Attendee: Kirsty de Ruyter
Role: Manager, Flinders University Institute for Mental Health and Wellbeing

Overview

Attending the ARMS25 Conference in Melbourne provided a valuable opportunity to hear how peer institutions are integrating artificial intelligence (AI) in research management, explore effective models for international engagement, and connect with peers to identify opportunities for collaboration.

Key Learnings

- **AI in research management**
  A dominant theme throughout the conference was the rapidly expanding role of AI in research management. I attended a range of presentations showcasing diverse institutional approaches to AI and it was evident that research professionals need to build their capability to understand and effectively integrate AI into their research management practices. Speakers emphasised the significant potential for efficiency gains but also highlighted the need for robust governance frameworks to ensure responsible, secure and effective implementation. The opportunity for sector-wide collaboration was clear and compelling.

- **International collaboration**
  Several presentations highlighted the strong impact of international research that is underpinned by a clear program rationale, sustained institutional investment, and long-term commitment. These examples demonstrated that institutions with well-designed and well-supported schemes are better positioned to foster global partnerships and deliver meaningful international research outcomes and impact.

Strategic Relevance for Flinders University

The conference reflected the pressures facing universities in an increasingly competitive research landscape, where operational efficiency, adaptability, and innovation are essential. Insights from ARMS25 highlight the need for both the Institute and Flinders more broadly to develop a coordinated approach to integrating AI into research management workflows to leverage the significant benefits this technology can offer with an understanding of the challenges experienced across the sector. Building international networks and enhancing global impact are core objectives for the Institute. The conference provided strong evidence to support sustained investment in international engagement initiatives and offered insights that will inform future planning and capacity building in this area.

Next Steps

- Present AI-related insights to our leadership team to inform current institutional planning and identify potential strategic gaps or opportunities for the use of AI
- Share key learnings through internal briefings and presentations
- Pursue collaborative opportunities arising from conference connections
- Advocate for the further development and sustained investment in programs that strengthen international engagement

I sincerely thank ARMS for supporting my attendance at the ARMS25 Conference and look forward to applying these insights to strengthen research impact and capability at Flinders University.