineering partner helping organisations design, build, and support innovative technology solutions.	Startup or idea	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services	
8.	Avian	Digital strategy, design thinking, and delivery specialists helping government, education, and private sector clients.	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services	6962 – Management Advice and Other Consulting Services
9.	Bakesale	Marketplace platform for food retail	Startup or idea	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services	4310 – Non-Store Retailing

#	Company Name	Summary	Growth Stage	Primary ANZSIC (4-digit)	Secondary ANZSIC (4-digit)
10.	Big Blue Dot / Centre for Earned Impact	Social impact consulting and advisory services with focus on entrepreneurs.	Startup or idea	6962 - Management Advice and Other Consulting Services	6999 - Other Professional, Scientific and Technical Services n.e.c.
11.	Blue Sky Digital	Digital signage services and network	Startup or idea	6940 - Advertising and Market Research Services	5809 - Other Telecommunications Services
12.	blueegg	UX design services for digital products	Medium Biz - 20+ FTE, innovation potential, not high-growth	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
13.	BOOST Health Labs	Brain re-training gaming software for chronic pain	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	8539 - Other Allied Health Services
14.	BU Partners	Business consulting and advisory services for companies exiting.	Startup or idea	6962 - Management Advice and Other Consulting Services	
15.	Canberra Build Club	AI education and training and MeetUps.	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	8101 - Technical and Vocational Education and Training	
16.	Campus Plus	Commercialisation consulting for universities	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	6962 - Management Advice and Other Consulting Services	8102 - Higher Education
17.	Clubland Australia	Digital platform and app for community sporting clubs, providing websites, online booking, and engagement tools.	Startup or idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	5921 - Internet Publishing and Broadcasting
18.	Cosive	Cybersecurity consulting across sectors	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
19.	Counterpoint Law	Female-led legal services and advisory.	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	6931 - Legal Services	

#	Company Name	Summary	Growth Stage	Primary ANZSIC (4-digit)	Secondary ANZSIC (4-digit)
20.	Cypher Brewing Co	Craft brewery manufacturing and retail operations	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	1212 - Beer Manufacturing	4123 - Liquor Retailing
21.	Dirt Maidens	Mountain bike skills coaching for women	Startup or Idea	8211 - Sports and Physical Recreation Instruction	
22.	Disaster Science	Emergency response technology (Bushfire.io platform)	Startup or idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	7713 Fire Protection and Other Emergency Services
23.	dsq studio / MEOS Labs	Venture studio/startup consulting with tech development	Startup or idea	6962 - Management Advice and Other Consulting Services	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services
24.	Eldane	Architecture/interior design services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	6921 - Architectural Services	2511 - Wooden Furniture and Upholstered Seat Manufacturing
25.	Epicorp	Venture capital/growth funding services	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	6240 - Financial Asset Investing	6962 - Management Advice and Other Consulting Services
26.	eReflect	Educational software development	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	8101 - Technical and Vocational Education and Training
27.	European Energy	Develops, constructs, and operates large scale renewable energy projects.	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	2619 - Other Electricity Generation	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services
28.	Evalue8 Sustainability	Carbon accounting software for businesses	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	6962 - Management Advice and Other Consulting Services
29.	Evee	Electric vehicle rental platform connecting car owners with renters across Australia.	Scale Up - innovation driven and >1M raised or 20+ FTE	6619 - Other Motor Vehicle and Transport Equipment Rental and Hiring	5921 - Internet Publishing and Broadcasting

#	Company Name	Summary	Growth Stage	Primary ANZSIC (4-digit)	Secondary ANZSIC (4-digit)
30.	Everything Good is Possible	Workplace support and consulting services for neurodivergent employees.	Startup or idea	6999 – Other Professional, Scientific and Technical Services n.e.c.	8109 – Other Education and Training n.e.c.
31.	Future Swirl	Oat milk soft serve and ice cream products	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	1133 – Ice Cream Manufacturing	
32.	Green Mile Tech Pty Ltd	Software and IT solutions provider specializing in full-stack web and mobile development, AI and Machine Learning applications, end-to-end mobile game development, and business strategy consulting for enterprises and startups.	Startup or idea	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services	6962 – Management Advice and Other Consulting Services
33.	Greenprint Nature	Environmental consulting and sustainability advisory services focused on nature-based solutions.	Startup or idea	6999 – Other Professional, Scientific and Technical Services n.e.c.	6962 – Management Advice and Other Consulting Services
34.	Gridsight	AI software for power network management	Scale Up - innovation driven and >1M raised or 20+ FTE	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services	2619 – Other Electricity Generation
35.	Grow Right Digital	AI recruitment software development	Startup or idea	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services	7211 – Employment Placement and Recruitment Services
36.	Haast	Marketing compliance software	Scale Up - innovation driven and >1M raised or 20+ FTE	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services	6940 – Advertising and Market Research Services
37.	Head in the Clouds Creative	Bespoke technology & creative agency	Startup or idea	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services	
38.	Humaneer	HR software applications (Mak AI platform)	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services	6962 – Management Advice and Other Consulting Services

#	Company Name	Summary	Growth Stage	Primary ANZSIC (4-digit)	Secondary ANZSIC (4-digit)
39.	Indiginaus Print Pty Ltd	Printing services with Indigenous cultural focus	Startup or Idea	1611 - Printing	6940 - Advertising and Market Research Services
40.	Integrated Management Solutions	AI safety software with safety consulting	Startup or Idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	6962 - Management Advice and Other Consulting Services
41.	Inten Tree Pty Ltd	Digital marketing agency specialising in conversion rate optimisation, website strategy, and online business growth services.	Startup or Idea	6940 - Advertising and Market Research Services	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services
42.	Levers	Fractional strategy and operations advisory services for startups and scaleups.	Startup or Idea	6962 - Management Advice and Other Consulting Services	7211–Employment Placement and Recruitment Services
43.	Lucy Pedley Bookkeeping	Bespoke bookkeeping services for startups and SMEs.	Startup or idea	6932 - Accounting Services	
44.	Majura Communications	Communications agency providing marketing and PR services.	Startup or Idea	6940 - Advertising and Market Research Services	6962 - Management Advice and Other Consulting Services
45.	Mia Swainson Consulting	Strategy and facilitation consulting	Startup or idea	6962 - Management Advice and Other Consulting Services	
46.	Miiroko	Organic home hair colour products	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	1851 - Cleaning Compound and Toiletry Preparation Manufacturing	4279 - Other Store-Based Retailing n.e.c.
47.	Mindavation	Business analysis & project management training	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	8101 - Technical and Vocational Education and Training	6962 - Management Advice and Other Consulting Services
48.	MojoDojo HQ	Mobile app for music teachers to help with admin, lesson planning.	Scale Up - innovation driven and >1M raised or 20+ FTE	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	

#	Company Name	Summary	Growth Stage	Primary ANZSIC (4-digit)	Secondary ANZSIC (4-digit)
49.	NW Technology Recruitment	Tech recruitment services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	7211 - Employment Placement and Recruitment Services	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services
50.	Opendata.studio	Data analytics software and open data platform development	Startup or Idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	6999 - Other Professional, Scientific and Technical Services n.e.c.
51.	Oscillolabs	Digital development studio for startups	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
52.	Ozone Circle / Docify	AI powered health diagnostic kiosk using thermal imaging and machine learning for health assessments and medical reports.	Startup or Idea	8539 - Other Allied Health Services	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services
53.	PaidX / Bruthith	Marketing and paid advertising services, managing digital advertising campaigns across platforms.	Startup or idea	6940 - Advertising and Market Research Services	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services
54.	Paper Assistant	SaaS AI-driven paper reading assistant designed to help academics comprehend research papers and find key details	Startup or Idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	8102 - Higher Education
55.	<i>Pawl</i>	Veterinary technology platform providing online booking, pet portals, and digital management systems for veterinary clinics.	Startup or Idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	6970 - Veterinary Services
56.	Polygon Energy	Solar installation services targeting energy sector	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	3232 - Electrical Services	2619 - Other Electricity Generation
57.	See Me Please	Two sided marketplace connecting organisations with disabled and diverse user testers for digital	Startup or Idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	9609 - Other Personal Services n.e.c.

#	Company Name	Summary	Growth Stage	Primary ANZSIC (4-digit)	Secondary ANZSIC (4-digit)
		accessibility testing and usability feedback.			
58.	Siemens Mobility	Rail technology and systems	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	2399 - Other Transport Equipment Manufacturing n.e.c.	4710 - Rail Freight Transport
59.	<i>Social Creatures/ Dapple</i>	Social media management software platform (Dapple product by Social Creatures company)	Startup or Idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	5921 - Internet Publishing and Broadcasting
60.	Spitfiredigital.ai	AI automation to help small business improve overall customer experience.	Startup or idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	6940 - Advertising and Market Research Services
61.	<i>Tapermate</i>	An app to help users safely stop or reduce prescribed medications that can cause withdrawal symptoms.	Startup or idea	8539 - Other Allied Health Services	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services
62.	Terria.io	Digital twin platform for government	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
63.	Telus International	Digital customer support and IT services company.	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
64.	Traceably	Digital project management solution.	Startup or idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
65.	Venture Crowd	Crowdfunding platform services	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	6240 - Financial Asset Investing	
66.	Venubooka	Venue booking platform software	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	6639 - Other Goods and Equipment Rental and Hiring n.e.c.

#	Company Name	Summary	Growth Stage	Primary ANZSIC (4-digit)	Secondary ANZSIC (4-digit)
67.	Veritas Group	Technology consulting for security compliance and identity verification.	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
68.	Vibe Dynamics	Healthcare services and devices facilitating sexual function rehabilitation for complex medical conditions.	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	8539 - Other Allied Health Services	2419 - Professional and Scientific Equipment Manufacturing n.e.c.
69.	WaitOnce	Healthcare appointment management app	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	8539 - Other Allied Health Services
70.	WOT-link	IT solutions for SMEs/charities	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
71.	XtreamCompute	XR/VR performance software	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	9139 - Amusement and Recreation Activities n.e.c.
72.	Zephyria	Robotics and automation equipment manufacturer specializing in harsh environment solutions including UAVs, drones, autonomous robots for mining, defence, and agriculture.	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	2429 - Other Electronic Equipment Manufacturing n.e.c.	0159 - Other Crop Growing

NB: New companies joining this quarter are **bolded**. 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 uses 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.

This quarter, Candace Rhind met with the teams at Spacecubed, and Tank Stream Labs. All teams have agreed to put reciprocal agreements in place to allow members of each space to utilise the other spaces and connect into those networks. CBRIN has previously had reciprocal agreements in place with Spacecubed, and has a current agreement with iAccelerate in Wollongong.

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 over 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 248 subscribers with an average open rate of 41.3%.

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 21* Founder Conversations with coworkers
- 5 coworkers pitched at First Wednesday Connect events
- 2 coworkers were on panels at the CBRIN Innovation Showcase
- 5 coworkers attended Scale Up leaders sessions
- 1 coworker participated in the SME Accelerator
- 3 coworkers participated in Idea to Impact
- 1 coworker ran a workshop for the GRIFFIN Accelerator teams

**note the total includes Founder Conversations with teams coworking as part of the GRIFFIN accelerator*



Image: Collage of photos from CBRIN Coworking Events this quarter

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. This quarter we focused on wellness, kindness, and gratitude, to help support the mental and emotional health of the hardworking residents. For Mental Health Awareness Month in October, we held Wellness Sessions, shared resources, and invited Movember Ambassador and Program Lead for Sport in Schools Ash Madgwick to speak at Community Morning Tea. In November we had a theme of gratitude, with Thanksgiving morning tea, and Notes of Gratitude. December ended on a high note with the End of Year Party .

Date	Event	Participants
2 October	Community Drinks	14
8 October	Breakfast Club	10
14 October	Wellness Session: Creative Build	5
22 October	Wellness Session: Movement	7
28 October	Community Morning Tea	30
6 November	Community Drinks	7
12 November	Breakfast Club	13
25 November	Community Morning Tea	42
2 December	Book Club	3
4 December	Coworking Drinks	9
17 December	Coworking End Of Year Party	44
Total:	11 Events	184



Image: photo collage from Coworking End Of Year Party

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.

Below are a selection of coworker wins:

- MCI Carbon: CEO Marcus Dawe presented at the National Innovation Policy Forum on 3 November 2025 and at the Carbon Recycling Conference in Osaka; COO Sophia Hamblin-Wang presented at COP30 Brazil; company named finalised in Momentum 2025 Australian Climate Tech Awards; Zhila Amir Zhadeh won NIM – The Net-Zero Industries Mission Female Innovator for Australia;
- [Careen Matthews from Humaneer won Innovation Business Woman of the Year at the Canberra Women in Business awards](#)
- [Gridsight named in LinkedIn top 20 startups](#)
- Terria announced partnership with [Jacobs](#) and [Amristar](#) to support delivery of the Spatial Digital Twin for Western Australia, as part of the Spatial WA Program being led by Landgate.
- [ACTivate Capital officially launched by ACT Government](#)

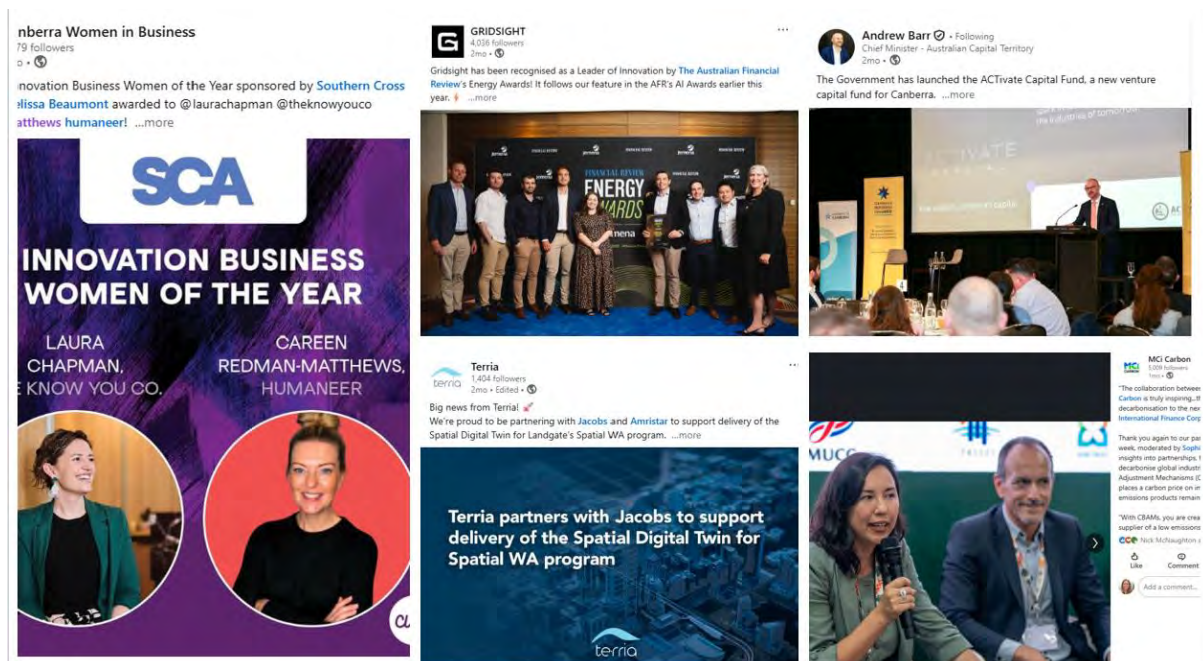


Image: collage of coworker wins, screenshots from LinkedIn

CBRIN Coworking Feedback

*"We've been working out of the **Canberra Innovation Network** office space. If you've spent any time there, you'll know it really does live up to its name, plenty of good vibes and startups doing awesome things around every corner."* Lauren Leamon, Avian (via LinkedIn)

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

- 170 attendees participated in 4 Launch Community events this quarter
- There were 29 people with a UNSW Canberra or ADFA email address registered to attend CBRIN events
- This quarter saw two very important events on the calendar for the Launch Community, the recognition of Remembrance Day and the end of year social gathering.

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
Elysium EPL	Elysium EPL is an Australian professional services firm. While based in Canberra and Sydney they work across all capital cities in Australia. Our consultants provide practical, long-term solutions for our clients in a broad range of areas including Strategic Procurement & Commercial Management, Organisational Design & Implementation, Transformation Engagement and Communication, Sensitive Services,

Collaborator	Company Description
	Capability Development, Critical Asset & Infrastructure, Collaborative Working, Training and Education and Protective Security and Business Resilience.
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.
Infinity Avionics	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.
Intersoft Services	Intersoft Services provides services and consultancy for Radar and other CNS systems and ATM worldwide. In addition, Intersoft Services also supports the integration and project business of Intersoft Electronics within the local market.
Kestra (formerly K3partners)	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.
PentenAmio	PentenAmio 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.
Point River Networks	Point River Networks provide consulting, recruiting, unified communications and networking.

Collaborator	Company Description
Skykraft	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 Launch at UNSW Canberra City

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 attended and held a booth at Indo-Pac 2025 which also involved meeting with and discussing their partnership with Hui Huliau with Erika Olsen, acting US ambassador to Australia.
- For the second year in a row Ascent has been awarded the “Great Place to Work” certification, the receipt of the certification indicates that 95% of their employees enjoy working for the company.
- Allan Dundas, CEO of DEWC Services facilitated a panel discussion at the second Australian Digital Engineering summit in Canberra.
- DEWC Services attended the Indo-Pac 2025 Expo holding a booth and sponsoring a fireside chat regarding the shifting geopolitical landscape.
- Elysium EPL entered into an agreement with Seasats, a company headquartered in California that produces autonomous surface vehicles for use by the Navy, the agreement makes Elysium the official reseller of Seasats devices in Australia.
- Elysium EPL director Michael Mitchell presented on the significance of trusted quality integrated ocean data and its potential to deliver benefits at the 2025 Forum for Operational Oceanography.
- Fifth Domain was featured on the most innovative companies list for 2025 by The Australian Financial Review’s BOSS
- Several additional Infinity Avionics products were launched into orbit as part of the successful Transporter-15 mission Launch including 5 new cameras and 1 new BRAIN processor.
- Darren Gillan from Intersoft Electronics spoke to the digitization driven trend of skill set loss across industry at Airspace Asia Pacific 2025
- PentenAmio was ranked 9th overall and 1st in their specific industry for female representation in leadership by WORK180.
- Simon Wittenbury participated in a panel as part of Defence Transformation UK on the issue of AI security in Military Systems alongside other experts from the UK and NATO.
- PentenAmio exhibited at the 2025 I/ITSEC exhibition in Orlando Florida where they demonstrated their Content and Behaviour Generator (CBG) capabilities.
- Skykraft Special Advisor Andy Smith presented a Keynote at the 18th annual flight operations conference

Monthly Community Newsletter

Stats	October 2025	November 2025	December 2025
Open Rate	32.8%	27.8%	34.1%
Click-through Rate	8%	4%	8%

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 170 attendances at Launch community events.

	Events	Estimated Participants
October 2025	1	35
November 2025	2	81
December 2025	1	54

Events List:

- October Launch Monthly Connect Hosted by CBRIN - 30 October
- Remembrance Day Coffee Van - 11 November
- November Launch Monthly Connect hosted by Intersoft - 27 November
- End of Year Party - 11 December



Image: Photo collage of Launch Community events October - December 2025

Foundation Member & Partner Engagement

- Monthly CBRIN Extended Team Meeting held either online or in person with representatives from ANU, UC, UNSW, CIT, and CSU.
- This quarter - CBRIN team had fortnightly meetings with UNSW Canberra Launch team
- This quarter - CBRIN Executive Team met fortnightly with ACT Government team
- CBRIN CEO visited ANU, UC and AIE to discuss engagement this quarter
- CBRIN team attended UNSW Launch Monthly Connect events
- First Wednesday Connect was held at UC on 1 October 2025
- This quarter - The Prototyping Voucher Pilot Steering Committee met monthly with representatives from CBRIN, ANU, CIT, UC, and UNSW Canberra
- This quarter - CBRIN attended monthly not-for-profit innovation forum planning meetings with representatives from the ANU McCusker Institute and UC
- This quarter - CBRIN employed 1 current ANU student intern 2 days per week
- 1 October 2025 - CBRIN team met with around 20 people from across UC, including the DVCR, partnerships & engagement team, commercialisation team and researchers interested in innovation.
- 15 October 2025 - CBRIN hosted the prototyping voucher pilot and industrial design info session, attended by UNSW Canberra, CIT, and UC
- 20 October 2025 - CBRIN team met with and presented prize to winner of ANU software construction hackathon
- 21 October 2025 - CBRIN Team attended ANU CSS Showcase and engaged with several student projects and academics
- 22 October 2025 - CBRIN Team hosted office hours at AIE GamePlus
- 27 October 2025 - CBRIN team attended the ACT Gov Climate Leadership Forum
- 28 October 2025 - James Presneill met with Jeanete Cotterill of UC about the capstone program and helping engage with SMEs
- 5 November 2025 - Craig Davis was on the panel for ANU-led ARC centre of excellence "transformative meta-optical systems" legacy and impact roadmap review event
- 3 November 2025 - CBRIN Attended AFII Innovation Event
- 10 November 2025 - CBRIN met with Navitas Skilled Futures to discuss workshop opportunities for 2026
- 11 November 2025 - CBRIN attended the ACT Gov Climate Leadership Business Workshop
- 12 November 2025 - CBRIN attended the AFII Innovation Event featuring Membrane Transporter Engineers, PPB Technology, Andrew Horsley, Haizea and Nature Helm
- 19 November 2025 - CBRIN co-hosted the ACT Gov City Environment Directorate networking night
- 27 November 2025 - CBRIN sponsored and attended the Renewmap Energy Capital 2.0 networking night, attended by ACT Gov City Environment Directorate
- 27 & 28 November 2025 - CBRIN attended the Makerspaces Australasia Symposium hosted by ANU, in attendance were representatives from UNSW Canberra
- This quarter the team met with:
 - Jeanette Conterill, UC (28 October 2025)
 - Danielle Neale, ANU Head of Commercialisation and IP (monthly meetings)

- o Membrane Transporter Engineers team (22 October 2025)
- o Celia Cramer, ANU (24 October 2025)
- o Hive Biosciences, ANU (28 October 2025)
- o Joseph Po, UNSW (3 November 2025)
- o Data Studio, UNSW (7 November 2025)
- o HYREA, ANU (24 November 2025)
- o Ana Sequeira, ANU (4 December 2025)
- 5 November 2025 - Innovation Showcase featured speakers from Foundation Members in various sessions and stalls during the day:
 - o Transformative Tech Session
 - ANU - Membrane Transporter Engineers, Viortec
 - UNSW Canberra - Zendir
 - UC - Collaborative Robotics Lab
 - CSIRO - PPB, Terria
 - o Shaping Tomorrow's Ecosystem - Meeghan Fitzharris (UC)
 - o Creative panel - Monica Penders (AIE)
- 1 December 2025 - CBRIN hosted the UNSW 13th Natural Convection Workshop
- 2 December 2025 - CBRIN co-hosted the Not-for-Profit Innovation Forum with UC, and the ANU McCusker Institute
- 4 December 2025 - CBRIN met with ACT Gov City Environment Directorate representatives to discuss progress on the energy innovation fund grant project
- 4 December 2025 - Prototyping Voucher Pitch session, attended by Steering Committee members from UNSW Canberra, UC, and CIT
- 11 December 2025 - CBRIN Strategic Advisory Committee meeting, featuring representatives from ANU, UC, KWM, and the ACT Gov

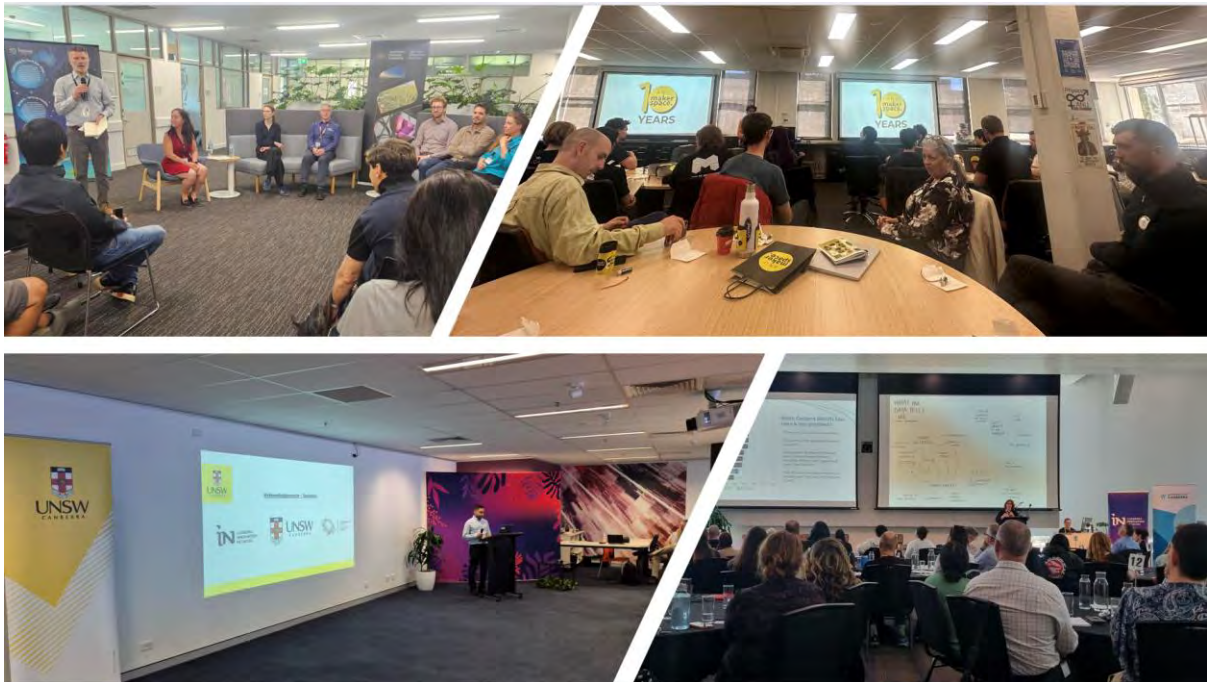


Image: photo of Foundation Member engagement, clockwise from left: AFII Innovation Event (ANU); Makerspaces Australasia Symposium hosted by ANU; UNSW 13th Natural Convection Workshop; NFP Summit at UC

Methodology

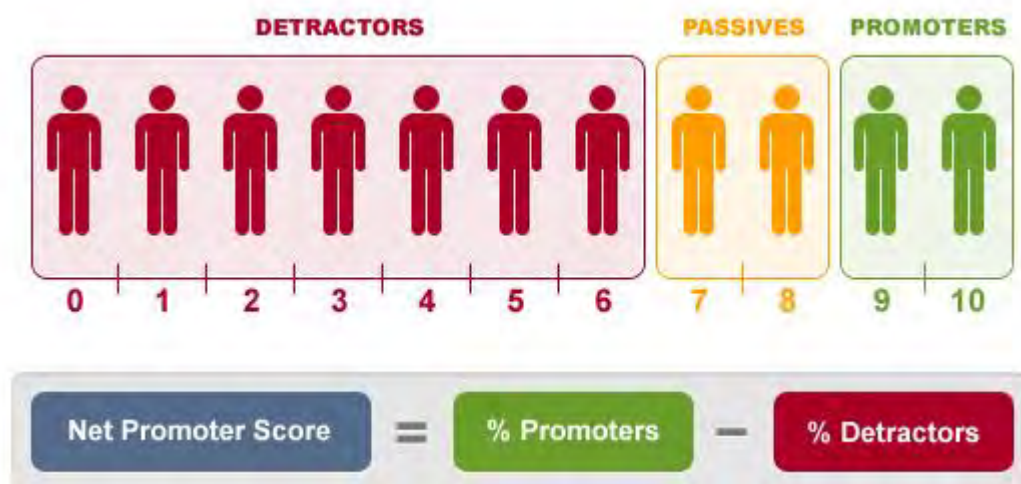
Participant Feedback

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 JANUARY – 31 MARCH 2026

ABN: 90 601 492 826

SUPPORTED BY



ACT
Government





CANBERRA
INNOVATION
NETWORK

Quarterly Report Q3 2025-2026

Coworking



86 companies in CBRIN coworking

72 on Level 5 plus 14 on Level 4

76% Occupancy in the L4 ScaleUp Hub

279 active members, of which

108 Female members (39%)

1 Non-Binary members (1%)

90 CALD members (32%)

Events & Collaboration



62 events held this quarter

1,910 participants in those events,
of which

4 Collaborative innovation events

80 Participants in collab events

3 Additional sectors engaged in
collaborative innovation

Growth Programs



57 Intro Meetings

62 Total Ventures Assisted

42 of which beyond startup stage

112 Founder Sessions

253 Pipeline Event participants

46 Mentors active this quarter

Ecosystem highlights



**Companies secured \$4.8 million
in new funding this quarter**

**Upgrades to CBRIN Level 5,
event space, and community
areas**

**CBRIN presented Canberra
innovation ecosystem at
Southstart, Adelaide**

MAJOR FUNDER, FOUNDATION MEMBERS, EDUCATION AND GOLD PARTNERS



ACT



Australian
National
University



UNIVERSITY OF
CANBERRA



UNSW



CIT



ANU



ACU



CANBERRA
INNOVATION
NETWORK

OPTUS

MALLESONS

pwc

Coworking



"Thank you for all the ongoing support. It really makes a difference to our coworking experience."

"CBRIN is the centre of innovation and entrepreneurship in the ACT and the networking benefits of being a resident are enormous."

"CBRIN is a welcoming, well-run coworking space with great facilities and a genuinely supportive community. It strikes a perfect balance between productivity and connection, making it easy to focus on work while feeling part of something bigger."

Events & Collaboration



"Great attendees and different voices in the room. Excellent to see that transparency and equity seems to be of equal importance to all."

"Keep up the great work CBRIN! We love what the Canberra Innovation Network does and look forward to help grow the ecosystem in the near future."

Just really proud to be involved and loved not only meeting like minded people, but also spending a full day with my team... Please don't let this be a one-off."

Growth Programs



"A very valuable afternoon of thinking about my business that gave me the tools to move forward with confidence and logic in my business setup. Would love to do the rest as an intensive day session to keep the momentum going!"

"Valuable, interesting and engaging! It was a big chunk of time, but very much worth it, thank you!"

"Really felt encouraged and buoyed by the initial meeting. Very focussed and helpful. Shashank was informative professional and helpful. Thanks very much!"

WORKPLAN 2025-26

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: ECOSYSTEM PLACEMAKING



Operate ACT's central innovation hub with active linkages to a connected 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 Deliver and collaborate on events, initiatives and programs that introduce and enhance innovation capability and skills in the broader community.

Activities Innovation-focused educational, networking and introductory events

KPIs
12 outreach events
1 InnovationACT (all city competition)
400 participants

➤ 1.2 COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION

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

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

KPIs
12 events, 300 participations, 5 sectors

➤ 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.

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

➤ 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.

Activities Mill House support, Griffin Accelerator, Scale Up & SME Program, Mentor & investor network and targeted founder conversations

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

➤ 3.1 ECOSYSTEM ENGAGEMENT

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

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

KPIs 150 events, 5,000 participants, 20 stories, 4 events for under-represented, 1 showcase, 15 external engagements (reg., nat., int.)

➤ 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 operation, events, coordination w other hubs

KPIs
170+ co-workers in 50+ companies
20 connected events at hubs

CBRIN 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

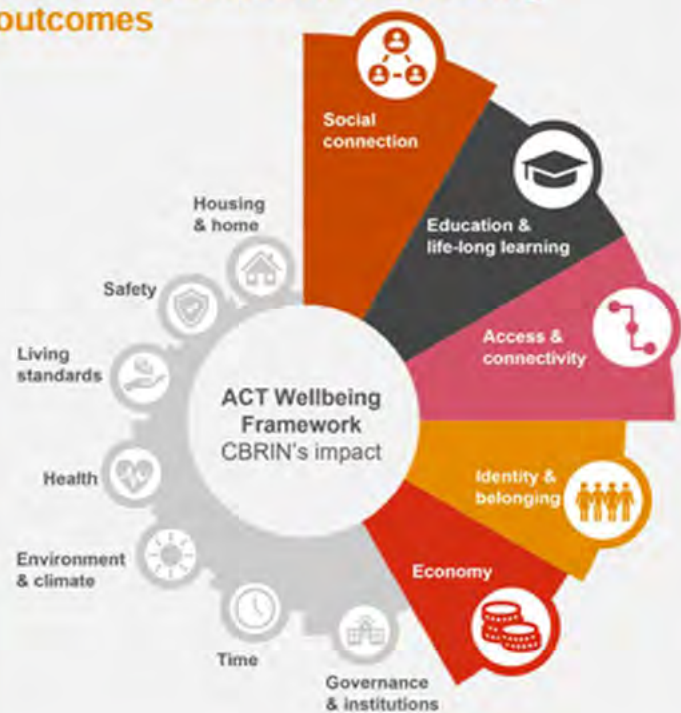
Think more commercially

Establish connections

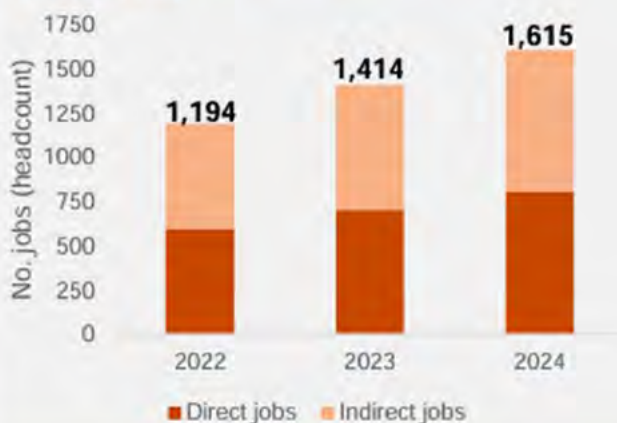
Ambition, purpose & vision

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 2025-26 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

- General Public
- Youth / Students
- Researchers / Innovators
- Entrepreneurs Building Startups

Organisations

- 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.

Q3 2025-26 Performance: Executive Summary

This reporting period covers the quarter starting 1 January 2026 and ending 31 March 2026. Even though the first quarters of the calendar year are traditionally lower on activity caused by summer break in January, CBRIN sustained strong momentum into Q3 of 2025-26, with activity, participation and impact indicators tracking well ahead of annual targets across all three strategic directions. The quarter was marked by the opening of the 2026 Innovation Connect (ICON) grant round, completion of the Level 5 refurbishment and impactful presentation of the Canberra Innovation Ecosystem at national conference Southstart in Adelaide.

Direction 1: Innovation Skills and Collaboration

CBRIN delivered 8 collaborative and skills-building engagements with 411 participants across higher education, government, defence, community and business. Highlights included a guest lecture to 200 students in the UC ITS Capstone course, the practical launch of the Accelerating Canberra's Energy Transition (ACET) program with Workshop 1 on Electrification, and hosting a 7-university Indian delegation in partnership with Austrade and the ACT Office of International Engagement. CBRIN also contributed to the Australian Defence Tech Hackathon at UNSW Canberra and joined the judging panel for the Illuminate Community Challenge at Canberra Girls Grammar School. The Prototyping Voucher Pilot progressed through two Steering Committee meetings and six applicant sessions, with 21 distinct sectors engaged in the quarter.

Direction 2: Entrepreneur Pipeline and Growth

Pipeline. CBRIN held 253 founder-related meetings, including 57 intro meetings and 20 Entrepreneur in Residence sessions this quarter. There were 280 participations in workshops and educational events, with an average Net Promoter Score of 97.25%. The 2026 ICON round opened with 67 EOIs invited by quarter-end, and 5 previous rounds' grant recipients acquitted with strong outcomes including capital raises, MVP launches and team growth. Female Founders launched the year with a 24-business tradeshow (98 attendees - one of the largest female founder events to date) and a panel with Belinda Newham, while the 2026 Idea to Impact series opened with Finding Market Need workshop for early stage and idea stage founders (NPS 89%).

Growth. A total of 62 ventures were directly assisted, 68% beyond startup stage and 12 (19%) classified as deep tech. Syenta (ICON recipient and GRIFFIN Accelerator graduate under the name Spark3D) announced a \$4.8M Industry Growth Program grant. Maddi

Easterbrook (Future Swirl) and Zak Farag (Psyquility) [both Griffin Accelerator graduates] were named in the Canberra Times 30 Under 30, and Haast (Icon recipient) was listed in Dynamic Business's Australian AI Startups to Watch in 2026. The Mill House Ventures completed a Strategic Review and awarded \$120,000 across 4 social enterprises in the 2026 ACT Social Enterprise Grant round.

Direction 3: Ecosystem Engagement and Placemaking

Events and engagement. CBRIN hosted or supported 62 events engaging over 1,910 participants, including two First Wednesday Connect events (496 combined registrations across 2 events held this quarter) at the City and Environment Directorate and CIT Woden, and a Fireside Chat with Peter Lilley, ex-CEO of Instacluster (now NETAPP Instacluster). CBRIN Social media reach grew strongly, with LinkedIn up 64.3%, Facebook up 41.2% and Instagram up 21.5%, and Google organic search overtook direct traffic as the leading website channel for the first time. CBRIN also launched its new website during January, with an ecosystem tab component that allows people to identify with pathways in the ecosystem (in line with our ecosystem mapping objective in the current workplan).

Coworking. As of 31 March 2026, CBRIN managed coworking for 279 members across 86 companies on two floors, including 14 companies in the Level 4 ScaleUp and SME Hub at 76% office occupancy. Female participation stands at 39% and CALD representation at 32%. The Level 5 refurbishment was completed during the quarter, with new carpet, paint, acoustic panels, technology, cabinetry and lighting throughout the lobby, hallways, meeting rooms and events rooms.

Outlook

CBRIN continues to deliver high-impact programs and catalyse entrepreneurial growth across the ACT. Year-to-date performance is tracking well ahead of annual targets, with ventures assisted (130 against a target of 40), pipeline participants (832 against 200) and engagement participants (7,581 against 5,000) particularly strong. Strong digital growth, the maturing Female Founders and Idea to Impact programs, and deepening Foundation Member and Partner collaboration position CBRIN well for an impactful Q4 and a record year of impact in 2025-26.

Dashboard 2025-26

Theme	Unit	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	Target
INNOVAT- SKILLS	1.1 Events	7	4	4		15	12
	1.1 Participants	594	148	331		1,073	400
	1.1 InnovationACT	1	0	0		1	1
COLLABORATION	1.2 Events	6	5	4		15	12
	1.2 Participants	227	172	80		479	300
	1.2 Sectors engaged	16	13	3		32**	5**
PIPELINE	2.1 Participants	306	273	253		832	200
	2.1 Intro Meetings	99	82	57		238	150
	2.1 ICON Rounds	0	1	0		1	2
	2.1 ICON Funds Deployed (\$)	0	\$237k	0		\$237k	\$400k
	2.1 ICON Grantees	0	8	0		8	14
GROWTH	2.2 Ventures Assisted	54	70	62		130**	40
	2.2 Founder Sessions	142	122	112		376	90
	2.2 Engaged Mentors	51	50	46		79**	30
ENGAGEMENT	3.1 Events	98	69	62		229	150
	3.1 Participants	3,059	2,612	1,910		7,581	5,000
	3.1 Stories	12	5	10		27	20
	3.1 Events for under-represented	2	2	2		6	4
	3.1 Showcase	0	1	0		1	1
	3.1 External engagement	25	16	12		53	15
INNOVATION HUBS	3.2 Coworkers	256	241	279		279*	170
	3.2 Companies	91	75	86		91*	50
	3.2 Events at innovation hubs	16	15	16		47	20

*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. If the entry was counted in previous quarters, it will not be double counted again.

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.

CBRIN works with Foundation Members and partners to participate in and co-deliver innovation and entrepreneurship events and activations with the aim to reach more broadly into the community and make innovation more accessible and relatable.

This involves events for people who don't identify as entrepreneurs, including from under-represented groups. The activity formats include introductory innovation skill workshops and outreach presentations, 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 institutions and government agencies but also corporates, industry associations, schools and community organisations are targeted through these activities to introduce innovation more broadly.

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 Q3 2025-26 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
National Youth Science Forum Visit	7 Jan	35
UNSW Science Researchers Pitching Workshop	18 Feb	24
UC School of ITS Capstone Guest Lecture	23 Feb	200
Illuminate Community Challenge, Canberra Girls Grammar School	27 Mar	72
TOTAL	4 events	331 participants

Selected Overview of Events

This section provides more details on selected events in this section.

National Youth Science Forum Visit

7 January 2026, 35 Attendees

CBRIN held an innovation essentials workshop to year 11/12 students from the National Youth Science Forum. The workshop saw the students work through real life case studies and engage in lean innovation methods and principles. They practiced open-ended customer conversations to understand and hone in on the problems they were solving and used the pitch method to test solutions with each other around the room.



Image: Innovation Essentials workshop for the National Youth Science Forum

UNSW Science Researchers Pitching Workshop

18 February 2026, 24 Attendees

CBRIN was invited to run a pitching workshop to Faculty of Science researchers at UNSW Canberra as part of their half day researcher workshop.



Image: Collage of UNSW Science Researchers Pitching Workshop