

Community: Creating our future

Neighbourhood Houses Conference | Hobart 26–28 September 2018



Conference Summary

The 2018 Neighbourhood House Conference was attended by over 150 people with a good mix of managers, committee members, administrative and project staff, volunteers and other sector workers represented. This report provides a brief overview of the achievements of the conference. Please grab a cupper and have a read.

How much did we do?

- 185 registered for the conference and dinner, with over 150 attending the conference itself
- Plenary sessions including The Reverent Tim Costello, a panel discussion on Community Development with Local Government
- 10 workshops including 6 different speakers and presentations (4 repeated)
- 4 short presentations from House staff and volunteers

How well did we do it?

- 77 people have completed the evaluation, and all felt favourably about the organisation and overall content of the conference
- 98% liking the location of the event
- A whopping 97% would attend the conference again in the future.

Is anyone better off?

Information gained from the 77 evaluations received shows the following:

- On average 81% of respondents said they enjoyed the content and will do things differently as a result of the content of the conference.
- 91% of respondents made new contacts, growing the network

General feedback on the conference

General feedback has been very positive, with several people commenting specifically they felt the content was more substantial and interesting. There are many pages of positive general comments contained in the evaluation. A few sample comments are included below.

I loved my first conference.



The venue was terrific; I thought the staff at The Woolstore could not have been more helpful.

“Tim Costello’s speech gave me a vision of “Hope” to our world at present. It made me go back to the point of why I wanted to work at a Neighbourhood House”.

“fun and informative”, the best way to meet new people and gain confidence” and it “put faces to names, humanised the network”.

93% of respondents enjoyed the community development and local government session and 76% will do things differently at their House as a result of the discussion. The light bulb moment is illustrated by the comment:

“We will definitely be more involved with all levels of Council and invite them to events. Not just when we want something”.

The series of six workshops were very well attended and responses overwhelmingly positive.

The Conference Expo was well received and nearly all gained useful information from it.

Delegates were very inspired by the session delivered by John Hooper and Trish O’Duffy from St Helens Neighbourhood House, “Learning and Inspirations from the World Community Development Conference”. Comments included:

Great to hear Trish and John’s experience at the conference and a real reminder about inequality in the world.

I think in our own way we do the work that many others are already doing - we just don’t realise we are world movers and shakers.

It was wonderful to see Tasmania represented on the world stage.

OMG this changed my outlook.

93% of respondents agree that the Neighbourhood House Network should respond or take action on the issues raised in the presentation.

On the last morning three topics were covered in the “How do you do that?” session also gained rave reviews. And Ryk Goddard (of the ABC) drew out stories from some of the local heroes from Houses.

*“Let us be inspired by everyday people. We are surrounded by inspiration, let’s
drown in it!”*

*How amazing is the work that takes place around Tasmania
in Neighbourhood Houses.*

*Congratulations to all those who put the conference together. it was my first
conference but definitely won’t be my last.*

Bring on next year.

Thanks to our speakers and workshop presenters

- The Rev. Tim Costello
- Workshop presenters: David Pyefinch, Michael Cook, Tara Howell and Kelsey Thomas, Tess Fletcher and Angela Smith, Joss Fenton and Kristen Carroll
- The Local Government Panel including
 - Dion Lester from LGAT
 - Julie Andersson from Clarence City Council
 - Ann Harrison (RVNC) and Denise Delphine (NSCC)
- Trish O’Duffy (St Helens) and John Hooper (NHT) for their report on the World Community Development Conference
- Jeddah Barwick (Dunalley) Cheynee Pullen (Gagebrook) and Mel Knuckey and Simon Fraser (West Moonah) for their How To Do That... sessions
- Ryk Goddard from ABC Local Radio
- And the NHT Board and staff for assistance with hosting and facilitating sessions and staffing the registration desk.
- The conference working party for assistance developing the content of the conference. (Kate Beer(Devonport), Michael Higgins(Geeveston), Grahame Ryan (NSCC), Tracey Carter (East Devonport))

We’re also very grateful to our sponsors, who have again assisted greatly to enable the staff and volunteers from across the state, come together for another three days of inspiration, fun, challenge and re-connection.

