

Managing and Measuring Health Outcomes: From Policy to Practice

Conference Evaluation

1. Conference Content

Overall how would you rate the content of the presentations at this conference?

Rating 1 (not at all informative) to Rating 5 (extremely informative)

Mode 4 (in a 5 point scale)

Median 4

Mean 3.95

% Rating 4 or above = 75%

% Rating 2 or below = 1.8%

Participants' Comments : Summary

Praise - there was much praise for conference content and the relevance of topics covered, in particular the plenary sessions were well regarded as were the sessions on the public health partnership and special population groups

Criticisms - too much emphasis on cost utility and some speakers need to place more emphasis on how to change practice as a result of their findings

Response - It is agreed that some speakers need to focus more on the practical applications of their findings and we will stress this element in future briefings to speakers. Our themes and focus change every year and it is unlikely that there will be such a major focus on cost utility next year.

2. Quality of Delivery of Presentations

Overall how would you rate the quality of delivery of the conference presentations?

Rating 1 (very poor) to Rating 5 (excellent)

Mode 4

Median 4

Mean 3.6

% Rating 4 or above = 64%

% Rating 2 or below = 15%

Participants' Comments: Summary

Praise - A number of speakers were consistently praised.

Criticism - Some speakers ran through their slides or powerpoint presentations too quickly, 2 speakers were criticised for poor quality visual presentations, some speakers went over time, the Chairs were not firm enough, and there was not enough time for questions. Some speakers spoke to their IT rather than the audience.

Response - Our own view was that the quality of delivery had generally improved since last year apart from a couple of notable exceptions. Unfortunately, a few speakers did not comply with the instructions given to speakers concerning their visual materials. There is room for some improvement here!

3. Conference Organization

How would you rate the quality of the conference organization?

Rating 1 (very poor) to Rating 5 (excellent)

Mode 4

Median 4

Mean 3.75

% Rating 4 or above = 70%

% Rating 2 or less = 13%

Participants' Comments : Summary

Praise- Comments were made concerning the politeness and friendliness of the conference secretariat staff.

Criticism- Suggestions included more time in plenary sessions for debate and the inclusion of some discussion group sessions in the program. Approximately 5% workshop attendees criticised overlap and duplication of material between the workshops and the main conference.

Response - We hope to incorporate these suggestions next year.

It was expected that there would be some overlap between the workshop material and these topics in the main program. The notion was that participants might wish to examine some of these topics in more depth and have more opportunity to ask questions than is available in a conference session. A degree of overlap might be hard to avoid but we will address this issue in the future.

It should also be noted that the conference secretariat comprised only 1.2 EFTS (since July) as we had to work within a stringent pre-conference budget. Hopefully, increased sponsorship next year might enable us to employ more staff and do an even better job.

4. Venue

How would you rate the quality of the venue?

Rating 1 (very poor) to Rating 5 (excellent)

Mode 3

Median 3

Mean 2.84

% Rating 4 or above = 25%

% Rating 2 or less = 37%

Participants' Comments : Summary

Praise - some people enjoyed the food, the comfort of the location and pleasantness of staff.

Criticism- These included faulty air conditioning on day 1, crowding in some sessions, some people disliked the food at lunch (eg quiche), poor disability access for male toilets, inadequate toilets, occasional rudeness of hotel staff and technical failures in the equipment.

Response - the breakdown of the air conditioning is one of those unpredictable things outside of one's control. A number of participants also failed to register before the conference and some local sponsors sent more delegates than advised. These factors led to unanticipated overcrowding which was beyond the control of both the hotel and the secretariat. However, with the increasing numbers at the conference it is clear that we will need a larger venue that can cope more adequately with 350 plus participants. Unfortunately, associated accommodation costs for such venues are generally more expensive for participants.

We were also suprised and appalled by the number of technical failures with basic equipment such as slide projectors. The hire of the equipment was from a major Canberra company and we will raise this issue with them.

GENERAL ISSUES

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR THE FUTURE

There should be more focus on primary care and public health, allied health and community health. Others thought there should be more clinical involvement, more coverage of mental health and

some coverage of health outcomes in the private sector. Another suggestion was the inclusion of a section for new researchers. It was also suggested we might include some condition specific workshops (eg asthma, diabetes, priority health areas etc) in the workshop program.

Response - these are useful suggestions and please feel free to add more.

LOCATION

Two participants suggested that we should hold the conference in another city next year and one identified Tahiti as a possible location.

Response - Tahiti would be wonderful but a bit difficult to arrange! We are happy to consider a move to another city in the future but would need the support of some local staff and the State health department. If you are interested please contact us.

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

Overall the international speakers were highly praised (particularly Dr Murray, Dr Lopez and Dr Ruta) although one speaker was found to be a little disappointing by some. Participants were also pleased with the number of international speakers presenting papers.

One participant was of the view that a keynote speaker had not attended the conference. The final program was sent out 10 weeks prior and there were no changes to keynote speakers from that time. All keynote speakers attended.

Earlier John Ware and Ann Bowling had indicated their interest in speaking but had to withdraw due to problems with their teaching schedules. These speakers were not included in the final program that was mailed out. However, both Ann and John have indicated their interest in presenting papers next year.

FURTHER COMMENTS

If you have not yet submitted your evaluation form or would like to make additional remarks please feel free to do so. We are interested in your comments and improving the conference. You may contact us at jan_sansoni@dpa.act.gov.au or at jansan@atrax.net.au

NEXT YEAR

Subject to sponsorship we are tentatively planning the next conference to be held between the 6-8 August 1998. We are moving back to an August date as it makes it so much easier for the international speakers to join us at this time. If you would like your name to be added to our mailing list please contact us. If you attended the conference this year you will automatically be included in our mail out next year.

Our plans for next year include replacing one of the parallel sessions with a series of discussion groups to allow for more opportunity for discussion and debate.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

All participants will receive a CD-Rom of the conference proceedings and we hope to mail these to you around the 19th December. We have chosen an electronic rather than paper publishing mode for these proceedings. This will not only assist the environment but will enable you to view many of

the accompanying power point presentations.

For those that were unable to attend conference proceedings will be available from Allison Aylward, Centre for Health Service Development, University of Wollongong.

Phone 0242 214411 Fax 0242 214679

Cost \$60

Make cheques payable to the University of Wollongong but mark Attention: A Aylward and post to the Centre for Health Service Development, University of Wollongong, Northfields Ave Wollongong, NSW 2522

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS: EVALUATION

Workshop 1. Children's Health Outcomes.

Elizabeth Waters*

Quality of Content = 4 (mode, median)

Quality of Presentation = 4 (mode, median)

Quality of Organisation = 3.5 (mean)

Quality of Venue = 3.5 (mean)

Workshop 2. An Introduction to Health Outcomes

Jan Sansoni and Dr Bruce Shadbolt

Quality of Content = 5 (mode, median) 4.5 (mean)

Quality of Presentation = 4 (mode, median) 4.2 (mean)

Quality of Organisation = 4 (mode, median) 4.2 (mean)

Quality of Venue = 4 (mode, median) 4.2 (mean)

Workshop 3. Patient Generated Assessments

Dr Danny Ruta*

Quality of Content = 5 (mode, median, mean)

Quality of Presentation = 5 (as above)

Quality of Organisation = 5 (mode, median) 4.75 (mean)

Quality of Venue = 3 (mode), 3.5 (median), 3.75 (mean)

Workshop 4. Cost Utility Analysis and the SF-6D

John Brazier*

Quality of Content = 4 (mean, median, mode)

Quality of Presentation = 4 (as above)

Quality of Organisation = 4 (as above)

Quality of Venue = 4 (as above)

***It should be noted that only a small number of attendees filled in the evaluation form for these three workshops**