

MGA National Conference 2018: Snapshot Survey Results

ATTENDEES' SURVEY

We had 177 respondents and all completed the survey to the end.

Respondents liked:

- The heritage venue
- A friendly atmosphere
- Conference Logistics' organisational skills
- Indigenous representation
- Bursaries
- Sustainability initiatives and the socially-aware catering

Attendance at the plenary and concurrent sessions was high, with a slight reduction on the last day. Respondents praised the diversity of speakers and topics, with several comments of appreciation for Shane Simpson, Dr Simon Chaplin, Dr Brian Lobel, Nathan Sentence, Dr Viviane Gosselin, Ron Ramsey, Dr David Sequeira and Suzanne Davies.

Respondents also praised the dinner speaker, Viking performance, and the Biscuit Readings, and Network sessions presented by MEET (Education, Evaluation, Technology), the Art Craft Design Network and the Emerging Professionals Network.

25 respondents were responsible for organising some elements of the conference, specifically the main program, Network sessions and AGMs, tours, sponsorship and the dinner. 99 respondents followed the conference on some form of social media, with Twitter as the most popular followed by Facebook, the conference app, Wakelet (which summarises tweets in a story format), Instagram, and blogs.

The top reasons to attend were: networking (80%), career development (54%) and the topics and themes (47%).

The top barriers to attendance were: the cost in dollars (55%), the cost in time away from work/study and family (43%) and having to take leave and/or pay personally (20%).

Respondents also provided some constructive criticism, that more small and multicultural organisations could have been included in the program, some poor microphone use in some sessions, the format for questions at the end of sessions, the catering on RRC day, and the lack of takeaways in some sessions.

NON-ATTENDEES SURVEY

We had 62 respondents and all completed the survey to the end.

Respondents liked:

- The Twitter conversations
- That the conference enabled all to have a voice

The top reasons to attend were: networking (76%), the topics and themes (66%) and career development (52%)

The top barriers to attendance were: the cost in dollars (74%), having to take leave and/or pay personally (55%) and the cost in time away from work/study and family (37%)

Respondents also provided some constructive criticism, which predominantly focused on the high cost of attendance, in time and money, a desire to rethink the purpose and content of RRC day, and that more could be done to invite people to participate as chairs and volunteers.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the surveys; the findings are being used to report back to National Office on the outcomes and impact of the conference, and we are also sharing the findings with the local organising committees for the [2019 conference in Alice Springs](#). The two prize draw winners have been chosen and contacted about their complimentary registration for 2019 with our congratulations.