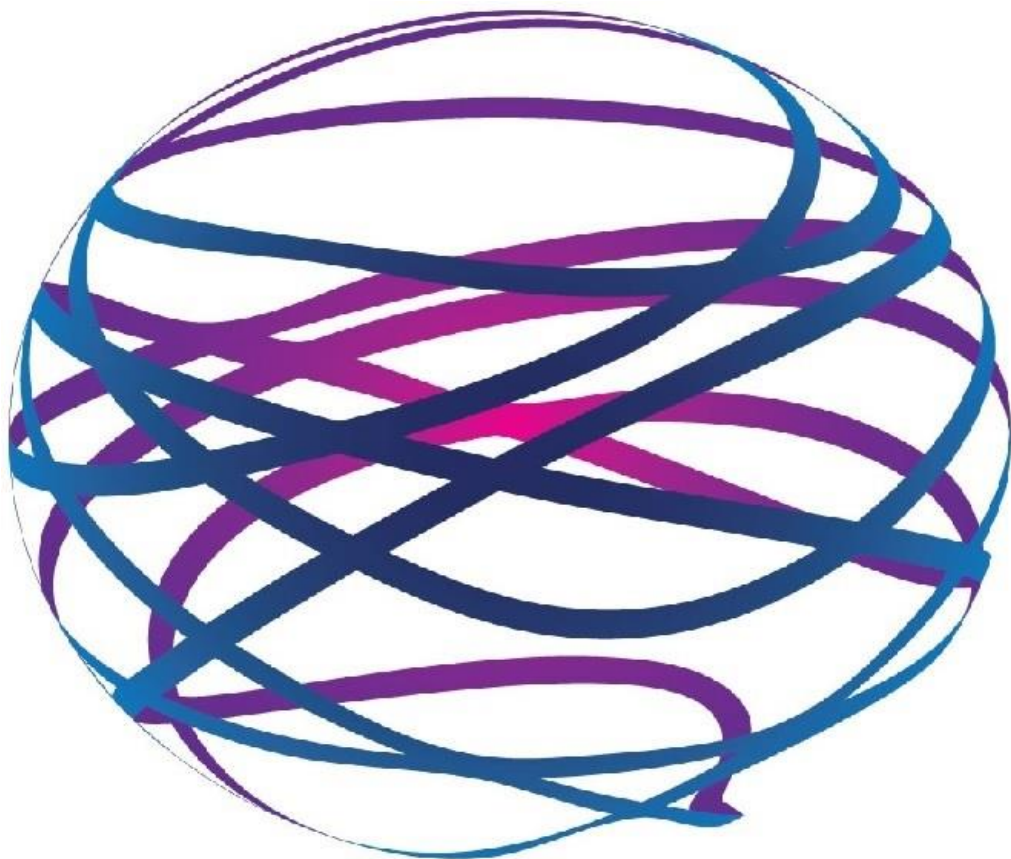


# 2014 SiREN Symposium Evaluation – Executive Summary

*Building the foundations for innovation*



# **SiREN**

WA Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus  
Applied Research and Evaluation Network

## Executive summary

The 2014 SiREN Symposium *'Building the foundations for innovation'* and a variety of satellite workshops were held from 7-9 April 2014 at the Technology Park Bentley Conference and Function Centre in Perth, Western Australia.

The 2014 symposium program included a combination of keynote presentations, a guest comedian, abstract presentations, panel discussions and a creativity workshop *'Think Different'*.

The symposium objectives were considered to have been fully or partially met by the majority of respondents:

1. To share experiences of researchers and practitioners working in partnership
2. To facilitate new linkages and partnerships within the sector
3. To showcase WA research and evaluation projects.

The symposium was attended by 110 delegates including service providers, project officers, clinicians, nurses, policy makers, researchers and students working in the sexual health and blood-borne virus (SHBBV) sector. After the symposium, delegates were asked to complete a short evaluation tool either in writing or online. Most respondents had heard about the symposium through a SiREN Network email or from colleagues or a professional body. Delegates came from all health regions in WA and the majority of stakeholder organisations in the SHBBV sector were represented.

Overall satisfaction with the symposium was very high (n=64) with ratings of 'Excellent' or 'Good' by the majority of delegates for conference keynote presentations (96%), conference abstract presentations (97%), conference panel discussions (70%), creativity workshop (78%), conference closing session (66%), venue (94%), catering (99%), registration process (92%) and value for money (97%).

The main reason for attending the symposium was working in the SHBBV sector. Over 50% respondents also stated networking as a reason for attending, 26% attended because of the opportunity to participate in the satellite workshops and 20% attended because they liked the program. Other reasons for attending were being a presenter (17%) and the availability of the travel bursaries (17%). Respondents enjoyed the program provided and the guest comedian and welcome to country were very well received.

The most valuable aspects of the symposium identified by respondents were the variety of keynote presentations and abstract presentations; networking with colleagues; the creativity workshop; learning new information; and feeling inspired by the energy and capacity of the sector.

Key learnings from the symposium that respondents intended to take back into the workplace included drawing on resources and expertise already available in the sector; using innovative approaches including thinking differently to problem solve; using social media; and using creativity and humour.

The creativity workshop was particularly popular with over a third of respondents

commenting specifically on the value they had gained from this workshop and listing tools they had tried during the workshop that they would use again.

Another strong theme was opportunities presented by working in partnership and collaboration within and outside the sector. Opportunities for networking during the symposium were considered to be adequate.

Suggestions for how the symposium could be improved mainly centred on the number and length of abstract presentations. The variety of short and long presentations worked well for some respondents but for others a fewer number of longer presentations with more time for questions and discussion was preferable.

The three concurrent sessions required people to choose which presentations they would listen to. As a result, some respondents were unable to hear all presentations that interested them and could only participate in one panel discussion. There were several comments that the symposium was not long enough and a two day symposium would be welcomed.

Other suggestions for improvement included having a list of attendees to assist with networking, more time for poster presentations, and inclusion of presentations which reported on outcomes (not just process).

Respondents provided many suggestions for information and topics that they would like to see in future SiREN symposiums. It was particularly encouraging to see comments related to building capacity in research and

evaluation, one of the primary objectives of SiREN.

Other suggestions for future symposium topics included: cultural competency; Department of Health initiatives; what is happening nationally and globally; more on research and evaluation tools; showcasing more innovative projects; and presentations focused on specific target groups such as youth, over 50s, sex workers, rural/remote, schools, fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) workers and Aboriginal people.

### **Recommendations for planning future SiREN symposiums**

- Consider using the same venue
- Provide travel bursaries
- Target involvement of smaller agencies and Aboriginal staff
- Consider a longer symposium to allow more time for presentations, questions, and discussion
- Limit concurrent sessions
- Provide sufficient opportunities for networking and collaboration
- Structured networking activities
- Invite speakers/include activities that facilitate partnerships within and outside the sector
- Include content on STI/BBV issues for specific target groups e.g. youth, sex workers, over 50s, FIFO, and Aboriginal people
- Include information on local, national and global initiatives
- Include content on cultural competency
- Include content on innovation, research and evaluation.

## Symposium registrants

Name	Affiliation
1. Alexa Wilkins	WA Centre for Health Promotion Research, Curtin University
2. Allison Paterson	WA AIDS Council
3. Amanda Sibosado	Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council
4. Amanda Whittle	Department of Health, South West Population Health Unit
5. Amber Giblett	Department of Health, Great Southern Population Health Unit
6. Amineh Rashidi	Hepatitis WA
7. Andrew Burry	WA AIDS Council
8. Anne Foyer	Department of Health, Wheatbelt Population Health Unit
9. Anne Mackay	South West Women's Health Information Centre
10. Anne Sorenson	Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre
11. Annie Tangey	Ngaanyatjarra Health Service
12. Ashleigh McEvoy	Edith Cowan University
13. Barbara Nattabi	Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health, University of Western Australia
14. Belinda Wozencroft	Royal Australasian College of General Practitioners
15. Bethwyn Hodge	WA AIDS Council
16. Byron Minas	Department of Health, Communicable Disease Control Directorate
17. Carl Heslop	Youth services, Great Southern Region
18. Chantelle Stevenson	Aboriginal Health Worker, Department of Health, Great Southern Aboriginal Health Service
19. Christy Newman	Centre for Social Research in Health, University of NSW
20. Danielle Roberts	WA AIDS Council
21. David Worthington	Department of Health, Communicable Disease Control Directorate
22. Denis Beros	WA AIDS Council
23. Dianne Rifici	WA Country Health Service – Midwest
24. Donna Mak	Department of Health, Communicable Disease Control Directorate
25. Elizabeth Brooker	Department of Health, Population Health Unit
26. Elizabeth Tyndall	Department of Health, Communications Directorate
27. Eric Khong	Edith Cowan University
28. Faye Thompson	Department of Health, Communicable Disease Control Directorate
29. Felicia Bradley	Hepatitis WA
30. Garry Kuchel	WA AIDS Council
31. Gemma Bennett	Department of Health, Great Southern Aboriginal Health Service

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
32. Gemma Crawford	WA Centre for Health Promotion Research, Curtin University
33. Georgia Petrali	Fysalida Dance Company
34. Graham Brown	Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society
35. Hanieh Tolouei	Curtin University
36. Hugh Kearns	ThinkWell, Flinders University SA
37. Jacqui Hendriks	WA Centre for Health Promotion Research, Curtin University
38. James White	Reach Health Promotion Innovations
39. Jessica Cleasby	Family Planning Association of WA
40. Jill Robinson	Department of Health, Great Southern Population Health Unit
41. Joanna Fagan	Department of Health, Public Health & Ambulatory Care North Metropolitan Health Service
42. Joel Harrington	WA Country Health Service – Goldfields
43. John Odongo	South West Country Health Service
44. Jonathan Hallett	WA Centre for Health Promotion Research, Curtin University
45. Jonine Jancey	WA Centre for Health Promotion Research, Curtin University
46. Judith Bevan	Department of Health, Communicable Disease Control Directorate
47. Kathryn Kerry	Department of Health, Communicable Disease Control Directorate
48. Katy Crawford	Department of Health, Kimberley Population Health Unit
49. Kellie Mitchell	Department of Health, Communicable Disease Control Directorate
50. Kerrie Mackenzie	Department of Health, South Metropolitan Population Health Unit
51. Kristine McConnell	Family Planning Association of WA
52. Kurt Sales	M Clinic
53. Leah Williams	Royal Perth Hospital
54. Lewis Marshall	Fremantle Hospital
55. Linda Garton	Northern Territory Department of Health, Centre of Disease Control
56. Lisa Bastian	Department of Health, Communicable Disease Control Directorate
57. Lizz Clarke	Department of Health, South Metropolitan Population Health Unit
58. Lorelle Klumpp	South West Aboriginal Medical Service and the South West Women’s Health and Information Centre
59. Louise Grant	WA Substance Users Association
60. Lyn Beazley	Former Chief Scientist of Western Australia
61. Mary-Rose Baker	Department of Health, Communicable Disease Control Directorate

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
62. Mathew Armstrong	Hepatitis WA
63. Matt Tilley	WA Centre for Health Promotion Research, Curtin University
64. Matt Jones	WA AIDS Council
65. Maya Krayneva	Hepatitis WA
66. Meagan Roberts	Department of Health, Communicable Disease Control Directorate
67. Michele Kosky	Formerly of Health Consumers Council
68. Moyez Jiwa	Curtin University
69. Myra Robinson	Youth Affairs Council of WA
70. Nadene Walker	WA Country Health Service – Great Southern
71. Nadia O’Leary	Hepatitis WA
72. Negar Hoseinzadeh	Medicine Graduate
73. Nicolle Valentin	WA AIDS Council
74. Patricia Langdon	WA Centre for Health Promotion Research, Curtin University
75. Paul Armstrong	Department of Health, Communicable Disease Control Directorate
76. Paul English	Family Planning Association of WA
77. Petah Atkinson	Department of Health, Communicable Disease Control Directorate
78. Rebecca Guy	The Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales
79. Rebecca Lothian	Department of Health, Pilbara Population Health Unit
80. Reena D’Souza	WA AIDS Council
81. Richard Chaney	General Practitioner
82. Robyn Wansbrough	Family Planning Association of WA
83. Rochelle Tobin	WA Centre for Health Promotion Research, Curtin University
84. Rosita D’Adamo	Hepatitis WA
85. Sajni Gudka	University of Western Australia
86. Sally Murray	Sexual Health Clinic Royal Perth
87. Sally Rowell	Hepatitis WA
88. Sami Shah	Comedian
89. Sarah Broadhead	Women’s Health & Family Service
90. Sean Brennan	Department of Health, Communicable Disease Control Directorate
91. Sharon Nowrojee	Department of Health, North Metropolitan Population Health Unit
92. Shaun Nannup	Welcome to Country
93. Simon Yam	WA AIDS Council
94. Sinead Glackin	WA AIDS Council
95. Stacy Leidel	Curtin University
96. Steve Fragomeni	WA AIDS Council

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
97. Sue Bray	Ngaanyatjarra Health
98. Sue Dimitrijevic	Family Planning Association of WA
99. Sue Laing	Department of Health, Communicable Disease Control Directorate
100. Sunni Friello	Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council
101. Sue Szalay	Department of Health, North Metropolitan Population Health Unit
102. Susan Carruthers	National Drug Research Institute
103. Tarlie Bandy	WA Country Health Service – Goldfields
104. Tarun Weeramanthri	Department of Health, Public Health & Clinical Services
105. Tom Joyner	Indigenous Communities Education and Awareness (ICEA)
106. Vera Barrington	Department of Health, Kimberley Population Health Unit
107. Veronica Walshe	Aboriginal Health Council of WA
108. Vivienne Williams	Silver Chain
109. Yannick Benoit	M Clinic
110. Yvonne Johnson	Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre