

## ARMS 2026 Conference – Abstract Guidelines

### **CONFERENCE THEME AND SUBTHEMES**

The 2026 ARMS Conference in Perth invites Research Management Professionals from across Australasia and beyond to explore how we can shape a connected future for research. In an era defined by digital transformation, global collaboration, and heightened expectations for integrity and accountability, the role of research management has never been more pivotal.

Our theme, ***Connected Futures: Partnerships, Platforms, and People Powering Research***, reflects the dynamic forces driving our profession. We aim to explore how emerging technologies and AI-enabled systems are reshaping the way we design, manage, and support research. Let's spotlight the power of partnerships with industry, government, community and Indigenous knowledge holders to maximise impact. And we also seek to celebrate the skills, adaptability, and leadership of people at the heart of the research enterprise.

The 2026 conference will provide a platform to share insights, spark collaborations, and inspire the next generation of research management practice. It will bring together professionals to explore the trends, tools, and strategies shaping our connected futures. Through knowledge-sharing, debate, and collaboration, attendees will be encouraged to lead positive change, effectively harness technology, and strengthen partnerships – ensuring research delivers value for communities, nations, and the world.

We invite you to join us in Perth on the lands of the Whadjuk Noongar people, to share your expertise, showcase new ideas, and connect with colleagues as together we chart the future of research management – one that values diverse perspectives and is strengthened by respectful engagement with Indigenous knowledge systems.

The Conference invites contributions aligned with the following subthemes:

- Engagement, Co-Design, and Collaborative Partnerships for Research Impact
- Digital Platforms and AI-Enabled Transformation in Research Management
- Globalisation, Geopolitics, and Responsible Research in a Complex World
- Professionalisation, Leadership, and the Evolving Research Management Workforce
- Sustainable Research Ecosystems and Changing Funding Landscapes

The following unpacks each subtheme in more detail, offering guidance on their focus areas to help guide and inspire your abstract submissions.

## **Subtheme 1: Engagement, Co-Design, and Collaborative Partnerships for Research Impact**

In a research ecosystem increasingly shaped by digital transformation, global collaboration, and community expectations, research administrators are central to enabling connection, facilitating collaboration and measuring impact. This subtheme explores how engagement, co-design, and consumer involvement can be strategically managed to ensure research is inclusive, relevant, and transformative nationally and internationally.

Research administrators play a vital role in facilitating partnerships across disciplines, sectors, and borders – bridging the gap between researchers, communities, and end-users. By embedding engagement and collaboration into research design and delivery, administrators help drive translation, amplify impact, and build trust in research outcomes.

This subtheme invites abstract submissions that align with (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- **Research Translation and Impact**

Advancing pathways from discovery to delivery; embedding impact planning; enabling evidence-informed policy and practice.

- **Co-Design and Engagement**

Building capacity for inclusive research design; supporting meaningful consumer and community involvement; embedding engagement into governance and reporting.

- **Facilitating Collaboration**

Managing multidisciplinary and international partnerships; navigating agreements, compliance, and Intellectual Property; enabling innovation through diverse, collaborative teams.

- **Global and National Networks**

Strengthening research networks; supporting strategic collaborations; leveraging partnerships to enhance visibility and drive growth.

- **Equity and Representation**

Promoting inclusive research practices; embedding equity in research management systems; supporting diverse leadership and participation.

- **Indigenous Engagement and Leadership**

Supporting Indigenous-led research; embedding cultural safety and Indigenous governance; recognising and respecting Indigenous data sovereignty and knowledge systems.

- **Innovative Research Management**

Embracing new tools, models, and mindsets; challenging traditional approaches; supporting bold ideas and adaptive practices.

## **Subtheme 2: Digital Platforms and AI-Enabled Transformation in Research Management**

As AI and digital technologies rapidly evolve, research managers are navigating a period of profound transformation that is reshaping the way institutions design, support, and steward research. This subtheme examines how emerging tools, integrated platforms, AI, and data-driven practices are enhancing research management processes.

This subtheme explores the strategic and operational opportunities for research managers: improving efficiency, enabling better decision-making, strengthening governance, and supporting researchers in a complex and fast-moving digital environment. It also considers how teams adapt, build capability, and embed responsible and ethical approaches to technology use across the research lifecycle.

Contributors are encouraged to highlight practical applications, institutional experiences, and forward-looking strategies for using AI and digital tools to strengthen research management and support high-quality, impactful research.

This subtheme invites abstract submissions that align with (although not limited to) the following possible topics:

- **AI-enabled transformation in research management**  
Exploring practical, research office-focused applications of AI and automation across research workflows, from grant development to compliance, reporting and analytics.
- **Data-informed decision-making in research strategy and oversight**  
Using dashboards, analytics, and institutional data to guide planning, assess risk, forecast workload, and support evidence-based resourcing and benchmarking.
- **Strengthening governance and integrity in a digital research environment**  
Addressing how technology supports research integrity, ethics, compliance, auditability, and trusted record-keeping across the research lifecycle.
- **Capability building and change management for digital adoption**  
Developing the skills, organisational readiness, and leadership needed for research managers to confidently and responsibly use emerging technologies.
- **Enhancing researcher experience through technology-enabled support**  
Improving processes, reducing administrative burden, and supporting researchers through integrated tools, self-service portals, and clearer digital workflows.
- **Responsible and ethical use of AI in research**  
Identifying risks, establishing guardrails, and embedding transparent and values-aligned approaches to AI use within research and research support functions.
- **Future-ready research infrastructure and platforms**  
Designing secure, interoperable, and scalable systems that support collaboration, open science, high-performance computing, and emerging digital capabilities.

### **Subtheme 3: Globalisation, Geopolitics, and Responsible Research in a Complex World**

In an era defined by shifting geopolitical landscapes, global collaboration in research brings both extraordinary opportunity and unprecedented challenge. This subtheme explores the intersections of globalisation, research security, and foreign interference, and examines how research managers can navigate complex international relationships while upholding integrity, compliance, and ethical responsibility. Discussions will focus on frameworks for governance and risk management that enable open, secure, and trustworthy research – ensuring that the pursuit of knowledge remains both globally connected and responsibly protected.

This subtheme invites abstract submissions that align with (although not limited to) the following possible topics:

- **Research security, foreign interference, and global partnerships**  
Examining how institutions can safeguard research from foreign interference while fostering trusted and productive international collaborations.
- **Governance and compliance frameworks for international research**  
Exploring effective systems, policies, and oversight mechanisms that uphold ethical standards and compliance in global research engagement.
- **Balancing openness and protection in global research collaboration**  
Considering strategies to maintain open scientific exchange while protecting sensitive data, intellectual property, and national interests.
- **Managing geopolitical risk in research strategy and policy**  
Investigating how institutions and governments anticipate, assess, and mitigate geopolitical risks that impact research priorities and partnerships.
- **Research integrity, ethics, and responsibility in complex global contexts**  
Focusing on upholding integrity and ethical standards across diverse international, cultural, and regulatory environments.

- **Institutional responses to emerging international research challenges**  
Highlighting how organisations adapt structures, policies, and training to address evolving global research threats and emerging opportunities.
- **Building resilient and trusted research systems across borders**  
Showcasing strategies to strengthen institutional resilience, enhance transparency, and build trust in cross-border research collaboration.

#### **Subtheme 4: Professionalisation, Leadership, and the Evolving Research Management Workforce**

Research management is undergoing significant transformation as institutions navigate increasing complexity, rising expectations for impact, and the continued professionalisation of the field. This subtheme explores how research managers are shaping and redefining their profession by building sustainable career pathways, strengthening leadership capability, and driving purposeful change across the research ecosystem.

It highlights the emergence and evolution of the ‘third space’ in which research management professionals operate as translators, strategists, and enablers who bridge academic, professional, and industry environments. Sessions will focus on the skills, structures, and behaviours required to lead through change, support evolving career trajectories, and foster resilient, high performing teams.

Contributors are invited to share insights, case studies, and approaches that advance the discipline, strengthen leadership capacity, and position research management as a recognised and valued profession that is essential to modern research success.

This subtheme invites abstract submissions that align with (although not limited to) the following possible topics:

- **Building sustainable and clearly defined career pathways in research management**  
Examining models for progression, role clarity, competency frameworks, and attraction/retention strategies that support a thriving workforce.
- **Developing leadership capability for complex, high stakes research environments**  
Exploring strategic, operational, and people-focused leadership skills required to guide teams through uncertainty, drive innovation, and model professional excellence.
- **Leading and managing organisational change within research environments**  
Sharing effective approaches to implementing new systems, structures, and cultures across research offices, schools/faculties, and interdisciplinary centres.
- **Navigating and strengthening the ‘third space’ between academia, industry, and professional practice**  
Investigating how research managers build credibility, influence, and strategic relationships across boundaries to support institutional priorities and research outcomes.
- **Strategies for professional identity, recognition, and workforce development**  
Considering how the profession defines itself, articulates its value, and strengthens recognition through accreditation, professional standards, and community building.
- **Creating high performing and resilient research management teams**  
Showcasing strategies for fostering wellbeing, adaptability, collaboration, and psychological safety in complex and high-stakes research settings.
- **Models for mentoring, training, and capability building**  
Highlighting programs and initiatives designed to strengthen skills, foster career development, and grow the next generation of research management leaders.
- **Case studies on leading organisational transformation in research management contexts**  
Presenting practical lessons learnt from implementing structural reforms, digital transformation, fostering cultural change, or new innovative operating models across the research ecosystem.

## **Subtheme 5: Sustainable Research Ecosystems and Changing Funding Landscapes**

As the global research funding landscape undergoes significant shifts, the research community faces both challenges and opportunities within the ecosystem that supports them. This subtheme explores approaches on building and maintaining sustainable research ecosystems amidst evolving funding environments. Topics for discussion could include:

- How research managers, institutions, and funders adapt in the face of changing government priorities, investments, increasing competition, and the rise of philanthropic and mission-driven funding.
- Innovative funding partnerships and capacity building.
- Strategies for aligning values and amplifying impact.
- Collaborative approaches that enhance resource sharing and efficiency.

Shaping a sustainable future for research management that balances economic realities with the pursuit of knowledge and societal benefit is imperative to ensure the continued vitality of the Australasian research ecosystem.

This subtheme invites abstract submissions that align with (although not limited to) the following possible topics:

- **Diversifying research income through philanthropy, industry, and alternative funding sources**  
Exploring innovative approaches to broaden the funding base for research, reduce reliance on single sources, and build resilient financial ecosystems that support long-term research goals.
- **Building sustainable research cultures and infrastructure**  
Fostering research environments, practices, and systems that promote integrity, champion inclusivity, support wellbeing, and build enduring institutional capacity.
- **Managing transitions in government and institutional funding priorities**  
Examining strategies for adapting to shifts in policy, investment focus, and funding mechanisms while safeguarding research excellence and continuity.
- **Partnerships and collaborations that drive long-term impact**  
Highlighting cross-sector and interdisciplinary collaborations that create sustained benefits for communities, economies, and advance the research enterprise.
- **Capacity building and workforce sustainability in research management**  
Developing the skills, leadership, and organisational capability needed to support a strong, adaptive, and future-ready research workforce.
- **Measuring and communicating the impact of philanthropic investments**  
Evaluating and demonstrating the impact of how philanthropic funding contributes to research outcomes, societal benefits, and institutional missions.
- **Equity, ethics, and governance in changing funding ecosystems**  
Examining the ethical, equitable, and governance challenges that emerge as funding landscapes diversify and new actors that shape research priorities.

## **GENERAL GUIDELINES ON SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT**

Your abstract will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Alignment with the conference theme and subthemes.
- Summary of topic and key ideas to be presented are clearly articulated.
- The relevance to advancing the profession is clear and well defined.
- The abstract is well written and easy to understand without discipline-specific expertise i.e., no jargon or technical language, no major grammatical issues.
- Recognises the contributions of Indigenous/First Nations peoples (if applicable).

Abstracts submitted for the ARMS 2026 Conference should:

✓ **Articulate succinctly the key message(s)** you wish to communicate to conference delegates.

- **Clearly identify** the subject matter or topic of your presentation or workshop.
- **Describe** the innovative approach that you used.
- **Emphasise the key idea(s)** regarding the problem(s) or question(s) you wish to address.
- **Highlight** your central idea regarding the question(s)/problem(s).
- **Outline** no more than three key points to your argument.
- **Demonstrate** the relevance to advancing the professionalism of research management and administration.
- **Learning Outcomes** – your presentation should not just be a report, but outline what was learnt during the process.

✓ **Evoke interest** so that conference participants want to hear what you have to say.

- **Select** a title that is captivating and will draw conference delegates – no more than twenty (20 words).
- **Choose** the right pitch and language, i.e., use words that are understood by both specialists and non-specialists, avoiding jargon where possible.

✓ **When drafting and submitting your abstract:**

- **Submit** your abstract **online** through the speaker portal website.
- Applicants can only submit in **PDF only**. Word docs will not be accepted.
- **Make sure you are concise** – abstracts should not exceed 250 words and must relate to one of the identified conference subthemes. You should ensure to address the scope of your proposed talk/poster in this abstract in easy-to-understand language for a diverse audience.
- Identify the presenter(s) name(s) – identify which presenter is nominated for contact. Note: Proxy delegations for successful abstract presenters will not be permitted.
- **Identify the presenter's contact details** – including institution, address, email address and telephone number.
- **Provide an indication of preferred presentation format** – either Oral presentation, Poster presentation, or Pre-conference workshop. Note: Inclusion in a particular presentation format is at the discretion of the ARMS 2026 Conference Sub-Committee.
- **Submission must be made** in any one of the subthemes as outlined in this document.
- **Submissions may not be advertisements or promotions of services and/or** of institutions as this would be more appropriate for vendor or institution exhibits. Abstracts must be academic and/or professional in nature that relate to our professional community and not be sales or vendor pitches.

Consistent with the value we place on **high standards of research governance** including the protection of integrity and ethics of research, ARMS expects that all materials published through ARMS forums are based on activities conducted in accordance with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, the Singapore Statement on Research Integrity, the Research Charter for Aotearoa New Zealand, and other such equivalence in the region of the abstract author. ARMS expects all its members to demonstrate best practice, and this includes obtaining all necessary approvals for the conduct of activities to inform presentations and papers published through ARMS, including conference presentations.

ARMS expects all members and those seeking to communicate activities through ARMS forums to comply with their institutional processes regarding Ethics Committee approval for the involvement of human participants or animals.

For example, where a survey is conducted to form the basis of a presentation at an ARMS conference, it is expected that the presenters will comply with their institutional policies regarding obtaining Human Research Ethics Committee approval for the survey. ARMS considers distribution at a conference to be publication and therefore all institutional requirements regarding the conduct and dissemination of research activities should be complied with.

ARMS values and recognises the **contributions of Indigenous/First Nations peoples** in research and research administration. ARMS acknowledges that Indigenous/First Nations peoples have inherent rights, including the right to self-determination. Research with and about Indigenous/First Nations peoples must be founded on a process of meaningful engagement and reciprocity. Any abstracts and/or presentations relating to or involving Indigenous/First Nations peoples at an ARMS conference must be done in partnership with an appropriate member of the Indigenous/First Nations community. Wherever possible an abstract/presentation should be co-presented with members of the relevant Indigenous/First Nations community.

When reviewing abstracts that include/involve First Nations/Indigenous peoples, reviewers should note the involvement of the Indigenous/First Nations peoples in the research/project/topic and use best judgment as to whether the above statements are being adhered to. In instances where it is not clear how First Nations/Indigenous peoples have been involved in the research/project/topic, the reviewer should flag this to the ARMS Executive Office, by way of email to the contact details listed on the previous page.

## SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

### Oral Presentations (20-25 minutes including question time)

- Submissions for oral presentations should describe original research/work/professional development/insights and so forth that has been conducted by the authors under one of the conference subthemes. Abstracts should clearly outline the topic being covered.
- 20-25 minutes including question time will be allocated for oral presentations. *Speakers may be given more/less time to present at the discretion of the Conference Sub-Committee.*
- The Conference Sub-Committee reserves the right to adjust the presentation time in certain cases.
- Oral presentations should be presented using PowerPoint projection. Please bring your presentation PowerPoint slides on a memory stick to the audiovisual speaker's preparation room on arrival at the conference so it can be loaded on to the conference laptop computers. Please also bring a back-up of your presentation on a separate USB/memory stick in case your presentation fails.
- Standard audio-visual facilities will be available. If you have complex audio/visual needs, you will need to ensure this is tested in the room prior to your session.

### Poster Display

- Submissions for poster presentations should describe work under one of the conference subthemes where possible.
- Authors must attend their posters during the allocated time to answer questions.
- Posters should be 84cm wide and 119 cm high.
- The poster should include author and co-authors' names, a short title, the name of the institution where the work was carried out, an abstract and section headings such as Introduction, Methods, Results, Conclusions and Recommendations.
- Posters should be succinct, easily read from a distance and engaging.
- Each poster will be allocated a poster number closer to the conference. The poster number will indicate where your poster will be positioned/displayed at the conference. Posters will be on display throughout the conference.

## Preconference Workshops

- Submissions for preconference workshops should describe work under one of the conference subthemes.
- Workshops will be one half day in length i.e., 3-3½ hours.
- Abstracts should be presented using PowerPoint projection. Overheads will not be permitted. Please bring your presentation PowerPoint slides on a memory stick to the audiovisual speaker's preparation room on arrival at the conference so it can be loaded onto the conference laptop computers. Please also bring a back-up of your presentation on a separate USB/memory stick in case your presentation fails.
- Standard audio-visual facilities will be available.

## Discussion Tables – New Format

Discussion Tables are a new interactive format designed to spark deeper conversations, peer learning, and practical insight-sharing among delegates. Unlike traditional oral presentations, this format prioritises dialogue over delivery – creating space to explore challenges, exchange ideas, and learn directly from each other's experiences.

For presenters, Discussion Tables offer a unique opportunity to test concepts, gather feedback, and connect with delegates in a more personal and collaborative setting. For delegates, they provide a chance to engage meaningfully with topics, ask questions, and contribute their own perspectives in a relaxed, conversational environment.

This format enables greater networking, strengthens community connection, fosters professional reflection, and supports the conference theme of “Connected Futures” by creating pathways for real-time engagement, knowledge exchange, and shared problem-solving.

- The ARMS 2026 Conference Sub-Committee will invite selected Poster or Oral abstract submissions with the opportunity to participate in our new Discussion Table format. **Please note:** Only authors who indicate their interest in the abstract submission portal will be considered.
- Oral presentation submissions may be instead offered a Discussion Table if deemed likely to be well suited to the format, whereas Poster presenters may have the opportunity to contribute to both formats.
- Those who agree to deliver a Discussion Table will receive further guidance information to assist them with preparing for this new format to support an engaging experience for both presenters and participants.
- Please click [here](#) for further information on how these sessions will run.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT

The below terms and conditions associated with abstract submissions must be read, understood and agreed to at the point of online submission:

- Abstracts must be submitted via the online portal no later than the advertised deadlines.
- The acceptance of an abstract for the event does not imply any provision of registration for the event, nor any other costs associated with preparation or presentation of the abstract or presenter's attendance at the event.
- All authors presenting at the event must obtain a valid conference registration to attend.
- Authors agree to permit the event organisers to publish the abstract in the online event app and other event materials as required.
- If the author(s) have any commercial interests or associations that might pose a conflict of interest regarding this submission, they must be declared prior to the conference.
- Submitters must confirm the submission has been approved by all authors and is original work.
- The final presentation/workshop must be consistent with the approved abstract unless written approval of any changes is obtained from the ARMS Executive Office in advance.

## AI Policy for Abstracts

- Disclose the use of AI tools if they contributed to writing or editing.
- Ensure originality and avoid submitting AI-generated content without human oversight.
- Use AI ethically e.g., for grammar, structure, but not for fabricating the substantive content of abstracts.

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION CERTIFICATION

The below abstract submission certification associated with abstract submissions must be read, understood and agreed to at the point of online submission.

In submitting an abstract to present at ARMS, I certify that:

- The content of my abstract represents my own work.
- I am an appropriate person to present this topic; I have appropriate expertise to present on this topic.
- In the case this is a collaborative project, I have spoken to my collaborators about the submission of this abstract and that my submission of this abstract demonstrates that I have the support of my collaborators to submit and present this abstract/presentation.
- If applicable, I have documented permission from Indigenous/First Nations collaborators and will be able to provide evidence upon request.
- ARMS can seek further clarification from me regarding my abstract.
- I have full endorsement from my line management to submit this abstract.
- If accepted to present at the ARMS conference, I will be supported by my leadership to present my abstract.
- I have disclosed any use of AI in relation to my abstract paper.

## KEY DATES

### Closing Date for Submissions – PLEASE NOTE

- Pre-Conference Workshops – closing date **Friday 10 April 2026**
- Oral Presentations – closing date **Friday 10 April 2026**
- Poster Presentations – closing date **Friday 10 April 2026**

**NB: Late abstracts will not be accepted.**

### Notification Date for Submissions

All submissions will be carefully reviewed by the ARMS 2026 Conference Sub-Committee and authors will be notified of acceptance.

- Pre-Conference Workshops – **Mid-Late May 2026**
- Oral Presentations – **Mid-Late May 2026**
- Poster Presentations – **Mid-Late May 2026**
- Discussion Tables – **Mid-Late May 2026**

Presenters will be notified via email and will be sent a link for registration. All presenters must register by **Thursday 25 June 2026** in order for the program to be finalised and published. NB: Early Bird registration closes Thursday 25 June 2026. **In the event that the presenting author does not register, the abstract will be withdrawn from the program.**

## EXAMPLE OF A SUCCESSFUL ABSTRACT

**Theme:** Professional Research management as an embedded practice

**Title:** Research Office Change at Scale – Lessons Learned from the Monash Research Office

**Authors:** Helen Partridge & David Robson – Monash University

**Abstract:**

Whilst Monash University continued to gain significant increases in research income in 2021 and 2022, the Monash Research Office was struggling. We experienced our worst staff retention rates in over a decade, recruitment freezes due to the impact of COVID-19 on university finances, and consequently, a rising number of matters in progress. The timeliness of service delivery was impacted, which led to an increase in complaints from the Monash research community and issues with staff morale.

After an external review, support was gained for a restructure and a comprehensive change program.

2023 was a big year. We:

- Redefined mission and vision and confirmed our shared values.
- Restructured, increasing staff FTE and career paths within the MRO.
- Implemented Salesforce as a ‘matter management’ system, Pivot-RP and redeveloped the MRO website.
- Negotiated and agreed on a Service Catalogue with Faculties and developed a Service Charter.
- Increased operational transparency and reporting to Faculties and researchers.
- Introduced ‘instant’ research satisfaction surveys to gain feedback on our service.
- And more....

In this presentation, we share this journey and our learnings with you.

## ABSTRACT TEMPLATE

**Presentation Type:** Choose an item.

**Theme:** Choose an item.

**Title:** Click or tap here to enter text. – no more than 20 words

**Presenters, Author(s):**

Click or tap here to enter text. Surname, First name<sup>x</sup>, Surname, First name<sup>x</sup>

Click or tap here to enter text. <sup>x</sup>Affiliation, <sup>x</sup>Affiliation

**Presenter's email** Click or tap here to enter text.

**address:**

**How does the abstract align with the theme?**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Learning outcomes:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Abstract:**

Click or tap here to enter text. – must not exceed 250 words

[Click here to download Word document.](#)

**Please convert to PDF before submitting your abstract. Word Documents will NOT be accepted.**