**TECHNICAL SUPPORT TRENDS AND CHALLENGES FACING THE AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY SECTOR**

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Australian universities are very affected by government funding mechanisms, policy changes, technology and professional trends and these in turn impact technical and scientific support. This paper identifies some of the existing and emerging opportunities and challenges facing technical and scientific support staff across the sector. Additional research has found significant differences between the technical support philosophies between Australia and countries such as the USA. These are compared with different approaches being adopted across the Australian sector and the various pros and cons explored.