



Curtin University

Don't Drink and Drown

LEAVERS VOLUNTEER
EVALUATION

JULY 2018

2017 Leavers' Event Volunteer Evaluation

Introduction

Don't Drink and Drown is a drowning prevention program with an overarching aim to reduce the incidence of alcohol related drowning deaths and near drowning incidents in young Western Australians aged 15- 24 years.

One of the Program's objectives is *to promote the Don't Drink and Drown messages at community and youth events, incorporating harm minimization techniques and policies to improve campaign effectiveness*. This objective is reached, in part, through the Leavers Program held across Western Australia at Leavers events, namely in Dunsborough and on Rottnest Island.

As part of the wider CERIPH evaluation of the Don't Drink and Drown Program, an evaluation of the volunteer training for those attending the Leavers Program was developed.

The objectives of this research were to assess:

- volunteer motivation;
- volunteer satisfaction, preparedness, enjoyment, other benefits felt by volunteers following their involvement in the Leavers' event; and
- volunteers perceived impact and perceptions of leavers' knowledge and skills.

METHODS

Pre-event Survey

A survey was developed to measure the motivations and expectations of volunteers for the Royal Life Saving Society WA (RLSSWA) 2017 Leavers' events as well as their understanding of the Program's purpose at the Leavers' event.

Participants

All participants involved in the Leavers' event in a volunteer capacity took part in the pre-event survey (n=12). The majority of participants completed a paper based survey (n=10) prior to completing the Leavers' event volunteer training. Due to an inability to attend the volunteer training session, two volunteers completed a brief one-to-one volunteer training session with RLSSWA staff before the survey tools was finalised. These participants were sent an online version of the survey to complete after their training session.

The number of volunteers recruited for Leavers' events in 2017 was lower than in previous years due to a conflict with University examination timetables.

Volunteer Motivation Inventory

Question A of the pre-event survey involved completion of the Volunteer Motivational Inventory developed by Clan WA in 2004. This inventory scale measured 44 statements on a 5 point Likert scale. This provides a descriptive account of the volunteer's motivation for volunteering by providing a rank order and overall profile of the motivations the individual has for volunteering.

The Inventory Scales were defined as:

- Values- motivated by the prospect of being able to act on firmly held beliefs that it is important to help others.
- Recognition –enjoys the recognition that volunteering gives them
- Social Interaction–particularly enjoys the social atmosphere of volunteering
- Reciprocity– considers volunteering as a very equal exchange, which will bring good things later on.
- Reactivity– volunteering out of a need to heal or address their own past issues
- Self Esteem–seeks to improve their own self esteem or self-worth through their volunteering
- Social– volunteer seeking to conform to normative influences of significant others
- Career Development– motivated by the prospect of gaining experience and skills in the field that may eventually be beneficial in assisting to find employment
- Understanding–interested in improving their understanding of themselves, the people they are assisting and/or the organisation for which they are volunteering
- Protective– seen as a means of escaping negative feelings about themselves.

Data was entered into SPSS and average scores were calculated, based on the Volunteer Motivation Inventory scoring instructions.

Understanding of the Program's purpose and expectations of volunteers

For open ended questions measuring expectation and perceived purpose of the event, responses were assessed against the purpose and expectations as identified by RLSSWA program staff.

Interviews

Initially intended as focus groups, low recruitment numbers resulted in a change to individual interviews with volunteers. Interview questions were created using study aims and objectives, information gathered from the volunteers' pre-training survey, previous interview questions developed in 2014, and feedback from researchers experienced in quantitative data collection. Findings from the interviews are highlighted below. Of the 12 volunteers approached to take part in the initial focus groups, interviews were conducted with 2 volunteers.

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