



# 2006 GP & PHC Research Conference

## Evaluation Results

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### Summary

Themed, *Optimising Impact* and held at the Perth Convention Centre, the 2006 General Practice and Primary Health Care Research Conference included an excellent array of speakers, plenary sessions, workshops and concurrent sessions which were enjoyed by the 312 delegates from Australia and the world.

On-line evaluations were submitted by 193 of the 312 delegates who attended - a response rate of 62%. Delegates who submitted an evaluation were primarily academics, research officers and project officers and most worked at universities.

### Key points:

- ⇒ Over 90% rated the quality of keynote presentations as excellent or good.
- ⇒ Nearly 80% of respondents rated plenary sessions as excellent or good forums for knowledge exchange.
- ⇒ Over 80% of respondents rated concurrent paper sessions as excellent or good forums for knowledge exchange.
- ⇒ Over 80% of respondents rated the poster display as an excellent or good forum for knowledge exchange.
- ⇒ Over 40% of delegates indicated that networking was what they liked best about this conference.
- ⇒ Many respondents requested that there be fewer concurrent sessions but recognised that it was difficult to get the balance right between providing sufficient opportunities for papers to be presented as well as ensuring that there would be a reasonable sized audience present at each session.
- ⇒ Some respondents thought the conference was too GP focused rather than inclusive of broad primary health care, and would like Australian leaders in primary care research to be keynote speakers.

### Introduction

It takes knowledge and experience, planning, high standards, good relationships, sound infrastructure, goodwill and imagination to achieve optimal impact from an event like the 2006 GP & PHC Research Conference in Perth. The Primary Health Care Research and Information Service (PHC RIS), based in the Department of General Practice at Flinders University, has once again convened a successful conference attended by over 300 delegates.

With the support of the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI), the Australian Association of Academic General Practice (AAAGP) and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, PHC RIS, through this conference, has increased a sense of unity and a common purpose to achieve better primary health care through a strong research sector linked to policy and practice.

This year's conference theme was *Optimising Impact*. The Australian Association of Academic General Practice (AAAGP) and The Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI) worked with the Primary Health Care Research & Information Service (PHC RIS) to present an excellent array of speakers, plenary sessions, workshops and concurrent sessions which were





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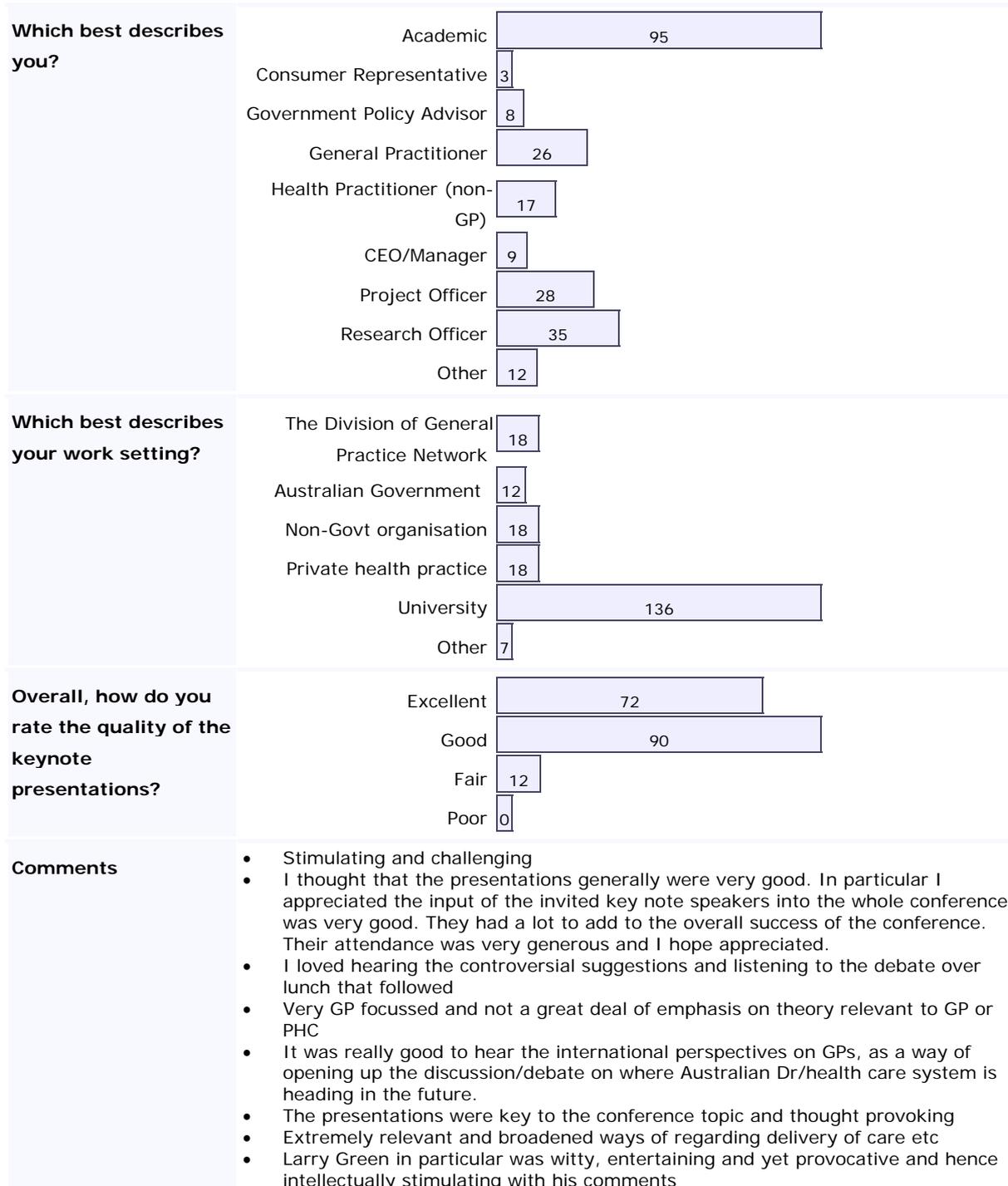
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enjoyed by 312 delegates from Australia and the world.

Once again the evaluation was available online from the final day of the conference.

### Results

193 delegates submitted an evaluation, giving a response rate of 62%.

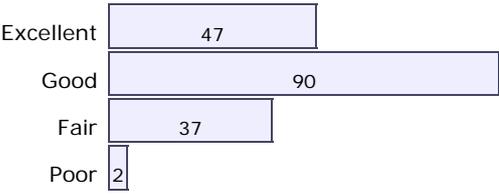
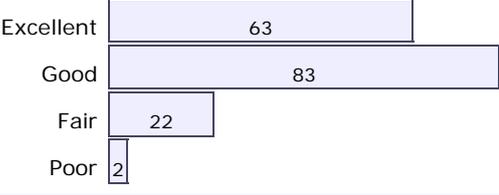
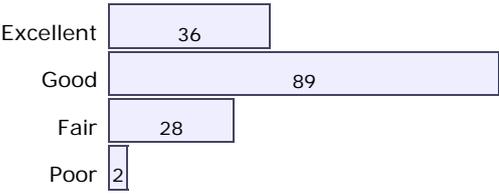




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<p><b>How do you rate the plenary sessions as forums for knowledge exchange?</b></p>	 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rating</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Excellent</td> <td>47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fair</td> <td>37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poor</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rating	Count	Excellent	47	Good	90	Fair	37	Poor	2
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<p><b>Comments</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good speakers. Use of comparison in general practice in the US, UK &amp; Holland was brilliant!</li> <li>• I think they work best when the speakers are provocative, rather than providing a summary or description of the topic.</li> <li>• I think this is a great way of getting a set of speakers to present their individual views to a larger audience. I would have liked to have seen a bit more discussion between presenters that I felt I saw. I think in the conference there were lost opportunities for argument and discourse.</li> <li>• Well informed speakers and covering a wide variety of possible solutions/directions</li> <li>• Having tables set up, as opposed to the standard row seating was excellent - comfortable &amp; practical.</li> </ul>										
<p><b>How do you rate the concurrent paper sessions as forums for knowledge exchange?</b></p>	 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rating</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Excellent</td> <td>63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good</td> <td>83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fair</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poor</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rating	Count	Excellent	63	Good	83	Fair	22	Poor	2
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<p><b>Comments</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was great that there were so many sessions and the rooms were close to each other to enable movement. However, I still found it hard to choose which sessions to attend!</li> <li>• Plenty of time for questions and discussion</li> <li>• Comment on person who chaired the research &amp; evaluation methodology 2 session on Friday. She was excellent, good sense of humour, kept the momentum going, involved everyone in the room. Made the session really enjoyable</li> <li>• Great quality of research</li> <li>• Sessions were very tightly run and presenters had taken great care in getting material together</li> <li>• There is an opportunity for others to share their work and methods. Great for an early career researcher such as myself to network and gain an indication of the current agenda direction of Australian PHC and clinical research and who is involved and so on.</li> <li>• Spoilt for choice, so could not attend all that I wanted to. But those I attended or chaired had enough time for discussion, and enough people attending to generate discussion. The papers in the sessions I attended also fitted together well, creating synergies that added to the knowledge exchange, and bringing together speakers from different institutions and states for added benefit and exchange.</li> <li>• A good way to see what is going on</li> <li>• It was great to have so many parallel sessions. I was in control of my own learning!</li> </ul>										
<p><b>How do you rate the research poster session as a forum for knowledge exchange?</b></p>	 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rating</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Excellent</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good</td> <td>89</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fair</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poor</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rating	Count	Excellent	36	Good	89	Fair	28	Poor	2
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<b>Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prefer the opportunity for poster presenters to have a couple of minutes for presentations of their work.</li><li>• It would be useful to have the mobile phone number of the author on each poster, to enable those interested in the work to contact the author in order to arrange to meet and discuss areas of mutual interest.</li><li>• This is an underrated component of the conference. It has excellent potential for presenters to discuss their work at length and to develop collaborations that may not occur with an oral presentation.</li><li>• Some fantastic posters</li><li>• I didn't make available enough time to view all the posters but what I saw were very informative. Grouping into topic area was helpful. Also the idea of having a small A4 sheet available to take away beside the poster was a great idea.</li><li>• It is always a diversion for morning tea and a conversation opener over dinner.</li><li>• Poster presenters were able to give me a really solid understanding of their work because of the one-on-one interaction. Some presenters also supplied handouts - I found these very useful to look over in greater detail in my own time.</li></ul>
<b>Any comments about the conference promotion, organisation of the conference, the website information, the catering, or the venue?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The best conference I've been to, well organised, brilliant speakers, truly inspirational!</li><li>• Promotion was well done - widespread and effective. Well organised as usual - getting better every year! Website was and is very good. Food was very good.</li><li>• It was fantastic that the abstracts were up on the web well before the conference. This ensured we could get some ideas about which sessions we could attend and who we should meet with.</li><li>• The organisation was very well done and made things easy for participants. The venue was great - accessible, and really good having large windows in the morning tea/lunch areas, and the food was fresh and delicious. Massage brilliant and generous idea. All combined to avoid that dead-in-the-head feeling one often has at the end of a conference day. Dinner and band great fun and provided a fun opportunity to get to know people.</li><li>• Loved the backpacks- easier than bags</li><li>• Lovely to have the opportunity to go to Perth and find out about their perspective. Venue was good.</li><li>• Pen with highlighter in bag was v good. Backpack instead of usual conference bag was v good.</li><li>• The venue and catering was excellent. The conference dinner included in the price of the conference was an excellent way of encouraging participation.</li></ul>
<b>What did you like best about the conference, and why?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outstanding paper presentation session. Great idea to have Andre Knottnerus comment on the papers</li><li>• Networking - a good opportunity to renew contacts</li><li>• Format - more presentation sessions allowed me to 'design' my own program from a large range of topics</li><li>• Integration of AAAGP APHCRI and PHCRIS, quality of the presentations.</li><li>• I liked your intention to give as many people as possible the chance to present their work.</li><li>• Special interest tables at lunch was a great idea - had some excellent interactions with people.</li><li>• The collaborative team work of PHCRIS that ensured everything went fantastically. Well done!</li><li>• I most enjoyed the variety of presentations available. Also loved the massage!</li><li>• Good support for 1st time presenters/delegates.</li><li>• Friendliness of everyone, the accessibility of those people usually very hard to catch. The exchange of knowledge and knowing you are not alone in your work.</li><li>• Opportunity to get a snapshot of what is going on in GP research.</li><li>• Plenary sessions were useful to hear as they provided overseas perspectives. Opportunity to meet people doing research in similar areas in other parts of the country is useful. It's nice to have time to reflect on what we do. Nice to have a chance to socialise with people you spend a lot of time working with.</li><li>• Good move to have all three keynote international speakers together in the first plenary, with the Department speaker. Visible product of collaboration with APHCRI and AAAGP. Excellent move to elevate several proffered abstracts to plenary presentations, to give the stage to otherwise little known</li></ul>





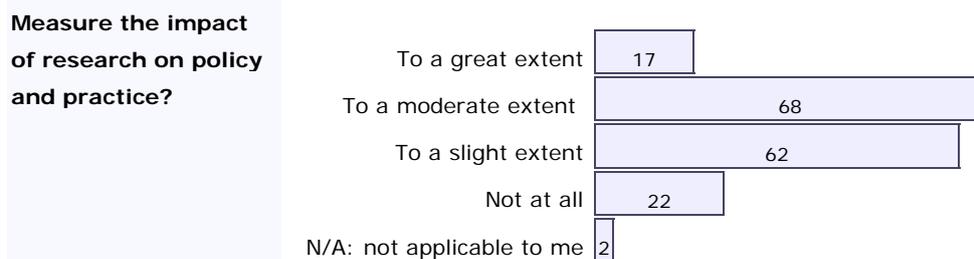
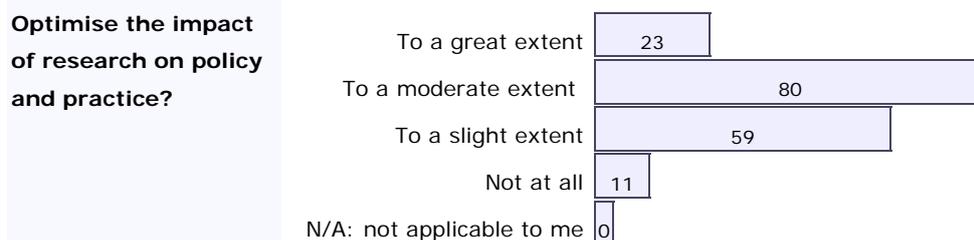
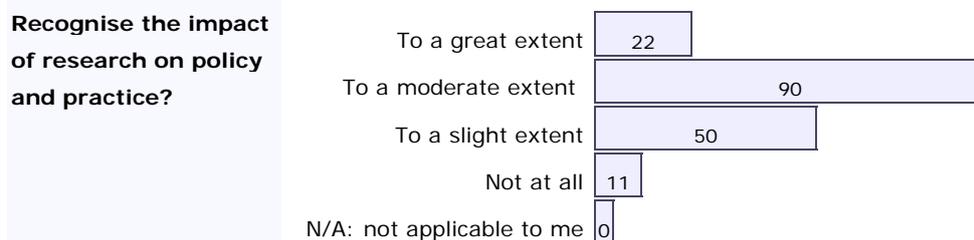
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	<p>people/projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It had a really "family" feeling which has surely been created by the caring philosophy of PHCRIS.</li> <li>• The pocket program that fitted in the name badge pocket was brilliant - great thinking!</li> </ul>
<p><b>How can we improve the conference?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have fewer concurrent sessions - Maximum 4. Increase poster sessions - You could have 2 dedicated poster sessions, with group A authors standing at their posters on Day 1 and group B authors at their posters on Day 2. This would also give poster authors opportunity to talk to other poster authors without having to stand by their poster all the time.</li> <li>• Have top Australian primary health researchers present at plenaries as well as overseas speakers so that we can find out what is happening in our own country at that level. Have more workshops on the areas where research has been neglected, is "less glamorous" and is only just emerging eg. youth health, refugee health, etc. The indigenous health workshop was excellent and very informative</li> <li>• It is difficult to get the balance right, but there were perhaps too many concurrent paper sessions - one of the two I attended (support for researchers, Wednesday) had very few people in it.</li> <li>• Can we PLEASE have better closing speakers and we do not need a conference overview. It would be better to end with a 'where to from here' rather than a 'what we just saw'.</li> <li>• Needs to be more challenging, critical and raise debate Exposure to other disciplines (eg sociology, political economy, nursing etc) Exposure to other methodologies and paradigms More inclusive of primary care in its entirety - I think it is too GP-centric</li> </ul>

**How well did the conference increase your understanding on how to:**





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**Do you have any final comments about any aspect of the conference?**

- This was a fantastic learning and networking opportunity. Thanks so much to the PHCRIS team.
- Very friendly atmosphere and well-organised. Staff were very cooperative.
- a very polished conference - very well thought through from broad structure to points of detail - delegates' time was maximised
- Well done, the best GP research conference on the calendar
- This is perhaps the most relevant conference for researchers/academics working in this field.
- PHC RIS came across as an excellent team - well done. All the people I've spoken to or emailed with since the conference have been full of praise for an outstanding effort, whether they attended themselves or heard about it from their colleagues.
- Keep the massages going!

