

Name of the event	Building Inclusive connections. Showcase and Networking event
Date	Thursday, 19 October 2023
Location	UQ Brisbane City Campus, 308 Queen Street, Brisbane
Number of people attending	62 Registrations received, representing 24 organisations. 34 Attendees.
Cost	\$2.160.00



Overview

On 19 October 2023, Volunteering Queensland hosted a Showcase and Networking event with the aim to promote and share the experiences of the projects funded with the VMA program.

The event was an opportunity to celebrate the work of Volunteering Queensland's project partners 2022/23, and to hear about the key principles for engaging volunteers from different backgrounds.

The event was in person as one of the objectives was to provide a space for networking with all the attendees that were representing volunteer involving organisations from different fields. Most of our partners were able to attend in person, with a few exceptions making their presentations online.



Photo 1 Mara Basanovic (Volunteering Queensland CEO 2015-2024) opening the event

Agenda

The event was divided into three parts, providing time for people to interact and connect at the start, in between and on the final session.

On commencement, Volunteering Queensland CEO, Mara Basanovic, addressed the participants, highlighting the efforts that these projects were contributing by providing resources and real-life experiences to embrace inclusion and diversity within volunteer involving organisations.

PART 1: Showcase of Completed and in Development Projects

The first part of the event was dedicated to presenting the outcomes of nine projects listed below.

Each team had the opportunity to present their projects' outcomes at the time, providing an overview of their objectives and the processes followed to produce their outcomes, highlighting their experiences, challenges and lessons learned.

After each presentation, participants had the opportunity to ask questions about the different activities, how challenges were overcome and ask for suggestions or recommendations for their own circumstances.

Presenters shared materials and contact details with attendees as there was not enough time to answer all the questions coming forward.

1. **Volunteering Resource Guide, successfully engaging volunteers with disability.**

Presenter Steve Coulter - Queenslanders with Disability Network **QDN**

Completed (Execution period December 2022 - October 2023)

2. **Guide to attracting and engaging autistic volunteers.**

Presenters Tom Moss and Jac Lai - **Empower Autism**

Completed (Execution period November 2022 - October 2023)

3. Project **Volunteer Ready** - Gladstone

Presenters Bernardette Ariens and Dana Iwanicki **Non-For-Profit House -**

ONLINE Ongoing (Execution period February - December 2023)

4. Project **Breaking Down the Barriers.**

Presenter Madonna Simons - **Volunteering North Queensland** - ONLINE

Completed (Execution period April - September 2023)

5. Project HBNC Volunteer Strategy Roll Out 2023 – 2024

Presenter Tanya Stevenson- **Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre**

Ongoing (Execution period July 2023- June 2024)

6. Project **More Volunteers with Us**

Presenters Corey Walker and Carolina Francia-**3rd Space.**

Ongoing (Execution period February - December 2023)

7. Project **Accessible Zeds: making a more accessible 4ZZZ.**

Presenters Salty Otton -**Creative Broadcasters Ltd**

Ongoing (Execution period June 2023 - July 2024)

8. Project **Inala Elders volunteering project.**

Presenters Terri Hill - Inala Elders Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation.

Ongoing (Execution period February - December 2023)

9. Project **Breaking Down Barriers to Volunteering in Douglas Shire**

Presenters Tanya Morris – **Port Douglas Community Services Network**

Ongoing (Execution period February - December 2023)

The most popular presentations were Project Accessible Zeds: making a more accessible 4ZZZ, and the Inala Elders volunteering project.



Photo 2 Terri Hill and Janice Roca presenting Inala Elders Volunteer project



Photo 3 Salty Otton presenting Accessible Zeds project

Part 2: Volunteer Leadership Network Launch

On this session, Volunteering Queensland launched the Volunteer Leadership Network, as a space to join like-minded professionals across the volunteering ecosystem to share opportunities, challenges, and insights. It was also the opportunity to remind attendees about the Volunteering Queensland services offered to members and non-members and ask for input from the audience about training topics for the next year.



Photo 4 Building inclusive connections audience

Lunch and Networking

At the end of the session participants had the opportunity to meet in a more social and casual environment. The Volunteering Queensland team was able to connect and introduce themselves to attendees and share insights about our organisations' services and how we can support them in their work. It was also the opportunity to make connections between members and project partners.

Audience

Registrations

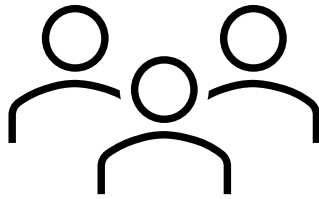
The event was promoted within Volunteering Queensland networks. The event attracted the interest of 60 people from 22 organisations. Among them were CEOs, Project Managers, Marketing and Communications staff and Volunteer Managers.

Attendance

The showcase received 36 attendees from 6 different sectors.

Attendees came mainly from the Greater Brisbane Area (32) and 4 from Queensland regional areas, representing 8 different organisations.

They were mainly Volunteer Managers and Marketing staff, and we also had within the audience Board Members and CEOs.



36 Attendees
representing eleven
organisations

- Community Radio
- Community services
- Disability
- First Nations
- Homeless
- Youth

Feedback

Overall satisfaction with the event

The level of satisfaction with the event was Satisfactory for 86% of the participants (18 from the total 21 respondents).

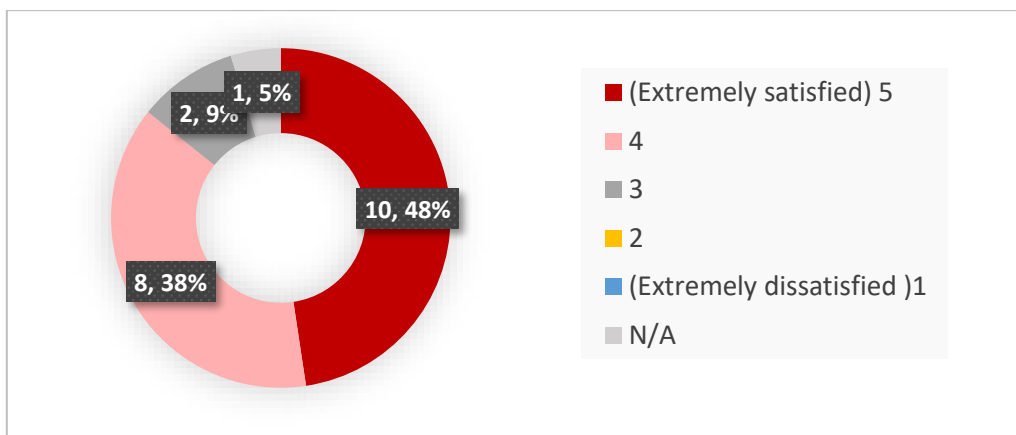


Figure 1 Level of Satisfaction with the event.

What did you enjoy most about the event?

The attendees were very happy with the content of the presentations, the most common comment was they loved the opportunity to hear about the real-life stories on problems faced by organisations and how they overcame them. Feedback also showed it was very important to have the opportunity to meet face to face and connect with other people working in the same space and facing similar challenges.



Lessons learned.

- Opportunities for personal interaction between organisations is highly valued. Most participants expressed their interest in keeping in contact with the people involved in the event.
- Real life experiences and storytelling from those who are part of the story have a high impact and inspire not only volunteers but the volunteer involving organisations that work with them.
- Consider for future projects, especially in regional areas, to keep within the budget an item for at least one trip during the project to attend events that offer the opportunity to extend face to face connections with other organisations.
- There were difficulties with the technical equipment when presentations were online. Keeping technical difficulties to a minimum during online presentations is crucial to ensure that the message is delivered clearly and effectively to the audience when combining face to face and online attendees.