At the meeting of UAMA in Adelaide the first part of the meeting was spent discussing the draft submission to the Australian Research Council (ARC) prepared by UQ Art Museum Director Campbell Gray. He spoke to the document, examining research in UAMs, and investigating institutional recognition of publications and evidence of research in both exhibitions and publications. Discussion ensued and more data was gathered with the aim of resolving this issue with a final submission ready for review at the next meeting.

The role of UAMA in the development of the sector was discussed in relation to its involvement within the national network. Several members reported they were also members on various affiliated boards and therefore could represent UAMA on those and it was suggested that UAMA affiliations could be listed on the website. It was also noted that education institutions were not eligible for state government grants in some states; artists could apply but not institutions. It was suggested UAMA could advocate for this.

Two potential new member UAMs, including Edith Cowan University, which was about to open a gallery, and the University of Wollongong, had enquired about joining UAMA, which the Chair will follow up.

It was proposed that small grants be offered annually to UAM staff who might benefit from professional development within the UAMA network. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that four grants of $1000 each would be made available to any UAM staff member for cross-institutional professional development within the UAMs.

Ted Snell
Chair, UAMA