



Futures Project

Evaluation Report:

'The Voice of Young Leaders' panel discussion

Introduction

'The Voice of Young Leaders' panel discussion took place on 25 May 2015 at Storey Hall over a two and a half hour session. Twenty three participants attended the discussion and eleven responded to the evaluation questionnaire.

A post-discussion evaluation was administered to assess both the participants' ratings of the relevance of the panel discussion topics to their organisation and the way in which the information was presented. The evaluation took the form of a short questionnaire comprised of two Likert scale questions, assessing the relevance and clarity of the information provided, and four open-ended written response questions which aimed to assess gained information and skills, networking opportunities, how the discussion itself could be improved and what other information could be useful.

Attendees were asked to circle whether they were attending the panel discussion as an individual or from an established or new and emerging organisation. Five respondents identified that they attended the panel discussion as individuals, one from an established organisation, and five did not identify themselves as attending either as an individual or from an established or new and emerging organisation.

Summary

The results from the 11 participant evaluation questionnaires received indicate an overall positive response to the panel discussion 'The Voice of Young Leaders'. Participants gained useful information on a range of topics, including mentoring and the importance of young people having a voice and people skills. Aspects such as the presentations, panellists, event location and time, and relevance of the information were well received by the participants who indicated overall satisfaction with the event. Suggested improvements included having a structured discussion, allocating more time for the question and answer session, and greater publicity of the event to attract a bigger crowd, which may also improve networking opportunities for participants in the future.

Results

Table 1
Self-Assessment Post-Training Survey
N: 11

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The panel discussion was useful and relevant to my organisation.	5 (45%)	6 (55%)	0	0
The information was presented in a way that was clear and easy to understand	7 (64%)	4 (36%)	0	0

Table 1 shows the results from both Likert scale type questions, assessing the relevance and the clarity of the information presented during the panel discussion in relation to their organisation and work. The results indicate that there were no participants that disagreed or strongly disagreed with the relevance of the topic or the clarity of the information presented. All participants either agreed, or strongly agreed that the topic was useful, and that the information was presented in a way that was clear and easy to understand. This suggests that the presenters were interesting and dynamic and that the discussions were relevant to the individuals and organisations present.

Table 2
Self-Report Questionnaire
N: 10

Survey Question	Participants' Comments
What information and skills did you find most useful and could most likely be applied to you or your organisation?	<p>Established Organisations</p> <p><i>Idea that young people on boards should be recruited for their skills, not as young people only (tokenism) and the value of mentoring.</i></p> <p>Individuals</p> <p><i>Mentorship program.</i></p> <p><i>An understanding of issues.</i></p> <p><i>The insights of the panel, their opinions.</i></p> <p><i>Sharing life stories.</i></p> <p><i>Importance of people skills in an industry.</i></p> <p>Organisation not identified</p> <p><i>Mentoring concept and personal stories.</i></p> <p><i>Everything that appealed to the younger audience not being afraid to get out there and do something/speak up.</i></p> <p><i>Young voices being heard and not being afraid to put a point or idea forward despite other peoples' opinion.</i></p> <p><i>Working with diversity and having a voice.</i></p>

Table 2 identifies the topics that were considered most useful to the participants' organisations. The key topics identified included the value of mentoring and the importance of young people having a voice. Participants also indicated that they found information from sharing life stories and about the importance of people skills useful.

Table 3
Self-Report Questionnaire
N: 3

Survey Question	Participants' Comments
Did you have the opportunity to network with other young people and is there a possibility of working together in the future? If yes, how?	<p>Established Organisations</p> <p><i>Not really (networking). A good reminder to seek out young people rather than convince them to seek us out/join us.</i></p> <p>Individuals</p> <p><i>No.</i></p> <p>Organisation not identified</p> <p><i>Yes. Possibly via online mediums.</i></p>

Table 3 shows the responses in regards to networking opportunities and possibilities for future collaborations. Only one of the three respondents indicated that they had the opportunity to network with other participants.

Another participant raised the point that this panel discussion served as a reminder for organisations to seek out young people to join them.

Table 4
Self-report Questionnaire
N: 8

Survey Question	Participants' Comments
In what way could this panel discussion be improved?	<p>Established Organisations</p> <p><i>No suggestions except promote to get bigger crowd. The panelists were absolutely fantastic! Loved them.</i></p> <p>Individuals</p> <p><i>It was excellent.</i></p> <p><i>More publicity. It could be run after 5.00pm for more people to come.</i></p> <p><i>Location: 10/10, Time: 6/10, Relevance: 7/10, Presentation: 8/10.</i></p> <p>Organisation not identified</p> <p><i>Bigger crowd (advertising) and structured discussion led and facilitated by the MC.</i></p> <p><i>Location and timing was very convenient. Well done!</i></p> <p><i>Was actually very happy with the location, timing and information. Well organised!</i></p> <p><i>More question/answer time and more people.</i></p>

Table 4 highlights participants' responses about ways in which the information session could be improved. The main suggested improvements included more publicity to attract a bigger crowd, a structured discussion, and more time for the question and answer session. Most of the feedback in this section was very positive and constructive, with five respondents indicating a high level satisfaction with the overall event.

Table 5
Self-Report Questionnaire
N: 2

Survey Question	Participants' Comments
What other topics or information would be useful to you?	<p>Established Organisations</p> <p>Individuals</p> <p><i>Opportunities for young people in the health sector.</i></p> <p>Organisation not identified</p>

	<i>How to get/break through with your career.</i>
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Table 5 provides participant suggestions of other topics or information which would be useful to them. One of the responses included strategies for breaking through with one's career which is a highly relevant topic for young people to be considered for future panel discussions.

A final question asked: How did you find out about this forum?

N: 4

The participants found out about the panel discussion through a range of mediums including email, contacts, Facebook and online.

Appendix 1: Names of Organisations that Attended

- AMES
- Brave Consulting
- ECCV
- Macedonia Community Welfare Association
- Macedonian Orthodox Youth Australia
- Maurice Blackburn
- Reichstein Foundation
- Scanlon Foundation