

WAALC Conference 2015

16-17 April 2015

Conference Evaluation Collated

Instructions:

Thank you for attending the West Australian Adult Literacy Council (WAALC) 2015 Conference. We trust that you have found the Conference a valuable experience. To assist WAALC in planning future events we would appreciate your thoughts about the Conference. Your name is optional. However, if you want a chance to win the door prize, write a four digit number in case your form is drawn. Day 1 delegates will need to include their name to be eligible for a door prize.

Names: 57 responses

Organisations: See below: when organisation was given, the name is listed against the number assigned to the evaluation for the first comment made on the form.

1. Please indicate your satisfaction with the following:

	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
Conference overall	28	21	2	0
Program design	27	24	1	0
Venue	40	13	1	0
Catering	40	11	1	0
Conference organisation	35	15	1	0

Comments:

1. Good coffee ☺ (Beverley Webster CIT)
3. Very well organized and friendly helpful communication (Sylvie Herron Read Write Now)
5. Catering's awesome (Jennifer Bawden City of Melville Libraries and Museums)
7. Catering Excellent +(Jennifer Janson RWN)
13. Could we also have access to some of the concurrent sessions that we might have wanted to participate in but we had to choose another one? (Daniela Hasa CET)
17. Highly interesting. Good length of presentations. Smoothly run. ☺ Miranda Cooper CET
28. My first WAALC conference and I was very impressed. (Nicola Griffith DCS)
29. Thank you for this conference. So very valuable. (Helena Zielinski Serco)
32. A huge event, really well run. Thank you. (M Barclay RWN)
36. Making connections/Networks (Lina Zampichelli CYOC)
37. Well organized, well signposted. Excellent Time management. Good range of Talks/presentations. (Gillian Pow Chong CET Gosnells)
38. Very well organized, excellent content, very friendly atmosphere (Elizabeth Gardner, Durack Institute of Technology)
39. Thanks for funding my attendance, as I could not have come otherwise (Volunteer) (Anonymous 9944)
40. It wasn't too intense and sessions were well spaced and broken up. (Rowena Fisk Swan Libraries Volunteer)
45. Well organized. Great Keynote speakers and workshops. (Angie Coghlan, SWIT)
46. I recognize that it is a conference designed for adult literacy service providers specifically TAFE and NGO in education – libraries have a strong role in supporting this and as a platform for lifelong learning. (Clara Lukin City of Swan Libraries Midland)
52. Professional yet incredibly friendly (Yvette Terpstra, CET Gosnells)

55. Advertising for conference came to us late. Excellent venue. Great idea to put nominated sessions on nametag. A reminder email early in week would've been helpful. (Tanya Turner SMYL)

56. Best food ever! (Cheryl Wiltshire)

1. Evaluation of Plenary and Workshop Sessions

	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	N/A
Thursday am Keynote	30	8	6	4	
Thursday pm Plenary	11	15	11	6	2
Friday am Keynote	18	22	8	1	
Friday pm Plenary	14	13	8	1	1
Concurrent sessions					
(list name or number)	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	N/A
Session: A1 CAVSS Leader	0	3	3	3	
Session: A2 USIQ	1	1	3	1	
Session: A3 Storytime Tricia McKenzie et al	6	5	1	0	
Session: A4 Janet McHardy	11	5	1	0	1
Session: A5 Katie Clune	8	2	1	0	
Session: A6 Mark Nevill	9	3	2	0	
Session: A7 Donna Carr	4	4			
Session: A8 Louise Wignall	2		1		
Session: Pick my Brain	2	1	1		
Session: B1 Geoff Pearson	11	0	0		
Session: B2 Jo Hart	7	1	1		
Session: B3 Sue Thompson	3	5			
Session: B4 Michelle Circelli	5	5	2		
Session: B5 Show and Tell Centacare	9	0	0		
Session: C1 Glenys Collard	5	4	0		
Session: C2 Cheryl Wiltshire	8	3	1		1
Session: C3 Louise Wignall	0	2	0		
Session: C4 Jane Jones	12	1	0		
Session: C5 Best of the West Merinda Rickards	4	1	2		

Comments:

1. Both workshops (A5 and A6) were really good – 2 great presenters.

3. Thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile

5. The fact that Mindy gave us her resources on a USB meant we could listen more and write less. Great resources.

9. Would love to know teaching strategies and resources of numeracy and literacy (Anonymous Centacare who attended A2, A3, B2 and C4)

10. Would like to know about more literacy and numeracy resources (Anonymous Centacare who attended A3, A4, B1 and C4)

12. Thursday plenary wasn't relevant to me (Katie Bundred Read Write Now!)
14. All good – a good effort (Claire Anderson, CET)
17. B5 very valuable to have ideas that have worked well
20. A1 may have been let down by faulty technology but a contingency plan should be in place. (Anna MacFarlane Polytechnic West Balga)
21. Research is necessary I know but perhaps lacking in impact for conferences (anonymous)
31. I found Donna Carr refreshing honest and absolutely inspirational. I found the pm plenary session (Thurs) both thought provoking and a bit overwhelming. It's almost like Freire has had no impact... and so much needs to change for access to begin to mirror equity. (Carmel Jennings CET)
32. B4 (rated satisfactory) – I should have chosen more carefully.
34. Suggest assessment for LLN under ACSF and access to programs CAVSS USIQ FSK or access programs and accreditation/professionalizing has been over thought. Must match course requirements student needs (Corrine Quicke)
- 37.(Thursday am keynote) Brilliant. One of the best keynote speeches I've yet heard, straight from the heart, devoid of jargon and very relevant.
Excellent "story time" workshop session – creative and partial. Will adopt for my class
"Library info" – also excellent. Greater awareness of what's available.
39. Especially enjoyed the variety show (Anonymous 9944 gave B5 three ticks under excellent)
40. Some good ideas and information transfer/sharing enabled.
41. Thursday am keynote – very moving, very humbling. I feel privileged to have listened to Danna's story. (Pauline Beck, CET)
42. I was uncomfortable in the Thurs morning session but loved the workshop that followed (Shana Gelin, Pilbara institute who gave A7 an excellent rating)
44. B2 paced a bit too slow. Some takeaways would be good. The more practical rather than talking about the better needed longer to go further with B2 and C5. (Liz Haber Challenger Rockingham gave B2 and C5 a satisfactory rating)
46. A good learning experience.
48. My compliments to the committee ☺ (Theo Bekkers WAALC)
55. A1 workshop wasn't clear on purpose.

3. Share something that will have an impact on you or your practice

1. The workshop by Donna Carr about building relationships really made sense – I will concentrate more on this.
2. Really enjoyed the different points of view presented – food for thought and time to reflect and learn. ☺ (Michelle Bishop CIT)
3. Janet McHardy was spectacular – as usual.
Strategies for learning to read-well described
4. Mark Nevill's workshop was excellent. I have purchased his workbooks and plan to utilise his methods of teaching phonics to improve spelling with my students
5. The resources discussed at this conference are easily transferrable to public libraries and the potential for learning programs for adults and young adults is amazing. Also I've met new people and made great contacts whom I hope to work with. (Thanks Jane! ☺)
6. From Donna Carr's keynote address that deficit labels for at risk students are damaging and the importance of being socially just in programmes
Fantastic hands on session on blogging by Jo Hart-will be practicing with a view to implementing hands-on workshops myself in the future
7. That whatever age you are working with-or whatever needs – relationships are most important.

8. Janet McHardy's session on reading. It helped me break down what reading really is.
- 9.. Edublogs for my students. Wonderful! ☺
10. Grammer session was very useful and want to know more about Adult learning related resources for basic learners
11. Better understanding of challenges facing adult literacy and numeracy, especially coming from a library background
12. Renewed my focus on the student and their stories & individual needs – not 1 size fits all.
13. The sessions that I learnt about the available resources & the techniques which I could actually apply in the context
14. Mindy Rickards session & broader vision re: Louise & Michelle
15. the resources from the websites & workbook sessions
16. Networking. Talking to people from other organisations. Sharing experiences.
17. The importance of relationships encourages me to increase my efforts in this regard
The fact that "practice makes perfect" encourages me to be happier to be repetitious
Lovely to get websites that have worked
18. B3 Interactive session, discussed assessment, personalized learning, students owning what they want to learn, good materials, well summarized (Chimame Nwadike Curtin University Student)
19. I'm going to concentrate more on the relationships in the classroom. Will try blogging
20. Greater understanding of the value of research and completing evaluations
23. Foundation skills-nothing new about it! Impressed with what is available at library
24. Reminder via a number of presentations not to lose focus on relationships
25. Using resources for digital literacy via state Library WA
26. all interesting. Hope to use edublog as a staff morale / team building
27. The enthusiasm and vibrancy
28. Glenys's session about Nan's House.
30. I found Dona Carr's presentation to be very practical.
I have already shared the Discourse Sun with colleagues as a practical activity to use with students
31. A more focused attention to the individual and less importance/stress placed on paperwork
A focused search for PD for teachers that includes very specific technical skills but very firmly situated in alternative ways of looking at potential of program, students and how this might ripple outwards
33. Via the session in "Who is delivering foundation skills" I now have a greater understanding of who is delivering these essential skills and the possibilities of collaboration between these organisations and libraries
The discussion generated by Glenys Collard-confirmed and clarified for me one of the reasons that local indigenous people are not utilizing libraries on a regular basis
34. LLN Grad Dip is required
35. The session with Glenys-I need to listen more.-and try and think outside the square.
37. The need to focus on the "relationship" with your students and be aware of "other" ways of teaching to assist them is crucial. All students have "promise? – n one is dumb, all have potential. The reason they "failed" previously may have nothing to do with them but with the way they were taught
38. Remembering to nurture relationships with colleagues & learners

recognizing myriad ways of teaching & how students learn

39. C2 included a shared participatory activity that allowed me to focus on the needs of my volunteer work
40. It rejuvenated my attitude to put more effort into the understanding of my students showed me the role policy in my context
41. A4-very clear presentation-answered few questions about adult beginning readers-cleared up some misconceptions I had re sight words / memory words.
42. Donna Carr's "Discourse Sun" activity . Geoff Pearson's ideas – all of them
43. Sharing ideas with other practitioners
44. Some really useful websites to explore via Mindy and session participant . Great that we had opportunity to explore, to share resources & ideas – but could have had longer for this session
45. Revisit idea of diagnostic reading assessment for pre-level 1 readers.
48. Teach me Grammar
50. The e-resources from the library session
Britannica for kids- great for my initial class
Would like to organize a centre harmony day – dress, food, dance
Using Beth Marr's activities
52. There are lots of people who are faced with same concerns and stresses with working with adult learners-we all try hard and we are not alone so keep going
 - networking
 - mutual encouragement
 - critical reading strategies
53. The problem solving process outlined in session C4
Inspired by session B5 to explore different opportunities for project work
55. 6. Learnt lots of ideas from presenters as well as peers. Useful takeaways from all the presentations/workshops.
57. Hearing about Read Write Now reporting demands
58. Reconsider foundation skills

4. What you would like to see included in future WAALC conferences?

- 1: Actual demos by teachers – or videos of what they have done.
2. I work with international students ESL so a session on English as a second language would be good.
3. Wine ?? (LOL) ☺
5. Any new models of library (public) and literacy support providers partnerships.
9. Sharing teaching resources for teachers teaching adult learners
10. More numeracy resources related to adult learners.
12. More focus on ESL
13. More opportunities for participants not only to have a saying for the sake of the session but to be listened to and taken into consideration.
17. A continuation of input from various knowledgeable people and stories/egs of what has worked/ practical ideas.
18. Cheryl: Interactive, Problems and solutions, Generic assessment, student progress
20. Maybe late comers could be directed to an alternative entry to the lecture the theatre the top back door The keynote speakers were both excellent and it seemed disrespectful when people arrive late – I'm not interested in seeing them (the latecomers)

- 24. Follow up on Janet McHardy's work about ways to support reading. (jenny Blair CET)
- 25. Adult literacy and ESL teaching methodology to cater to NESB students. (Louise Bradley CET)
- 26. Loved the current PhD topic, something similar (Robyn Rennie CET)
- 28. Innovative re\search that's happening now.
- 29. Coping with Multi aged and multi level classroom. Classroom management esp of disruptive youth. Also could all sessions be video recorded for others who weren't able to attend the conference or the sessions.
- 31. I loved the conference and feel very privileged to be able to come, be funded and be stimulated by other people's thinking, experiences and had work. A huge thankyou.
- 34. As per previous comment. Best to be inclusive in VET practitioners.
- 35. More of the same.
- 36. Workshop sessions should be recorded so all participants can benefit and learn from all of the sessions.
- 38. Much the same as this year – practical strategies for teaching and learning.
- 40. Brainstorming sessions.
- 42. More numeracy.
- 44. A few solutions given or opportunities to discuss in the first plenary would have been good lots of issues presented with opportunity to present solutions.
- 49. Massage chairs. More cold drinks
- 54. More content linked to ESL learners. (Sandra O'Hara CET)
- 55. Presentation from Dept Training/Minister of Training with opportunity for discussion questions. Something talking about numeracy teaching/learning form a positive POV.
- 56. Recording of the sessions that we have not attended would be good, so that we can view those we have missed. (Elizabeth Uma Rani Letchman (CET)
- 57. More from Donna Carr.

5 Would you like to receive more information about becoming a member of WAALC

I am a member

Yes

No

If yes, please provide a postal address or email address to send it to.
18 requests for info.

Thank you for taking the time to give us your suggestions and comments.