

**Partners in Learning
Third Age Network Symposium [22 May 2015]**

Summary of the Evaluations provided by those who attended

1. Approximately 85 members of later life learning groups attended the symposium. Of these 58 handed in completed evaluations forms, i.e. 68% responded to the request for an opinion about the day's proceedings. This is a lower return than we had at the 2013 conference [81%]. Given that those exiting by the single door were solicited to leave a completed form and the evaluation was mentioned by the sign off speakers it must appear that some opinions about the proceedings of the day are missing. The figures in this report are based upon 58 responders [in most instances].

2. Taking the Symposium as a Whole

Forty [69%] thought that the "learning experience" was "fully worthwhile" and 18 [31%] thought it had some value; none thought it was "not worth my while".

3. Obtaining information helpful to maintaining a later life learning group.

Fifty three [95%] said they had obtained useful information; three [5%] said they had not obtained useful information.

4. Comparison of different parts of the programme.

The figures showing how the different portions of the programme were rated are set out below:

	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Super</u>
Routes to Learning	----	5[10%]	30[61%]	14[29%]
Community/Commodity	1[2%]	7[15%]	36[78%]	2[4%]
Using Technology	----	9[20%]	30[68%]	5[11%]
Open Forum	----	2[6%]	19[61%]	10[32%]

5. Opportunities for Networking & Informal Discussion

Fiftyfive [98%] reported that there were opportunities for networking and discussion and only one [2%] dissented from this view.

6. Set up of tables and chairs

Fifty seven [100%] said that the set up was satisfactory

7. Comments

Several of the respondents used the comments section to express a further opinion. Many of these were complimentary: the venue; the food; the ambiance and, most notably the key note speaker as well as the work of the organizing committee were praised.

Comments about the symposium as a whole emphasized the pleasure, even excitement, the attendees experienced in meeting others who are dealing with the issues they are facing. So meeting people, mingling, brain storming, sharing were all listed as valuable outcomes of the day.

From this some more specific comments emerge: let there be fewer and shorter presentations and more time for discussion. A deliberate effort should be made to move people around to meet strangers and hear about other groups.

Some thought the day was too long and the keynote speaker should have been asked to speak at lunch to break up the day.

Some specific issues were mentioned by more than one respondent: how can a group find talents that it needs within the group? how to do peer learning? put on talks about IT only for those who are into it; provide more information about TAN, its mission and its finances.

One attendee made a list of points that organisers of future symposia should heed; I have included his list as an appendix to the report on the evaluations.

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May 28, 2015