ERA 2009 CONFERENCE – FEEDBACK REPORT

Prepared by Sylvia Niele, Healthy Ageing Research Unit, Monash University

This report is based on a total of 45 feedback sheets (~35% response rate)

Respondent Characteristics: 7 males, 15.6%; 38 females, 84.4%

Average age 43.6 years (23 to 82 years)

28 (62.2%) presented at the conference

SATISFACTION

Possible satisfaction ratings ranged from 1 (LOW) to 5 (HIGH).

Satisfaction responses overall were consistently high.

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<th>Mean</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Event</td>
<td>4.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wicked Widows</td>
<td>4.75</td>
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<td>Conference organisation</td>
<td>4.57</td>
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<td>Quality of the presentations</td>
<td>4.52</td>
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<td>Keynote address</td>
<td>4.36</td>
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<td>Networking opportunities</td>
<td>4.56</td>
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<td>Conference venue &amp; catering</td>
<td>4.43</td>
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<td>Presenter’s overall experience</td>
<td>4.62</td>
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<td>Conference content</td>
<td>4.37</td>
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<td>Time for questions/discussion</td>
<td>4.11</td>
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<td>Value of information</td>
<td>4.43</td>
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General Comments
Mainly very complimentary (e.g., well organised, presentations of a high standard). The main criticisms related to the venue – in particular, the difficulty of moving between sessions due to rooms being on different levels.

Stimulating aspects/presentations
Favourites were Leon Piterman, Wicked Widows play, Paul Higgs and interestingly many prize recipients were nominated.

How respondents found out about Conference
Overall, ERA website and email predominated.

Number of ERA Seminars attended
Average = 1 (.95).

How often ERA website visited
Most prevalent response was weekly (19 - 42.2%)

Attended previous ERA Conferences
Majority has attended none (28 - 62.2%)

Four respondents had previously attended two conferences and two had previously attended three.

Conference comments
Some responses include: best conference even overriding international conferences attended; would be better if linked to AAG; should be international.

Intention to support future ERA conferences
Overwhelming majority response of Yes (43 - 95.6%)

Suggestions for future ERA conferences
Summary of positive feedback/suggestions:
Suggest attracting international interest.
Combine with another conference.
Have conference over two days.
Include new ageing populations
Prayer room for Muslim participants
Round table conferences based on similar interest
More discussion/question time
List applicable A & B journals relevant to different streams
Provide proceedings prior to conference to enable planning of presentation attendance.
Methodology stream.
Podcasts & PDFs of power point presentations.
Include forum/workshops on session topics.

“Great experience”, “extremely satisfied”, “great number of presentations”, “great opportunity”, “overall fantastic”.

Summary of negative feedback/suggestions
Poor time keeping for conference overall and especially for chairs.
More time for grant writing workshop and to accommodate all those interested.
Critical of venue - difficulty travelling from ground to 4th floor. Consequently missing out on presentations of interest.

For more detailed information about this report, please contact Sylvia Niele
(03 8575 2237; Sylvia.Niele@med.monash.edu.au)