



Futures Project

Evaluation Report:

'Good Governance: Building Your Board for the Future- Part B'

Introduction

The 'Good Governance: Building Your Board for the Future (Part B)' forum took place on 24 March 2015 at the Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre over a four hour session. Twenty participants attended the discussion and seventeen responded to the evaluation questionnaire.

A post-discussion evaluation was administered to assess both the participants' ratings of the relevance of the forum 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 five open-ended written response questions which aimed to assess gained information and skills, strategies, how the discussion itself could be improved and what other information could be useful.

Attendees were asked to circle whether they were from an established or a new and emerging organisation. Three respondents identified that they were from established organisations, two from new and emerging organisations, and twelve did not identify themselves as either established or new and emerging.

Conclusion

The results from the participant evaluation questionnaires indicate an overall positive response to the Forum *Good Governance: Building Your Board for the Future Part B*. The feedback in the evaluations about the speakers suggests that they were interesting and engaging, and that their presentations were informative and well received by the participants. Furthermore, the forum also provided a good opportunity for the participants to network and share information and experiences. Recommendations for future forums included adjusting the format to include more group interaction and continuing to have presentations from community and industry service leaders.

Results

Table 1
Self-Assessment Post-Training Survey
N: 17

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The forum topic was useful and relevant to my organisation.	10 (59%)	7 (41%)	0	0
The information was presented in a way that was clear and easy to understand	10 (59%)	7 (41%)	0	0

Table 1 shows the results from both Likert scale type questions, assessing the relevance and the clarity of the information provided at the panel discussion in relation to their organisation and work. As indicated above, no participants 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 covered adequately catered to the organisations present.

Table 2
Self-Report Questionnaire
N: 16

Survey Question	Participants' Comments
<p>What information and skills did you find most useful and could most likely be applied by your organisation?</p>	<p>Established Organisations</p> <p><i>Vision would be the best way of looking at our organization.</i></p> <p><i>Relevance of org. vision and mission apply.</i></p> <p><i>To define well the vision and purpose and the organization from the board to operational staff to be clear about it.</i></p> <p>New and Emerging Organisations</p> <p><i>Strategy and vision and mission</i></p> <p><i>Transferring knowledge from various organisations and the speakers</i></p> <p>Organisation not identified</p> <p><i>Testing my experience with others. Some challenges that exist when setting and communicating vision.</i></p> <p><i>Chris was unbeatable – practical appeal re: vision. Geoff and Demetrio also offered a thought through approach to strategic planning.</i></p> <p><i>The depth and breadth of the core elements of governance that requires passion not mundane action plan.</i></p> <p><i>The importance of vision and strategy and that the committee remains focused on the strategy as well as continual review process.</i></p> <p><i>Targets, vision and strategic planning.</i></p> <p><i>Give a clear understanding of vision, why it is so important to our organisation and when to change the vision.</i></p> <p><i>The use of the CMY example and how their board conducts the organization (using frameworks etc), the importance of strategy and planning, amazing guest speakers.</i></p> <p><i>Both presenters were very good and had useful information.</i></p> <p><i>Christine Kotur outlining Board skill requirements.</i></p> <p><i>Information regarding the challenges facing achieving and maintaining good governance.</i></p> <p><i>First speaker information, start looking at future strategic plans, creating opportunities for young people, what if question – what are we doing 3 questions.</i></p>

Table 2 identifies the topics that were considered most useful to the participants' organisations. The key topics identified included setting a clear vision and mission for the organisation and the importance of strategic

planning. For this question, three respondents also provided positive feedback about the useful and practical information presented by the speakers during the forum.

Table 3
Self-Report Questionnaire
N: 15

Survey Question	Participants' Comments
<p>What strategies were provided to you as an ethno-specific or multicultural organization that you would implement in your strategic plan?</p>	<p>Established Organisations</p> <p><i>Appraisal of what the board has achieved? Submitting resumes from candidates to the board is a good idea.</i></p> <p><i>Organisation must be purpose driven, setting aside friendship when it comes to serving the organization</i></p> <p><i>The case study: megatrend and strategy, the talk of Christine Kotur – impacted our organization needs. Thanks Christine. Both Geoff and Demetrio were great!</i></p> <p><i>To work on ways to energise the board and attract the skills and ideas it needs to be sustainable in a more complex and competitive landscape.</i></p> <p>New and Emerging Organisations</p> <p><i>Inclusivity</i></p> <p><i>Recruiting youth, adhering to org. vision, how to develop a plan.</i></p> <p>Organisation not identified</p> <p><i>Identifying and understanding that my challenges are not unique, and helping others and myself through education and discussion.</i></p> <p><i>Simple rather than complex.</i></p> <p><i>The presentation was not ethno-specific and this part is difficult to present due to the variety and diversity of members present.</i></p> <p><i>The strategies were probably relevant to all groups.</i></p> <p><i>Plan for all future events, succession planning and expanding functions, etc.</i></p> <p><i>All the information will be used in a presentation to my organization's board members and they can decide on what material or changes they can use in the future.</i></p> <p><i>Good ideas but not sure how to implement.</i></p> <p><i>There were good ideas but more targeting board members than committee members.</i></p> <p><i>Not ethno-specific.</i></p> <p><i>Looking at megatrends and set ¼ strategic goals.</i></p>

Table 3 identifies the strategies participants could incorporate into their strategic plan. There were two key strategies that emerged; the first was with regard to the board, including an appraisal of its achievements, working on ways to energise the board, and attracting the skills and ideas it needs to be sustainable. The second key strategy was looking at megatrends and strategy. Two respondents mentioned that the

presentation was not ethno-specific; however, another respondent indicated that the strategies presented were probably relevant to all groups.

Table 4
Self-report Questionnaire
N: 14

Survey Question	Participants' Comments
<p>Did you have the opportunity to network with other organisations and is there a possibility of formal collaborations to assist in each other's growth?</p>	<p>Established Organisations</p> <p><i>Yes, we connect with other organisations. They learn from us and we learn from them. We monitor new organisations in setting up their structures.</i></p> <p><i>Yes. Connect with other ethnic communities and other mainstream agencies, including local council. We are happy to assist in the growth of other ethnic communities.</i></p> <p><i>Yes. We discussed to keep in touch to further explore shifting mindsets of traditional ethno-specific organisations.</i></p> <p>New and Emerging</p> <p><i>Yes.</i></p> <p><i>Yes. Possible work with CMY. Otherwise broad spectrum of org's so quite difficult.</i></p> <p>Organisation not identified</p> <p><i>Yes – linkages for later exchange of ideas.</i></p> <p><i>Yes.</i></p> <p><i>No. Not enough time in interval.</i></p> <p><i>No.</i></p> <p><i>Yes, sitting with others and sharing experiences as well as being able to talk during the break and discussion in the activity.</i></p> <p><i>Yes was most useful.</i></p> <p><i>Yes that was most useful.</i></p> <p><i>Yes – with discussion and listening.</i></p> <p><i>Good opportunities to network and commence some future information exchanges.</i></p>

Table 4 shows the responses in regards to networking opportunities and possibilities for formal collaborations. The majority of respondents (12 out of 14) indicated that they had the opportunity to connect with other organisations at the forum, share experiences and develop networks for future information exchanges.

Table 5

Self-Report Questionnaire

N: 10

Survey Question	Participants' Comments
In what way could this information session be improved?	<p>Established Organisations</p> <p><i>Place or venue is not a problem.</i></p> <p><i>Use of microphone please.</i></p> <p><i>To continue to be exposed to presentations from community and industry service leaders.</i></p> <p>New and Emerging Organisations</p> <p><i>Industry based: youth groups/org's, aged care.</i></p> <p>Organisation not identified</p> <p><i>Presentations were good, the attendees could be more engaged, as this strengthens the dynamic, information sharing and take away messages.</i></p> <p><i>Would like to receive information slides/case studies.</i></p> <p><i>More group interaction and less lecture type PowerPoint.</i></p> <p><i>Ok.</i></p> <p><i>Use of microphone.</i></p> <p><i>More expert speakers.</i></p>

Table 5 highlights participants' responses about ways in which the information session could be improved. Two responses included the suggestion to have speakers use a microphone and to continue to have presentations from community and industry service leaders, e.g. from youth groups/organisations and the aged care sector. One respondent suggested adjusting the format of the information sessions to include more group interaction. Another respondent requested that participants receive a copy of the presentation slides and case studies.

Table 6

Self-report Questionnaire

N: 5

Survey Question	Participants' Comments
What other topics or information would be useful to your organisation/work?	<p>Established Organisations</p> <p><i>Qualifications of the board members.</i></p> <p><i>Position descriptions for board members.</i></p> <p><i>Management of change. Best practices and benchmarks.</i></p> <p>New and Emerging Organisations</p> <p><i>Funding, grants, working with youth projects.</i></p> <p>Organisation not identified</p> <p><i>Succession planning, role and responsibility of committee members.</i></p>

Table 6 outlines other topics or information which the participants thought would be of use to their work. Five different answers were provided, of which two regarded board members and their position descriptions and qualifications.

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

N: 13

Most participants found out about the forum through the ECCV or their organisational/network newsletters.

Appendix 1: Names of Organisations that Attended

- African Australian Welfare Bureau
- Birth for Humankind
- Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria
- Filipino Community Council of Victoria
- Jewish Care Victoria
- John McRae Centre
- Migrant Resource Centre North West Region
- Monash University
- Scots of Victoria
- Serbian Orthodox Youth Association Inc. (SOYA)
- SPAN Community House
- Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre
- United