

# Conference Evaluation –Summary 18/10/2016

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## How much did we do?

### What we know from registrations and planning

- Around 165 people attended on one or both days of the conference
- 84% of participants were from NH Network
- 9 other community sector or Government departments were represented
- 10 workshops or breakout sessions were run
- 5 groups or individuals from Houses took the brave step of presenting at our conference for the first time

### Understandings from the Evaluation surveys

- Evaluations were completed by 58 people. The evaluations were from
  - 19 coordinators
  - 13 volunteer committee members
  - 4 other volunteers
  - 16 from other staff at Houses
  - 6 from community sector workers
- 45% of respondents were registered for conference by someone else (mix of paper and online)
- 40% used the online process
- 15% used paper based
- Over 70% of respondents said they would do things differently as a result of Stan Alves session
- 68% of respondents said this was their first conference

## How well did we do it?

Percentages below are rounded to the nearest whole number

Session	#'s who answered	Did you enjoy this session? <u>All figures are percentages %</u>				Will you do things differently at the house as a result of this session. <u>All figures are percentages %</u>			
		No	A little	A lot	n/a	No	A little	A lot	n/a
Stan Alves Plenary	57	0	17%	73	8%*	15%	44%	26%	13%*
Role based session	49	6	51	27	16*	31	27	19	22*
Stan Alves Workshop	19	0	0	100		11	29	50	
Responding to Challenging BH's (ATDC)	15	7	40	54		21	57	22	
Literacy	4	0	0	100		25	25	50	
Financial Management	7	0	57	43		33	67	0	
Engaging Men	6	17	50	33		17	84	0	
Self Care session	52	8	27	35	30	26	34	14	35
Reporting on Outcomes	46	9	33	58		9	27	64	
Mitch McPherson	53	2	4	93	1	8	26	54	12
5 in 10's (Summary)	53	4	17	75	4	16	39	29	16
Food Solutions workshop	7	0	29	71		14	43	43	
Facebook	7	14	29	58		29	43	28	
Understanding Addiction	9	0	33	67		11	33	33	23
ABS Gathering stats	9	33	44	23		22	56	22	
Pokies	34	12	47	41		18	41	41	
CD Panel	37	11	51	38		28	47	25	
<b>Average</b>						<b>20%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>7%</b>

\*This number may be as high as it is because in the online survey, the N/A box may have looked like a higher rating if people didn't read it carefully (NHT mistake)

**Overall conference rating 1= low, 5 = high**

		Scored 1	2	3	4	5
Food	54	11	13	33	30	13
Organisation	55	0	0	0	47	53
Conference dinner	30	0	7	13	33	47

## What difference did we make?

In a few months, we will do a follow up survey to try and gain an understanding of what has actually changed as a result of the conference. In the above table many sessions asked if people will do things differently as a result. Around 63% of responses said they would do something differently as a result of sessions attended.

### Some positive comments taken from the evaluation questionnaires:

- The interaction with the other House staff and volunteers was vital
- I got lots from the Conference and took something away from each of the sessions I attended
- I met some nice people, hope to stay in touch
- I really liked Stan Alves (on) leadership. I thought overall it was an excellent conference. Well done to all
- Empowerment!
- I came away reinvigorated about my (Neighbourhood) House and the people I work with
- Stan Alves. I got so much from him
- Great to hear the 5 in 10 sessions too, new ideas for the future
- Probably the best presentation I've ever seen, and I've seen lots (Stan Alves)
- I finally found out what that sticker meant (Stay ChatTy)
- Finance session "confirmed the path we are already taking"
- (about 5 in 10's) Some great ideas. Well done to those who got up and spoke.

### Some constructive comments made to help us do better:

- Sound – we need to be triple sure that the sound is right for the whole of the first session
- Community Development panel discussion needed more involvement of the participants – was in a bad timeslot for the type of content – perhaps could have been better focused on newer members of the network or externals
- Some people had trouble hearing in workshop sessions in the plenary space. (Specific issue with that space)
- Some people found Stan's presentation didn't relate to the House context
- Finance session 'was a bit too basic'

### Overall:

- People were happy with the overall organisation of the conference
- There were mixed views about the food, some people liked it, others were not happy.
- People have again rated the networking aspect, and getting together with others as of high importance and reason for attendance
- People were very inspired and impressed by Stan Alves and Mitch McPherson
- Most people enjoyed the 5 in 10's
- There was mixed feelings about the role based sessions

### Suggestions for next year:

- Crisis Management innovation. Simon Sinek
- Rosie Batty
- Presentation from RA about Community Action Plans for suicide prevention work
- Journeys of people into and through Houses as volunteers – workers
- More 5 in 10's
- DV speaker
- What is the Community Development Strategic Framework
- Using Survey Monkey and other online tools and media
- More leadership and Community Development –more always needed
- Why call NHT and what can NHT offer you

## NHT self-reflection

- Hire audio professionals for the first morning at least of the conference
- Ensure sound check before each new plenary session
- Manage the timing between sessions – time for moving – and consider more closely what is running back to back, or in conflicting spaces/times
- Timing of conference relative to Parliament sitting – would be good to make it outside a sitting week to enable more attendance/participation by Politicians
- Need a positive finish with energy- ideally in a way that keeps people there until the end
- Registration – we need group booking paperwork, to enable bookings by Coordinators/managers to be easier
- Suggestion all registration payment is done through invoicing by NHT
- Planning needs to be done a little further ahead – registration open earlier
  - Run sheets – need more detail, and clearly shows who is doing what when – consider colour coding – one sheet to rule them all, then people can cull unwanted info if they want for themselves.
  - Prepare run sheets from earlier in the planning and prep, so details go straight into them
- The Aesthetic of the venue is important – cosy, non-corporate, easy access to accom really helps
- Create a space for networking during sessions for those who don't want to participate in a particular session
- Put AGM into the middle of the program – perhaps along with Outcomes reporting
- Include role based session as a workshop (for planning purposes) and also so those not from Houses can have an option for them
- Dinner is very important for people – they will leave the conference content to prepare
- Create a session for Community Sector workers (non-house) that provides understanding on how to engage with Houses
- MC for dinner was a good thing and helped things to run well
- Name tags for conference speakers and presenters – clearer registration process – that does actually tick people off, and doesn't allow people in until they have registered – not to stop attendance, but to track attendance so we know better who is attending
- Role-based sessions need a little refining – treat as workshops so we can get people to sign up to the group they want – be clear Coordinator session is for people only in those roles. Seek potential input from participants in each session ahead of time.
- Self care sessions – could be done differently – maybe a few different things going on in a different space. Maybe two or three different things in different spaces like workshops – second day may also be better
- Dinner is a challenge and my(JB) feelings are that a smorgasbord with plenty of good hearty food is vital and ideally for a cheaper price. \$55/head for two courses is a bit rich (even though we did through in some appetizers at NHT expense – makes it even more expensive)
- We need bowls of fresh fruit available through out the conference.
- Suggestion that Host Houses provide a presentation/video walk through of their House to profile their activities and programs