



SL&RR



SL&RR Conference 2018

Evaluation Report

This report provides a summary of the 2018 SL&RR Conference, including the Leadership Workshop, as well an evaluation by attendees.

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1. Summary Report

On Friday the 26th of October 2018, 35 people, including 14 people with intellectual disability (peer educators) and 10 program partners, attended the second annual Sexual Lives & Respectful Relationships Conference Day at Deakin Downtown. Attendees represented all current SL&RR sites across Australia, including Western Melbourne, Northern Melbourne, Mornington Peninsula, Central Victoria, Western Sydney, and the Blue Mountains.

The purpose of the SL&RR Conference was to reflect upon the history of SL&RR, to report on the past year's developments, and to build leadership skills for peer educators and program partners.

The day began with a report on the developments from the international SL&RR sites. Monica Wellington was the first to present, who spoke about current research being undertaken in Malta as a part of SL&RR. This is the first research project focusing on disability and sexuality in Malta, where there are currently no educational materials on sexuality and disability in the nation's official language (Maltese). The research group has received ethical clearance to collect narratives from people with intellectual disability which are to be used to develop a resource. Participant recruitment and collaborative meetings are planned to begin shortly.

Next to present was Dr Patsie Frawley, who spoke about the work of SL&RR in New Zealand. The New Zealand research group is currently collecting and analysing the stories of people with learning disabilities. These stories will be stored in a fully-accessible online library, and will inform discussions about what needs to be done to promote the sexual and relationship rights of people with learning disabilities.

Dr Frawley also spoke about the Respectful Relationships project in Sweden. This group has spent the last year sharing stories and experiences about sexuality and relationships, meeting with other organisations, attending conferences, developing educational material, and more. SL&RR Sweden were also the subject of a film produced by Amphi—an organisation that works in violence prevention and anti-racism—which was set to be released later this year.

Next to present were the Australian SL&RR sites: Gippsland, Northern Melbourne, South Eastern Melbourne, Western Sydney, and the Blue Mountains. Several new programs were launched over the past year, such as Enabling Women in Gippsland and the SL&RR Network in the Blue Mountains, while other sites have been busy evaluating existing programs, presenting to various community groups, or planning for the future in the face of funding cuts. Congratulations to all of our peer educators and program partners.

Christina Ryan, founder of the Disability Leadership Institute, and Linda Stokoe led a leadership workshop during the afternoon. Divided into two sessions, 'Personal Skills of Excellence' and 'My How', this workshop asked peer educators and program partners to reflect on their personal skills and attributes, how they utilise these qualities, and how those qualities can be built upon for the purposes of leadership.

The late afternoon saw reports on current research being conducted as a part of SL&RR. The NSW research team put together an entertaining video to present their findings from an evaluation of the SL&RR programs in Blacktown, Liverpool, and the Blue Mountains. One of the key findings from the research was that SL&RR was considered to be an important project, and that participants wanted to be involved in it because of its inclusive model.

Dr Amie O'Shea reported on recent research related to LGBTIQ people with intellectual disability. This research project aimed to learn more about how to include people of all gender identities and sexualities in sexuality and relationships programs. A pilot program and manual were produced as a part of this project, both of which were independently evaluated by a group from Melbourne University.

Dr O'Shea also spoke about a current research project being undertaken in partnership with Synapse that focuses on brain injury, sexuality, and relationships. So far, a literature review has been written which outlines why this is an important issue, and a Research Advisory Group has begun collecting stories to be used in the development of a new program.

Finally, Dr Patsie Frawley spoke on the research being conducted at a national level around SL&RR. This included independent reviews of SL&RR sites by cohealth and the University of

Melbourne. Some of the early findings from these reviews are that the peer education model is both real and beneficial, that the SL&RR model is about more than just than programs, and that SL&RR is seeing positive outcomes.

To end the day, the group participated in a sexual health workshop which was led by peer educators from various SL&RR sites. This was an informative and entertaining experience— thanks to all who participated.

Overall, the 2018 SL&RR conference was a great success. Thanks to all of those who came and made the day insightful, enjoyable and worthwhile. Special thanks to Dr Amie O’Shea, Dr Patsie Frawley, and Monica Wellington for your exceptional organisational skills.

2. SL&RR Conference Evaluation

Evaluation forms were distributed to all attendees at the end of the day. The evaluation received 16 responses.

Key information gathered from this evaluation includes:

- Average evaluation of Site Presentations and any comments
- Average evaluation of Leadership workshop 1 and any comments
- Average evaluation of Leadership workshop 2 and any comments
- Average evaluation of research presentations and any comments
- Average evaluation of the sexual health workshop.
- The adequacy of information received prior to the conference.
- Any common responses/extra comments.

From the information gathered through this evaluation, it was found that:

- All of the sessions were rated highly.
- Responses indicated that attendees enjoyed the site presentations, although some responses suggested that people with intellectual disability may have felt sidelined and that more discussion would have been useful.
- Most people enjoyed the first session of the Leadership Workshop and found it useful.
- Most people enjoyed the second session of the Leadership Workshop, although some found it to be long and repetitive of the information in the first session.
- Most people enjoyed the research presentations, although some found it hard to understand and too fast.
- Most people enjoyed the sexual health workshop, although some questioned its relevance to the conference.
- Fifteen out of sixteen attendees said they received enough information before attending the conference.

- Suggestions for future conferences included:
 - Complete leadership by people with intellectual disability and everything to be presented in Easy Read.
 - Information focusing on vicarious trauma
 - Information on public speaking skills
 - More interactivity and games
 - More grounding in the work of SL&RR sites

All evaluation responses are reported in Appendix 3.

Appendix 1: Sexual Lives & Respectful Relationships Conference Evaluation Responses.

Session 1: Site Presentations

Rating out of 4	Number of responses
1 star	0
2 stars	1
3 stars	5
4 stars	7

#	Comments
1	"Speakers spoke a bit fast at the beginning. People with intellectual disability were the strongest. PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL disability should have been main speakers and service professionals and academics should have been support. People with intellectual disability were a bit sidelined, forgot to be introduced, and didn't seem to have good prep. Some slides flicking and was really distracting."
2	-
3	-
4	"Very interesting to see how the different networks work."
5	"Loved hearing what everyone else is doing – such awesome stuff. Also really excited to see what was happening internationally."
6	-
7	-
8	-
9	-
10	-
11	-
12	"Fantastic to hear what everyone is doing and a great ideas generator".
13	"Informative."
14	"Would have been good if there had been more discussion."
15	"The presentation was not accessible to people with vision impairment."
16	"It was good to get feedback."

Session 2: Leadership workshop 1

Rating out of 4	Number of responses
1 star	0
2 stars	2
3 stars	6
4 stars	8

#	Comments
1	"Shaky start – Christina dominated and Linda was a little sidelined. Came around towards the end of the session."
2	-
3	-
4	"Very worthwhile!"
5	"This was a little confusing for me, but I did get to work through some ideas on our table."
6	-
7	-
8	"It went well."
9	"We learnt some new ideas and made us think about our personalities."
10	-
11	"Easy to understand, it was very informative."
12	"Loved this – Christina is amazing. Wish I could hear from her every day."
13	"Christina is a great coach."
14	"People got involved in this process. Might have been good to have some discussion about leadership."
15	"The workshop is interactive."
16	"I got a lot out of it to help me with my own life."

Session 3: Leadership workshop 2

Rating out of 4	Number of responses
1 star	2
2 stars	3
3 stars	4
4 stars	7

#	Comments
1	"Was repeating the first session. Christina was a little condescending. The whole leadership session needed to be brought back to SL&RR and why your good skills and qualities=good leadership and therefore a strong SL&RR network/program."
2	-
3	-
4	-
5	"I felt this session went a bit long and was a bit unexciting (sorry). I hope this was good for other people but it wasn't great for me. Could've put session 2 and 3 together and reduced the time."
6	-
7	"Be good to do this about our network too."
8	"It went good."
9	-
10	-
11	-
12	"Excellent."
13	"Very encouraging"
14	"I found this to be a very long session. While some people were involved it did seem to take a long time. Felt like it lacked some of the complexity and the way we are different in different situations. Link to leadership wasn't really clear".
15	"The workshop is interactive."
16	"I got a lot out of it to help me with my own life."

Session 4: SL&RR research

Rating out of 4	Number of responses
1 star	0
2 stars	5
3 stars	2
4 stars	9

#	Comments
1	"Why weren't NSW people consulted/interviewed etc.? NSW Blue Mountains has gained their own funding. All NSW finished June 2018."
2	-
3	"The video was fantastic – well done!"
4	-
5	"The video was really good! The outcomes of the report/research projects were conveyed in simple and positive terms."
6	-
7	"Would've liked more details but you were running out of time."
8	-
9	-
10	-
11	A bit hard to understand."
12	"Great. Hopefully we can see research on SL&RR website or it can be sent to members."
13	"Interesting"
14	-
15	"Was very fast."
16	-

Session 5: Sexual Health workshop

Rating out of 4	Number of responses
1 star	1
2 stars	0
3 stars	4
4 stars	7

#	Comments
1	"Steve should have intro'ed has with all people with intellectual disability at the conference. Good interactive, practical and informative activity. Think Steve needed more prepping."
2	-
3	-
4	-
5	"Well done on keeping it fun and interactive late in the day!"
6	-
7	"More detail about non-hetero penetrative sex would be good."
8	"Good information to help people"
9	"We should have had more time for this"
10	"Not sure why it was considered relevant for the conference"
11	-
12	"Great fun"
13	-
14	-
15	"Was very interactive."
16	-

Did you receive all the information you needed from the SL&RR National team before attending the event? Options Yes/No:

- Yes=15
- No=1

Comments:

- "All preses (sic) were good and food for thought."
- "Monica was great to work with. Always responsible and lovely."

What would you like to see in future SL&RR Conferences?

- "Completely led by people with intellectual disability. Everything in Easy Read. Receive slides at least two weeks beforehand so people we support can be fully prepped and therefore fully included."
- "Vicarious Trauma. Public speaking skills."
- "More time for site presentations – I know this is work for us all but it's really interesting and so wonderful to know what is happening elsewhere."

- “More interactive things or games.”
- “Twice a year”.
- “Fruit juice.”
- “More grounded in work of sites.”
- “More professional development. More movement inclusive.”

Do you have anything else you would like to tell us about the conference?

- “Happy to work with Deakin next year to make the conference truly inclusive.”
- “Thank you so much for conference (sic). I learned so much and also feel very much motivated and inspired to get our site going. I’m sure all the learning I’ve had will still be developing over coming days/weeks. Very grateful.”
- “The venue was very accessible. Accommodation was also accessible.”
- “More interactive sessions would have been useful in maintaining energy/attention.”
- “Conference is so wonderful the happiness generated here stays with me for months.”