



2025 Conference - Abstract Guidelines

Guidelines For Submitting a Competitive Abstract in the form of an Oral Presentation OR Preconference Workshop Presentation

The Australasian Ethics Network (AEN) provides a platform for those involved in human research ethics (researchers, ethics committee members and chairs, and administrators) to network, share their ideas, processes experiences and views. The AEN is administered via the Australasian Research Society.

The AEN **offers a biennial conference** where members can come together to explore and discuss contemporary ethical issues. To assist members who wish to contribute to the conference program, the AEN provides these **Abstract Guidelines** designed to help ensure that abstract submissions are consistent, clear, and structured effectively, facilitating the review and selection process for the conference.

Conference Theme: Ethics & Integrity Uncharted: Navigating New Roles and Emerging Challenges

The research landscape continues to evolve. Societal, political, economic and technological shifts are redefining the roles and expectations of researchers and research ethics committees. The implications of innovation in a rapidly changing world are challenging existing paradigms and uncovering new trails of ethical consideration.

More than ever before, researchers are being asked to consider the merit, integrity and impact of their research. They must grapple with foundational shifts in public expectation and the rapid erosion of public trust, to communicate with transparency, collaborate meaningfully, and engage responsibly with disruptive technologies. Beyond this, they must demonstrate respect for privacy in an age where global connectivity has exponentially increased the availability of human data whilst simultaneously blurring the lines of consent.

With this, the burden is falling to research ethics committees to become experts at lightspeed, to broaden their knowledge and holistically assess the ethical implications of research in this ever-expanding context. However, the pace of change requires them to go beyond traditional approaches. They must apply existing ethics guidelines and templates to increasingly complex and sometimes unprecedented scenarios, offering guidance to those navigating this challenging environment.

The AEN conference will provide a forum for exploring the shifting roles of researchers and research ethics committees, and how they can effectively address emerging challenges, many of which are unfolding in ways not yet understood. Novel research, methods and technology are not going to stop and wait for us to catch up, so join us in Newcastle this November 2025 as we seek to navigate this evolving landscape that leads us ever further into uncharted territories.

Sub Theme 1 - Ethics considerations in involving Consumer, Community and Stakeholder Voices

Navigating the evolving landscape of ethics in research and innovation requires a fundamental change in our approach to collaborating with others, be they fellow researchers, communities, industry, government agencies, or not-for-profit organisations. This sub theme will delve into the necessity of moving beyond traditional, top-down engagement and to explore the integration of those with lived experience and representatives from diverse sectors and perspectives throughout the research lifecycle. Ethical research hinges on our ability to meaningfully engage and consult, co-design, and co-create with others, treating them as equal and active partners.

Against these ideals, many research processes and management systems remain underdeveloped and often ill-equipped to support truly collaborative approaches. This contributes to the time pressures associated with negotiating with research partners while simultaneously needing to address governance requirements. There is an urgent need to transform research to be more inclusive, ethical, and impactful in fostering beneficial relationships and outcomes with our collaborators.

This subtheme will explore strategies for transforming research practices to better support collaborative consumer and community-driven research. Key areas of focus will include:

- Consumer & Community involvement and co-design research methodologies
- Creating a research environment that supports consumer and community involvement
- Respecting and embracing Indigenous knowledge and cultural and intellectual property, and data sovereignty
- Industry partnerships and research commercialisation

Sub Theme 2 – Confronting Research integrity

Research integrity is often missing from discussions about research ethics. Yet it is an integral aspect of real-world research. What do researchers do when no-one is looking?

This sub theme explores how today's research environment raises critical issues for research integrity. How do we meet the challenges of credibility and trustworthiness of research as we grapple with the rise of papermills, predatory journals and the 'publish or perish' culture that drives perceptions of research impact? How can research organisations tackle the task of navigating data integrity, financial transparency and research misconduct in ever more fiscally hard times? And how can they train and uplift researchers to conduct research with integrity and embrace movements like Open Science to navigate these issues? In this subtheme we ask researchers, research managers and ethics committees to confront research integrity and to reflect on how we uphold the responsible conduct of Australasian research.

Sub Theme 3 - Exploring Disruptive Technologies

This sub theme will explore the ethics of doing research with disruptive technologies such as radical new therapies, social media and AI and how researchers and ethics committees must adapt to meet these challenges.

'Technological solutionism', the notion that technology can solve complex human problems is pervasive, and as a society we embrace new technologies with voracious zeal. The opportunities offered by technology are vast, from understanding humans at a genetic level, to the permanent connectedness between all of us, the empowerment of every voice through social media and the inescapable allure of letting computers do our thinking for us. But such opportunities exact a cost to our privacy, agency and wellbeing as changes continue to rush toward, and sometimes past, us. Human research is not immune from disruptive technologies.

The onslaught of time has brought unrelenting and often surreptitious data collection, which threatens to undermine privacy and dignity, especially in digital spaces. Social media, for instance, serves as our new town square, hoarding our information under the auspices of lengthy, and often unread terms and conditions. Similarly, AI systems harvest and process human data with little regard for the notion of consent. The widespread availability of these data creates the illusion that they are a 'free good' open for exploitation by researchers without reflection on their human origins or the ethical principles of respect, justice, and beneficence. In this environment, human research ethics and integrity face significant challenges. How can we operate effectively when data is collected on a massive scale in exchange for services, and consent is treated as an afterthought, if it is considered at all? How can we ensure that our technology-driven future safeguards human agency, dignity, and our very humanity?

Sub Theme 4 - Evolving Research Paradigms and the Complexities of Consent

This sub theme probes the complexities of obtaining and respecting consent. In an era where traditional models of consent are being tested by advances in technology, shifting cultural norms, and new research methodologies, researchers are increasingly called upon to mitigate ethical risks arising from data privacy issues, digital surveillance, and the intricacies of informed consent in virtual and interconnected environments. Conversely, some perennial "off-line" challenges are subject to new levels of scrutiny and heightened standards of care: examples include studies of family violence for which consent must be negotiated within situations of high stress and high stakes; work in remote communities for which consent has both

individual and communal elements; and work in settings where questions of capacity and agency are in play. We invite wide-ranging engagement with the subject of consent, with the aim of identifying strategies for upholding ethical standards while supporting rather than obstructing transformative research. Join us as we explore new approaches to consent and address the challenges it presents in an increasingly dynamic world.

GENERAL GUIDELINES ON SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT

Abstracts submitted for the 2025 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
 - **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 ethics professionals.
 - **Learning Outcomes** – your presentation should not just be a report but 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
 - **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** make sure that you
 - **Submit** your abstract **online** through the abstract portal website
 - Submit in Adobe PDF only. Word docs are not acceptable for the purposes of review.
 - **Are concise** - Abstracts should not exceed 250 words and must relate to one of the identified conference themes. You should ensure to address the scope of your proposed talk in this abstract in easy-to-understand language for a diverse audience.
 - **Select an interesting and engaging title** – no more than twenty (20) words
 - **Identify the presenter's name(s)** – identify which presenter is nominated for contact. Note that 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** (Oral Presentation or pre-conference workshop). Note – inclusion in a particular presentation format is at the discretion of the AEN 2025 Conference Sub-Committee
 - **Submission must be made** in any one of the subcategories 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.

Your abstract will be assessed based on:

- Alignment with the conference theme and sub themes
- Summary of topic is clearly articulated and articulates the key ideas that will be presented.
- The relevance to advancing the profession is clear and well defined.
- The abstract is well written and easy to understand without discipline-specific expertise – no jargon or technical language, no major grammatical issues.
- Recognises the contributions of Indigenous/First Nations peoples (If Applicable)

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 and the AEN values and recognises the contributions of Indigenous/First Nations peoples in research research ethics, and research administration. We acknowledge 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 AEN 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 via communication directly to

ARMSEvents@researchmanagement.org.au

The AEN expects all members, as well as those seeking to communicate their activities through forums like the biennial conference, to adhere to their institution's procedures for obtaining Ethics Committee approval when involving human participants or animals. For instance, if a survey is conducted as the foundation of a presentation at an AEN conference, presenters are expected to follow their institution's policies for obtaining approval from the Human Research Ethics Committee. The AEN views conference distribution as a form of publication, and as such, all institutional requirements related to the conduct and dissemination of research must be closely observed.

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 themes. 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.

Preconference Workshops

- Submissions for preconference workshops should describe work under one of the conference themes.
- Workshops will be half day (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.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT

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

- Abstracts must be submitted via the online portal no later than the advertised deadlines by the ARMS Executive Office (official organiser of the AEN Conference).
- 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.
- You 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 by the ARMS Executive Office in advance – email ARMSEvents@researchmanagement.org.au

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION CERTIFICATION

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

In submitting an abstract to present at AEN 2025, 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; and,
- If accepted to present at the AEN conference, I will be supported by my leadership to present my abstract.

KEY DATES

Closing Date for Submissions - PLEASE NOTE

- Pre-conference Workshops - closing date **Thursday, 5 June 2025**
- Oral Presentations - closing date **Thursday, 5 June 2025**

NB: Late abstracts will not be accepted.

Notification Date for Submissions - PLEASE NOTE

All submissions will be carefully reviewed by the AEN2025 Conference Sub-Committee and authors will be notified of acceptance.

- Pre-conference Workshops – **late June2025**
- Oral Presentations – **late June2025**

Presenters will be notified via email and will be sent a link to registration. All presenters must register by **Tuesday 26 August 2025** in order for the program to be finalised and published. NB: Early Bird registration closes Thursday 26 June 2025
In the event that the presenting author does not register, the abstract will be withdrawn.

EXAMPLE OF A SUCCESSFUL ABSTRACT

**Please note that this abstract is from the ARMS 2024 Conference.*

Theme: Professional Research management as an embedded practice

Title: Research Office Change at Scale – Lessons Learned from the X University Research Office

Authors: X & X- University X

Abstract:

Whilst X University continued to gain significant increases in research income in 2021 and 2022, the X University 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 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: Oral Presentation or Preconference Workshop

THEME: Insert theme name you wish to submit under

HOW DOES YOUR ABSTRACT ALIGN WITH THE THEME?

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Abstract Title (no more than 20 words)

*Presenters, Authors:

***Surname, First name** ^x, Surname, First name ^x,

^x *Affiliation*, ^x *Affiliation*,

Presenters email address:

ABSTRACT (must not exceed 250 words):

Insert text