Rural Palliative Care Program Workshop, 16-17 October 2003, Adelaide Hilton, Evaluation and Feedback Report

The goals of the National Workshop were to bring together key stakeholders in the Rural Palliative Care Program (RPCP) in order to increase knowledge of the program, its evaluation and to foster and promote networks between the 8 projects that have been funded.

This report evaluates the workshop based on the feedback received from attendees who completed the workshop evaluation form (see Appendix 1). Some questions required a selection from a set of alternatives while other questions invited a written response. Results from the former type of question are summarised below using bar charts to indicate the number of responses recorded for each of the possible categories. The written responses were grouped into categories defined by the main area(s) of concern mentioned in the response. Answers from some evaluation forms covered more than one category. The categories mentioned most frequently are presented and the number of times the responses were made is indicated in brackets. Feedback about individuals has been excluded from this report.

Survey participants

The workshop was attended by 26 people. These participants represented all key stakeholders as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Profile of participants

Participant Profile	# Participants
Project representatives	17
National Evaluation Team	4
Australian Division of General Practice	3
Rural Health and Palliative Care Branch, Dept of Health and Ageing	2
TOTAL	**26**

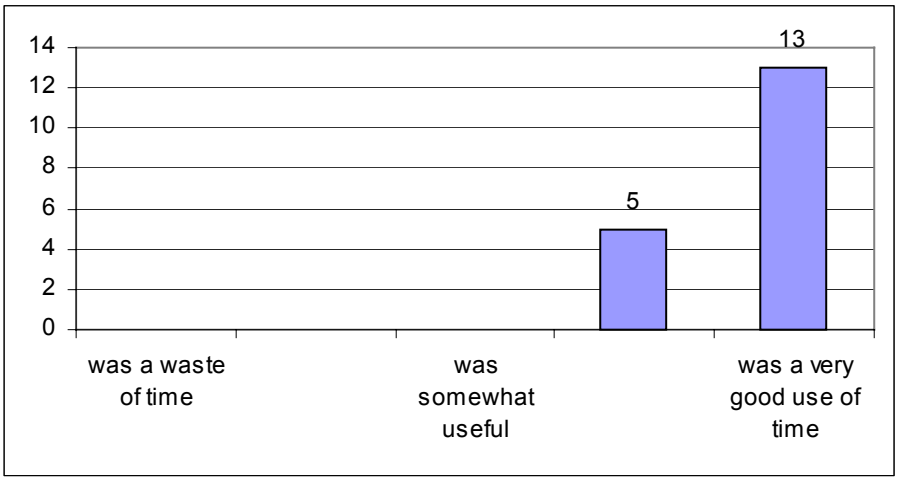
Of these 26 participants, 18 people (69%) completed the workshop evaluation form. The profile of these respondents is shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Profile of those people who completed an evaluation form

Profile	# Completed Evaluation Form
Project representatives	15
Government and/or other representatives	1
Anonymous	2
TOTAL	**18**

Question 1. 1. Overall, was the workshop a worthwhile use of your time?

Figure 1 Results from Question1



As shown in Figure 1, 13 of 18 respondents (72%) thought the workshop was a very good use of their time, with a further 5 (18%) indicating that it a good use of their time.

Comments

10 out of 18 respondents (56%) provided general comments about the workshop. Where possible these comments have been grouped into categories. All comments are presented below. The number of times the response was made is indicated in brackets.

- The workshop provided a good opportunity to network with other people from the program (2)
- The workshop was very informative (2)
- The workshop could have been improved with a larger representation from palliative care staff and GP's (1)
- The workshop provided a valuable opportunity to clarify reporting requirements (1)
- The workshop set a clear overview of the Rural Palliative Care Program (2)
- The workshop was well organised and presented (1)
- The workshop provided a good opportunity to clarify project deliverables before signing the contracts (1)

Question 2. Overall, what were the strengths and weaknesses of the workshop?

Strengths

- The participants were professional and friendly and the venue was good (3)
- Presentations were informative, clear and concise (3)
- A good opportunity for networking (13)
- Diversity of opinion/location/organisations (1)
- A clear explanation of evaluation (2)
- Break-out groups provided a good opportunity for group problem solving (3)
- Provision of a clear overview of the Rural Palliative Care Program (2)

A typical comment made was:

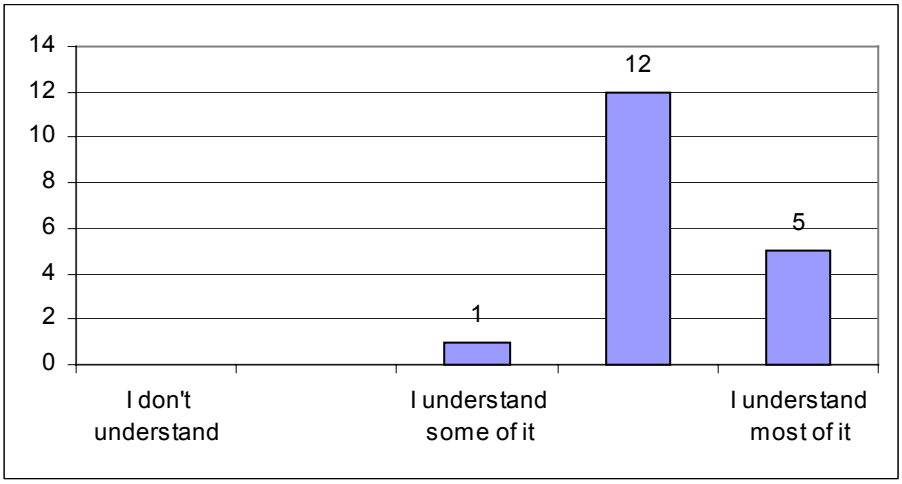
"The workshop provided a good opportunity to meet and build relationships with all of the relevant people eg contract managers, evaluators, other projects, and to explore issues and agree on a common approach."

Weaknesses

- The workshop was not long enough (3)
- No demonstration of PalCis - would have been helpful to see other databases (2)
- More learning from the pilot project needed (1)
- A lot of knowledge was assumed (1)
- Needed more input from pall care professionals (1)
- The workshop raised more questions (1)

Question 3. I gained a general understanding of the Rural Palliative Care Program

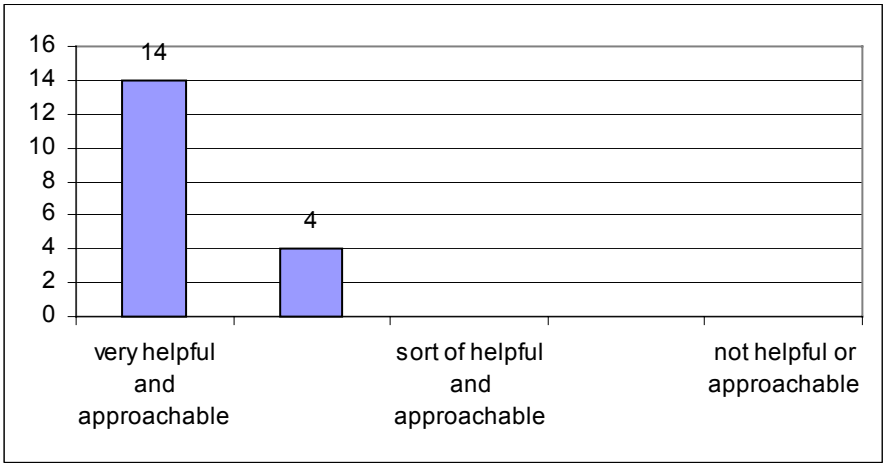
Figure 2 Results from Question 3



There were 18 responses to this item. As shown in Figure 2, 17 out of the 18 respondents (94%) had a good understanding of the Rural Palliative Care Program, while 1 respondent (6%) indicated that they only had some understanding.

Question 4. I found the organisers and presenters to be

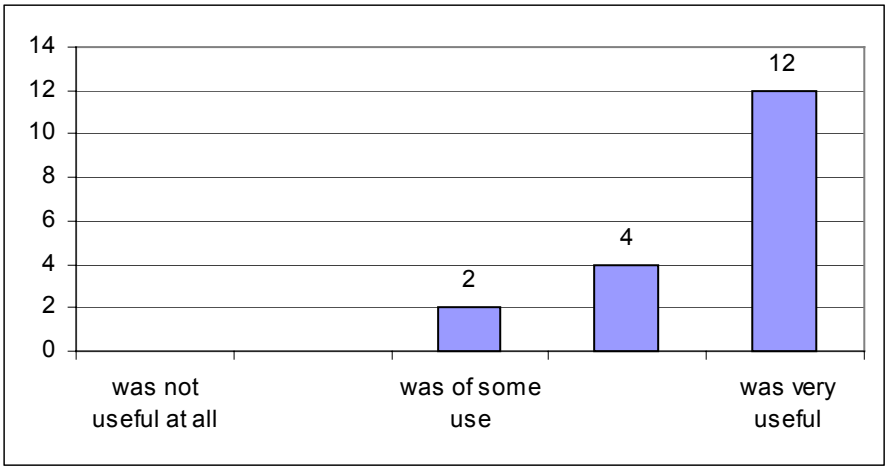
Figure 3 Results from Question 4



As shown in Figure 3, all of the respondents found the organisers and presenters to be helpful and approachable to very helpful and approachable.

Question 5. The networking and collaboration with other projects was useful

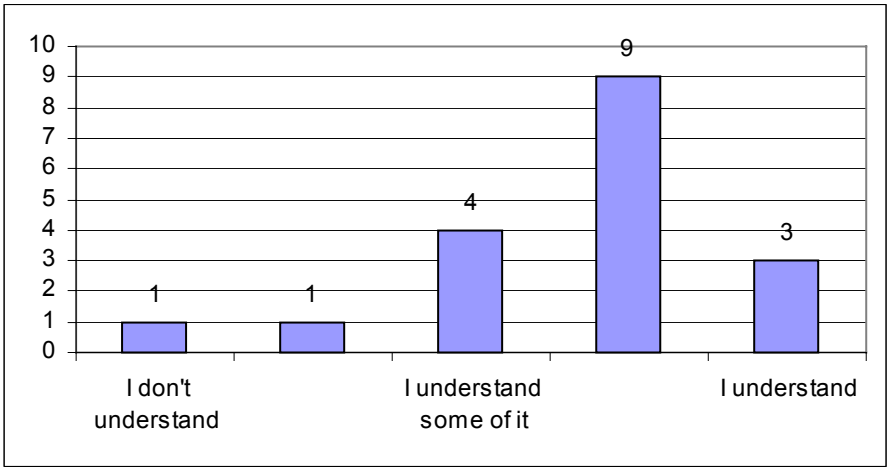
Figure 4 Results from Question 5



In total, 16 of the 18 respondents (89%) found the networking and collaboration with other projects to be useful to very useful. 2 respondents (11%) only found it of some use.

Question 6. I understand the reporting cycle to ADGP and when and how the reports have to be produced.

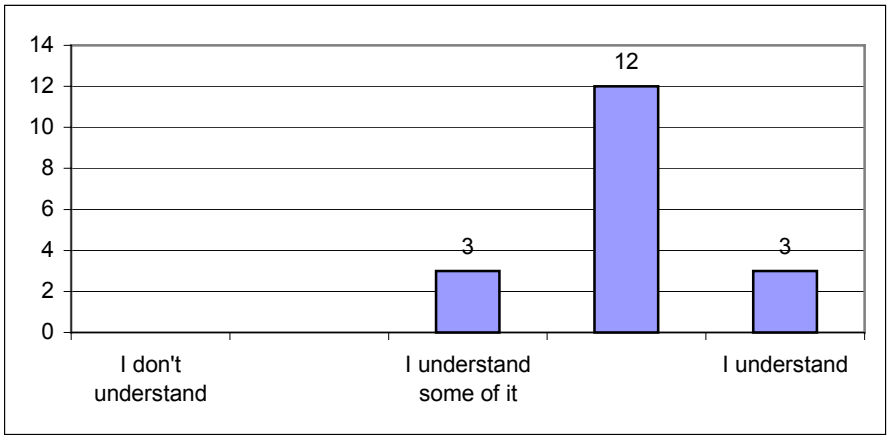
Figure 5 Results from Question 6



As shown in Figure 5, there were a wider variety of attitudes on how individuals understood the reporting cycle to ADGP and when and how the reports have to be produced. However, 12 respondents (67%) indicated that they did understand this process, while 6 respondents (33%) did not understand or only understood some of it. These results suggest that further clarity is required by the ADGP on reporting requirements.

Question 7. I understand the support and communication strategies available to my project.

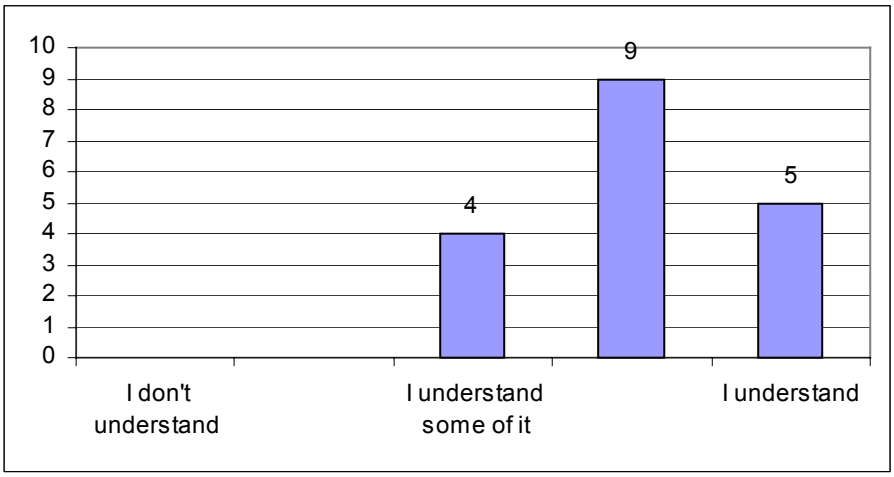
Figure 6 Results from Question 7



15 of the respondents (83%) indicated that they had an understanding of the support and communication strategies available to their project. 3 respondents (17%) reported only some understanding of this process.

Question 8. I understand the data collection requirements.

Figure 7 Results from Question 8



Again, there were 18 responses to this question. Of these responses, 14 people (78%) indicated that they have a clear idea of the data collection requirements for their project, while 4 (12%) only understood some of it.

Question 9. I have a clear idea of how the evaluation will be undertaken.

Figure 8 Results from Question 9

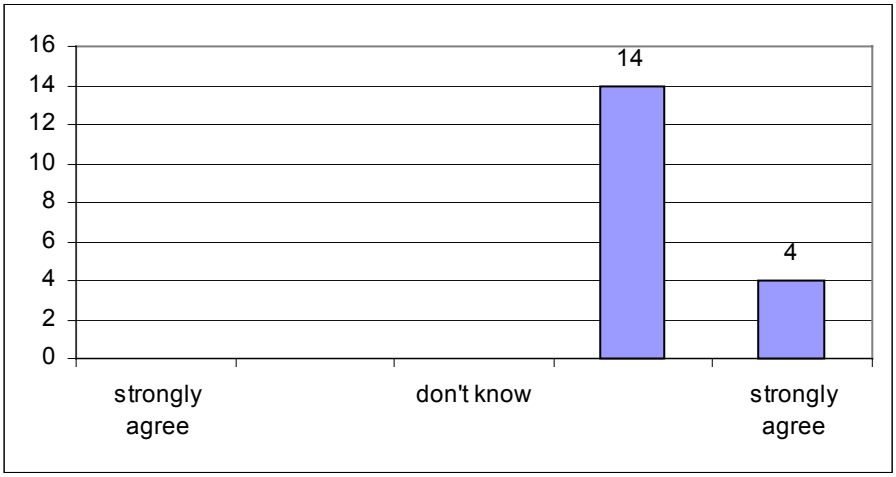


Figure 8 highlights all respondents agreed that they had some understanding of how the evaluation of their project will be undertaken.

Question 10. Do you see any value in holding future workshops?

All 18 respondents indicated that they saw value in holding future workshops. 12 of these indicated when the future workshop should be held as indicated below:

- In 12 months time (10)
- In 9 months time (1)
- In 6 months time (1)

Overwhelmingly, 10 of these 12 respondents (83%) indicated that they would like another workshop in twelve months time.

What should be the focus of the workshop?

14 respondents provided information on the focus of a future workshop as follows:

- Project teams should meet together to provide a progress report of how their project is going and to discuss common issues/problems/solutions (9)
- Project teams should meet together to provide a review of what has been achieved and what has been learned (3)
- Project teams should meet together to discuss future funding opportunities (1)
- Project teams should meet together to set an agreed direction from project plans (1)

Question 11. Further comments?

Only 6 out of 18 respondents provided further comments as follows:

- A productive 2 days (1)
- Appreciated ability to bring a project partner (1)
- A good learning experience (1)
- A well organised/informative and enjoyable workshop (3)

Summary

Participant feedback suggested that the goals of the workshop were largely achieved. The significant majority of respondents indicated that the workshop was a valuable use of their time, that they had learned something useful and that they appreciated the opportunity for networking and collaboration. That all respondents indicated that they thought that another workshop should be convened is a further indication of the success of this workshop.

The evaluation findings suggest that there is one issue that requires follow-up action from this first Rural Palliative Care Program Workshop. This relates to the reporting cycle and when and how the reports have to be produced by the projects.

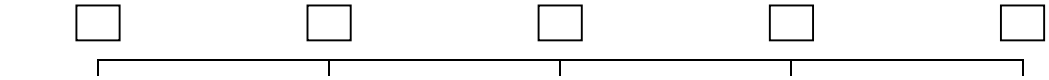
Appendix 1 –Rural Palliative Care Program Workshop Evaluation/Feedback Sheet

We are interested in your opinion regarding the workshop over the last couple of days. This information will provide the program managers and the evaluation team with a clearer understanding of how we can meet individual projects' needs.

About the person completing this form (optional):

Project Title: _____ Name: _____

1. Overall, was the workshop a worthwhile use of your time?



Was a waste of time | Was somewhat useful | Was a very good use of my time

Comments:

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2. Overall, what were the strengths and weaknesses of the workshop?

Strengths:

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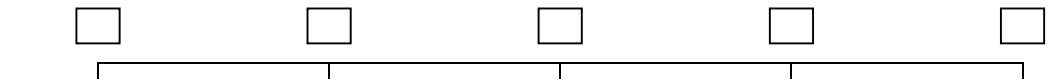
Weaknesses:

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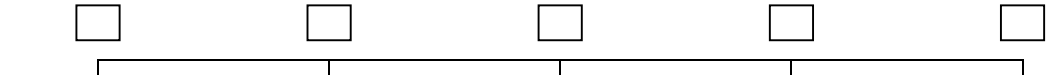
Please tick the box that best indicates how you feel:

3. I gained a general understanding of the Rural Palliative Care Program.



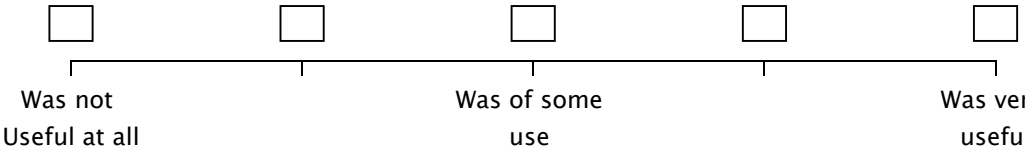
I don't understand | I understand some of it | I understand most of it

4. I found the organisers and presenters to be:

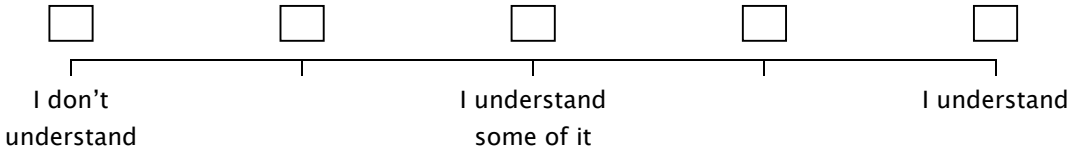


Very helpful and approachable | Sort of helpful and approachable | Not helpful or approachable at all

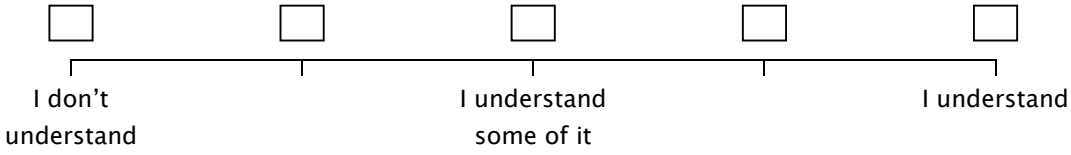
5. The networking and collaboration with other projects was useful.



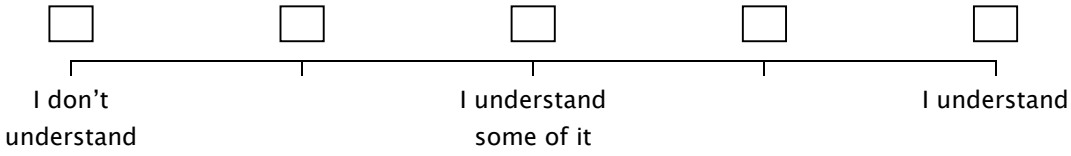
6. I understand the reporting cycle to ADGP and when and how the reports have to be produced.



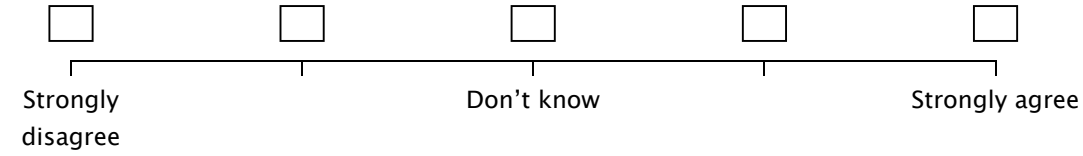
7. I understand the support and communication strategies available to my project.



8. I understand the data collection requirements.



9. I have a clear idea of how the evaluation will be undertaken.



10. Do you see any value in holding future workshops?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If 'Yes' when should another workshop be held and what should be the focus of this workshop?

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11. Further comments?

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