



APEX

Delegate Training Feedback Summary

7–9 August 2018



The biennial APEX Delegate Training Conference was held in Auckland from 7-9 August 2018. Most delegates rated the conference experience as "excellent". Other delegates had useful, constructive feedback, which will allow us to improve and make it an even more beneficial event in 2020. Thanks for all those delegates who attended, and all our speakers.

Presenters

We received a lot of comments for this section. A large number of comments praised the talk by Dr Philippa Gander of the Sleep/Wake Research Centre and Massey University. A number of delegates requested a copy of her slides as they thought they would be useful to show to work colleagues or family members.

Other presenters, including APEX staff, also received positive comments. The feedback suggested delegates found all presenters and APEX staff approachable and easy to ask questions of. One delegate said:

“Everyone is so approachable and interested in your views, questions, concerns and comments – it is a breath of fresh air to feel valued and appreciated!!!”

However, there was also some constructive criticism. One comment said speakers were not speaking clearly enough for everyone to hear, and that question and answer sessions should ensure everybody who asks a question has access to a microphone (or the presenter repeats the question for the crowd). Another suggested there should have been more time for questions on the presentations by Stella Ward and Dr Gander, and that a break in between each session would have allowed more time to absorb information.



Conference Management

Comments in this section were overwhelmingly positive. The following quotes are representative:

- "Well organised and planned"
- "Very well managed thank you"
- "Sessions were diverse, interesting and to time"
- "High standard as always. Thank you to everyone for all your efforts"
- "Cannot fault in any way"
- "Very well organised. Made us feel welcomed"

One commentator said having the Minister of Health, Dr David Clark, give the first speech felt like a perfect opening for the conference.

The complaints for this aspect were some sessions ran slightly overtime due to there being a lot to talk about. Several delegates also wanted the new delegates' training to be longer, so that questions were not left unanswered due to time constraints.

Resources

There were many comments, both positive and negative, regarding the resources provided to delegates during the conference. This provides a lot of material for APEX to reflect on when preparing for next time.

While there were a number of comments praising specific handouts; others emphasised speakers should provide handouts with main points written on them because it is too difficult to write down consistent notes throughout the talk. The feedback emphasised resources need to be in a font large enough to be readable. Additionally, for highly technical subjects, like contract



interpretation, speakers need to provide a concise summary in layman's terms to make it easier for delegates to understand.



Advocate sessions



Dr Philippa Gander



Ask me (almost) anything

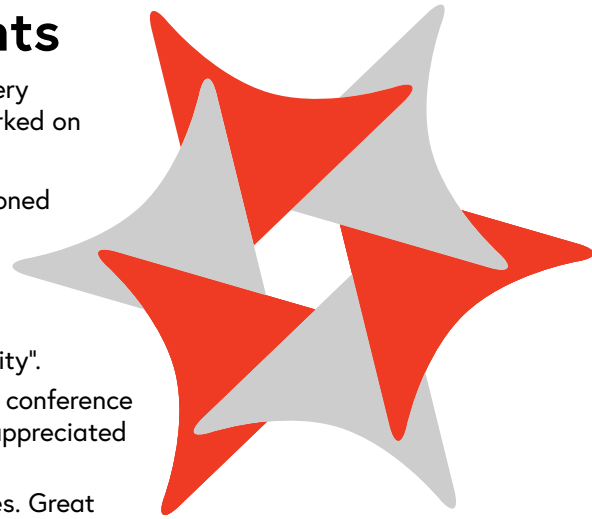


Conference Dinner

General Comments

The comments in this section were very heartening for everyone who has worked on organising the conference:

- "I feel both inspired and impassioned to be a new delegate. Seeing all my peers and advocates was comforting and talking to fellow sonographers was great. I would never normally get this opportunity".
- "Fabulous to be able to attend a conference at no personal expense – much appreciated thank you"
- "Great conference. Great facilities. Great networking. Thank you!"
- "I feel quite inspired by this conference. I now realise it is a privilege to be an APEX delegate."
- "Learnt much more on leadership than I expected to. Good to meet with other delegates from the same professional groups working in other hospitals".
- "I've come out feeling a bit more confident about the role and what will be expected in upcoming bargaining".
- "Renews my motivation to return to the workplace and try to be a supportive delegate to my colleagues that are APEX members".
- "APEX delegates and staff were very well informed and communicated all the material well with an excellent ability to stick to essential topics. Guest speakers were generally excellent. Feel motivated and supported for the delegate role as a result".



And Lastly... What else?

There were more heartening comments in this section of the feedback form which asked any last thoughts on the conference or future ideas.

"I am happy with the outcome of this training. This is my second time and I think this time I felt very comfortable

and training with a lot of tools to reach our members. Thanks so much to everyone who organised this opportunity to learn".

Many delegates liked the roundtable setup on the final day of the conference as this made writing notes during speakers easier and more comfortable.

There was also useful feedback on the group sessions. Some comments said the break out sessions felt rushed and having so many groups in the main room proved counterproductive because people found it hard to follow the discussions without overhearing other

groups. Others also emphasised the importance of ensuring enough time for participation in break out sessions.

Suggested topics for future conferences included:

- Dealing with staff with mental health issues.
- Support for those on competency/performance improvement plans.
- Changes to help and support psychologists can provide to victims.
- Roster writing.

Thank You!

We once again would like to thank all the delegates who attended the delegate training conference. Your work is vital for the functioning of the union. The feedback provided is very helpful for APEX organising future



Delegates Leading Change: Sally Raymond

