

**Summary of the Evaluations from the TAN Conference
Thursday 30 May 2013**

1. Eighty-five members of later-life learning groups affiliated with the Third Age Network [TAN] attended the conference *No Limits to Learning* on 30 May 2013. Sixty-nine of those who attended completed the evaluation form in whole or in part, i.e. 81%. Accordingly the figures in the report below can be considered to represent the opinions of the entire group. [N.B. the evaluation form is attached].

2. Overall quality: 68 attendees rated the overall quality of the learning experience; 49 [72%] rated the overall quality as excellent and 19 [28%] entered a rating of very good.

3. The evaluation form asked the attendees to consider specific aspects of the programme:

a. Speakers: were rated by 67 attendees as follows:

Excellent	30 [45%]
Very good	30 [45%]
Good	7 [10%]

b. A – V aids: were rated by 67 attendees as follows:

Excellent	33 [49%]
Very good	25 [37%]
Good	9 [13%]

c. Seating: was rated by 68 attendees as follows:

Excellent	24 [35%]
Very good	26 [38%]
Good	16 [24%]
Fair	2 [2%]

d. The Venue: was rated by 63 attendees as follows:

Excellent:	32 [51%]
Very good	23 [37%]
Good	7 [11%]
Fair	1 [1%]

4. The question “Did you acquire information that will be helpful...” Was answered by 62 attendees as follows:

<u>Yes:</u> 59 [95%]	<u>No:</u> 3 [4%]
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5. The “most successful” session was selected by 68 attendees as follows:

“If you build it”	5 [7%]
“Who is going to do the work?”	21 [31%]
“Delivering the goods”	20 [29%]
“Using Technology”	14 [21%]

Several respondents added a category:

All of the above	8 [12%]
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6. The question about opportunities for networking and informal discussion was answered by 65 attendees as follows:

Yes: 46 [71%] No: 19 [29%]

7. The question about putting on another TAN Symposium was answered by 68 attendees as follows:

Yes: 67 [99%] No: 1 [1%]

9. The comments on the 69 evaluation forms can be collected under a few headings.

General: there were a great many expressions of praise without specific facts dealing with both the organization and the content of the conference.

Practical points: the muffins were good but too big; the lunches were good and the arrangements at lunchtime allowed for mixing; the air conditioning was insufficient in the afternoon; the session chairpersons were efficient – they set (and kept) the time limits; bottled water was needed all day.

Plan of the day: there were a number of comments about the lack of smaller groups and attendant opportunities for: a) net working and: b) following up on topics in more depth (“break-out groups”); the emphasis upon the actual practices of existing organisations was praised.

Other topics: were proposed for future meetings, e.g. the future of the later life learning movement; the situation in towns without a university/college.

Possible improvements: more specialized topics (none suggested); making available handouts of the speakers notes or slides; less “busy” slides; a free-for-all session.

Further conferences: the strong positive vote for more symposia was conditioned by several cautions, e.g. “not next year”.

No Limits to Learning

Evaluation Form

Please complete this form before you leave to go home; and give the form to the volunteer at the door.

OVERALL the quality of the learning experience at this symposium was:

Poor _____ Fair _____ Good _____ Very Good _____

How do you rate the symposium in terms of the following?

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
The speakers	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
A-V aids	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Seating	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Venue	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Did you acquire information that will be helpful to you in sustaining or starting a later life learning group?

Yes _____ No _____

If "yes" please tick the session that was most useful:

If you build it _____ Who's going to do the work _____

Delivering the Goods _____ Using Technology _____

Were there sufficient opportunities for networking and informal discussion?

Yes _____ No _____

Would you recommend that the Third Age Network [TAN] put on other symposia ?

Yes _____ No _____

Please write other comments or suggestions for the organizing committee HERE:

If you wish to be informed about other TAN meetings and initiatives please write your e-mail address HERE:
