



15<sup>th</sup> International Australasian Campuses  
Towards Sustainability Conference  
**refocus + renew**

### Delegate Evaluation Report

The 15th International ACTS conference was held at Deakin University, Geelong, Victoria. Over 130 delegates from universities, TAFE, government and business attended the event, which also included the Green Gown Awards Australasia awards ceremony.

The ACTS Board considers it extremely important to understand and gain feedback from delegates who attended the event to ensure we improve our conference every year. To that end we thank those of you who took the time to respond to our short survey - we have been able to gain some fantastic suggestions to improve for next year. Below is an overview of what you had to say.

Nearly all participants rated the **overall conference experience** as either Excellent (52.38%) or Good (47.62%). Feedback and suggestions for improvement are listed below and are accompanied by an ACTS response.

#### General Conference Feedback

- Overall conference experience:  
Excellent (52.38%) Good (47.62%)
- The venue and facilities for the conference:  
Excellent (45%) Good (45%) Average (10%) Below Average (4.76%)
- The conference catering:  
Excellent (38.10%) Good (57.14%) Average (4.76%)
- The quality of the sponsor displays:  
Excellent (15%) Good (75%) Average (10%)
- The level of interaction with the sponsors and exhibitors:  
Excellent (14.29%) Good (57.14%) Average (23.81%) Below Average (4.76%)
- The accommodation available for the conference:  
Excellent (47.62%) Good (38.10%) Average (14.29%)

Constructive Feedback	ACTS Comment	Will you see it next year?
The sponsor/exhibitor model does not work for the suppliers involved - they are in position for too long relative to the small crowd at the conference and I would be surprised if many of them found it a valuable experience.	We do work with corporate organisations prior to the conference to determine what level of interaction they would like to have at the event. However we do acknowledge that there are issues with the existing model and are reviewing for future events.	Sponsors are important to ensure the ACTS Conference can continue to run at an affordable rate for our delegates. A reviewed exhibitor package will be available in 2016.

Loved returning to a campus, though the theatre-style rooms don't lend themselves to workshops or team work.	This is a limitation of an institution hosting the conference vs. hiring a dedicated conference venue. We try our best to work with the spaces available, but compromises sometimes must be made. We thank all our delegates for their patience with this matter.	We are returning again to a campus venue in 2016 (the University of the Sunshine Coast). We hope to book flat floored spaces for all workshop/breakout sessions.
Accommodation was hard to find due to Geelong Cup.	Unfortunately we were not aware of the Geelong Cup until the event dates had been locked in. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this coinciding event.	We are not aware of any conflicting events with the 2016 conference and will continue to monitor throughout the year. We do recommend delegates book accommodation as early as possible to avoid issues.

### Conference Program Feedback

- Overall quality of keynote presentations:  
Excellent (42.86%) Good (47.62%) Average (9.52%)
- Overall quality of the concurrent sessions:  
Excellent (25%) Good (65%) Average (10%)
- The interactive Q&A panel session?  
Excellent (20%) Good (35%) Average (25%) Below Average/Poor (5%)
- The world café:  
Excellent (14.29%) Good (38.10%) Average (4.76%)
- The Designing Behavior Change PD:  
Excellent (19.05%) Good (23.81%) Below Average/Poor (14%) NA (attended alternate) (42.86%)
- The Refocus & Renew your mind PD:  
Excellent (20%) Good (20%) Below Average (5%) NA (attended alternate) (55%)
- Did you find the rating levels (beginner, intermediate & advanced) for the concurrent sessions useful?  
Yes (19.05%) No (80.95%)\*  
*\* Most delegates selecting no were not aware of the ratings.*
- When thinking about the structure of the program, would you have preferred...  
More concurrent sessions (9.52%)  
Less concurrent sessions, more plenary/interactive sessions (14.29%)  
The current combination works well (76.19%)

Constructive Feedback	ACTS Comment	Will you see it next year?
The Q and A panel went for too long. Being at the end of the conference it was difficult to focus and engage.	The format of the Q&A session was revised at this conference. We also feel that the session was too long and will amend for 2016.	A shorter Q&A panel session.

The workshops were too long and another concurrent session would have been good	The length of the workshops has been noted.	We continue to work with the submissions received in the call for papers to construct the best possible program for the conference.
PD session was great, but perhaps the length and timing could be considered further. It was really enjoyable, but felt like we needed to get into the guts of things for a bit longer to get better value from it.	Thanks for your comments.	We will consider this feedback when planning any PD sessions in 2016.
<b>Selection of comments:</b> "Really enjoyed the keynotes this year, and a really nice range of presenters from different backgrounds" "The Refocus and Renew session was a welcome flight of fancy in amidst the challenges of work needs" "Thought the panel on the last day was excellent - would have been great to have this on the second day as it would have been inspirational to take the discussion into the sessions." "I really appreciated the time taken to incorporate networking at the end of the conference. Sometimes you can come away from these events with information overload, so I feel this year's balance worked well."		

### Sustainability

- Conference was a good example of a sustainable event:  
Yes (61.9%) No (0%) Feedback (38.10%)
- Would you be interested in learning more about ACTS new green accreditation?  
Yes (50%) No (50%)
- Did you download and use the conference app?  
Yes (66.67%) No (33.33%)
- I found the app easy to locate and download?  
Strongly agree (57.14%) Agree (21.43%) Neutral (21.43%)
- The app was user friendly?  
Strongly agree (50%) Agree (35.71%) Neutral (7.14%) Disagree (7.14%)
- I found the content of the app useful  
Strongly agree (57.14%) Agree (28.57%) Neutral (7.14%) Disagree (7.14%)

Constructive Feedback	ACTS Comment	Will you see it next year?
Some over catering on the final day.	As a general rule we under cater based on registered delegate numbers, however the final day is the most unpredictable. Many delegates do not come, or leave early, leading to food wastage.	We will consider under catering even more on the final day to prevent wastage.

There was a glitch where the app mixed up locations or times of a session which resulted in a lot of people ending up at the wrong session. I personally lost confidence in the app from then on and didn't use it much again. If this was resolved, I think it could be a useful tool	This was a human error, and not glitch of the app. We apologise for the inconvenience caused by this mistake.	We will ensure the app timetable is proofed and does not deviate from the official program schedule.
<p><b>Selection of comments:</b></p> <p>"Loved the app, so people didn't have to print out copies; loved the food, a) vegetarian, and b) didn't appear to have too much wastage; relocating back to an institution utilised space that may not have been used otherwise, and seemed to minimise the amount of waste, expenditure and resources"</p> <p>"LOVED THE APP!! I had my whole program planned out by the time I got there on the Wednesday, any updates were registered"</p>		

### Conference Dinner & Green Gown Awards Australasia Ceremony

- Overall quality of dinner and ceremony:  
Excellent (65%) Good (35%)
- Quality of the venue (The Pier):  
Excellent (80%) Good (20%)
- Quality of the menu for the evening:  
Excellent (60%) Good (40%)
- The Awards hosts/presentation?  
Strongly agree (35%) Agree (65%)
- The quality of this year's award nominations was high:  
Strongly agree (36.36%) Agree (45.45%) Neutral (18.18%)
- The entertainment (Band):  
Strongly agree (57.89%) Agree (36.84%) Neutral (5.26%)
- Recognising achievement through the Green Gown Awards is important:  
Strongly agree (95%) Agree (5%)
- I enjoyed the addition of the case study videos during the ceremony:  
Strongly agree (85%) Agree (10%) Neutral (5%)
- I will encourage my organisation to submit a nomination for next year's Green Gown Awards:  
Strongly agree (75%) Agree (10%) Neutral (5%) NA (10%)

Constructive Feedback	ACTS Comment	Will you see it next year?
Several comments that the Award ceremony is getting too long.	We work hard to ensure there is a good balance between the award ceremony, the dinner and the entertainment for the evening.	We will continue to work to strike an even balance for the Awards and dinner.
<b>Selection of comments:</b> "The case study videos were excellent and very very well done."  "Having a great location is always a plus, this year's location was fantastic"		

#### Final Comments:

"A few tweaks needed to the overall model, but in general a very good conference with interesting presentations and great opportunity to learn from others and network in between."

"Loved the PT session on the Thursday morning, though it made for a long day when GGAA's were that night :-). Thanks to everyone for organising the conference, the dinner, and the PT session. I had a great time, as did my team."

"Really great event - it felt smaller than last year for some reason. I quite liked the venue and location but found the lecture theatre style a bit awkward. I also think some presenters need to be encouraged not to do death by powerpoint."

"Organizers were incredibly efficient and professional. Opportunity for student volunteers was invaluable"

"Was nice to have the venue at a university instead of a corporate venue."

"Thanks to all the fantastic effort and hard work that goes on behind the scenes to make the ACTS conference a wonderful event."

"Great conference. Well done to all the organisers. I look forward to next year's."

**16<sup>th</sup> International ACTS Conference**  
**2-4 November 2016 | University of the Sunshine Coast | Queensland**

For information on the please visit:  
[www.acts.asn.au](http://www.acts.asn.au) or contact [info@acts.asn.au](mailto:info@acts.asn.au)