

2008 State Volunteer Congress

Feedback

Feedback received on the program through word of mouth and email has been extremely positive. In addition, exit survey forms from the day indicate that the majority of respondents found the content of this year's Congress useful and practical.

"The day reinforced knowledge I had and gives me confidence that I am on the right track in my volunteer coordinator role"

"The congress was great - well done, thinking about it now, I got a lot out of the corporate volunteering session that focussed on a couple of case studies/ programs and how they do things 'in reality "

"I was pleasantly surprised by the content of the interactive sessions, thanks"

"I would like to see a workshop on helping volunteer program managers get more volunteers coming: how to attract potential volunteers"

"The best yet, congratulations! Well worth attending. I could hear all the speakers clearly and all presented well prepared and informative speeches: good to see the average age of attendance in a younger bracket: MC and speaker Gary Edwards was brilliant"

"Congratulations to all OFV staff on the Congress. It was a great day with excellent speakers and sessions"

Themes

Common themes and ideas that arose on the day included:

- Emphasis on the need for volunteer organisations and volunteers to focus on basics: the three Rs: relationships, responsibility, results.
- Acknowledgement of the shared responsibility for maintaining a cooperative relationship between volunteer and the organisation.
- Explore potential for volunteers to be involved in developing policy directions.
- Need for organisations to ask and log the best ways to communicate with their volunteers.

- Need to share successful experiences and develop resources and systems eg codes of conduct, job descriptions etc.
- Create opportunities for all volunteers to communicate and interact.
- Volunteering encourages community connection but needs to be connected to work experience to be attractive to young people.
- Young people volunteering looking for more instant rewards e.g. to contribute to change, as a social justice response, to pass on and receive skills and knowledge.
- Importance of appropriate recognition of volunteers: variations between age groups in expectations of recognition.
- Need for provision of appropriate training e.g. cultural awareness and cultural competence for volunteers.
- Training and qualifications seen as "essential" elements as a pathway to employment.
- Flexibility to modify induction and training - "need to minimise bureaucracy as it erodes opportunity".
- Need to match volunteer and organisation needs - so the pathway to employment is succinct and clear through specific skill development.
- Further development of corporate/volunteer sector relationships; promoting understanding of what's needed on both sides.