



conference 2019

Hosted by the Interfaith Network of the City of Greater Dandenong and The City of Greater Dandenong
in association with Faith Communities Council of Victoria

FEEDBACK FORMS

334 online registrations were received for the event.

97 people completed a feedback survey: 50 on the day of the event and 47 online after the event.

Q1. Overall, how satisfied were you with the event? – Score: 4.67 (out of 5)

Very Satisfied (69) – Satisfied (24) – Neutral (4) – Dissatisfied (0) – Very Dissatisfied (0)

Q2. How satisfied were you with the event's registration process? 4.65 (out of 5)

Very Satisfied (74) – Satisfied (19) – Neutral (1) – Dissatisfied (1) – Very Dissatisfied (0)

Q3. How satisfied were you with the venue? 4.64 (out of 5)

Very Satisfied (60) – Satisfied (31) – Neutral (8) – Dissatisfied (1) – Very Dissatisfied (0)

Q4. How satisfied were you with the food? 4.34 (out of 5)

Very Satisfied (25) – Satisfied (16) – Neutral (4) – Dissatisfied (1) – Very Dissatisfied (1)

Q5. How likely are you to attend a future event? 4.66 (out of 5)

Very Likely (67) – Likely (27) – Neutral (3) – Unlikely (0) – Very Unlikely (0)

Q6. How satisfied were you with the workshop you attended?

1 (24): Very Satisfied (15) – Satisfied (8) – Neutral (1) – Dissatisfied (0) – Very Dissatisfied (0) **(4.58)**

2 (31): Very Satisfied (22) – Satisfied (6) – Neutral (2) – Dissatisfied (1) – Very Dissatisfied (0) **(4.58)**

3 (15): Very Satisfied (6) – Satisfied (3) – Neutral (3) – Dissatisfied (2) – Very Dissatisfied (1) **(3.67)**

4 (14): Very Satisfied (8) – Satisfied (2) – Neutral (4) – Dissatisfied (0) – Very Dissatisfied (0) **(4.28)**

KN (43): Very Satisfied (32) – Satisfied (8) – Neutral (1) – Dissatisfied (1) – Very Dissatisfied (1) **(4.60)**

1. *Refugees and Asylum Seekers: A Celebration of Courage and Achievements*

2. *Voice of Youth: My Faith, My Generation*

3. *Performing Arts & Faith: A hands on experience!*

4. *Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme*

KN – Keynote speech on 'My Faith and Refugee Journey' by Fabrice Manirakiza



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Q7. What did you like the most about the event?

Summary of feedback

Opportunity to mix and mingle with people of other faiths.

Networking opportunity, keynote speaker, workshops were all interesting.

The conference is a great idea - being half a day makes it very achievable to attend and I like that it promotes harmony between different faiths.

People, venue, programme.

Liked it all! Very well organised.

Everything was perfectly done.

The food!

Event held on a Sunday makes it accessible.

Workshop, meeting people of different faiths, and the Bell Choir.

Workshop was informal & friendly.

Inclusive, positive vibe. Great networking opportunity. Fabrice (keynote speaker) is an inspiring role model and his workshop was great fun to be in. Wogglebox is great... will promote it. Happy to see William Cooper Legacy being promoted as we saw the recognition to him in Holocaust Museums in Europe and Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camps.

Venue. Food. Registration Process.

Timing and venue were excellent.

The registration with the informative show bags, the tasty vegetarian food, and the hard work of the volunteers.

Friendly atmosphere where one could enjoy learning about other faiths and cultures and explore the great range of key beliefs held in common.

Beginning, middle and end.

Well organised and good venue.

The overall feel of community and the generosity of participants in sharing their passion and compassion.

Well organised and good time management.



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Opportunity to hear from Khayshie Tilak Ramesh (VMC Commissioner) and the panel of young people on what interfaith dialogue means to them. Hearing about the lived experience of Fablice (keynote speaker) was also very grounding.

Meeting up with friends from all over Victoria at the one time and enjoying this conference together. I thought this one was especially 'happy'. Not only the program which was great but the venue, staying mainly in the one place (everything in there) was really great for networking and sharing.

The Master of Ceremonies was very good.

Bringing together many like-minded associates.

Overall very well organised.

The atmosphere created for all to meet and mingle. All very well done.

Well organised & conducted, educational, food, venue & networking.

Food was great! Interaction in the performing arts workshop was fun. Love catching up with locals. Great to see greater DANDENONG doing well.

Large venue with large number of participants from various faiths. Very peaceful and friendly event.

Fablice Manirakiza, the keynote speaker.

The birthday cake!

I liked and appreciated the Conference as a whole. What made an impact which has been staying with me is the spirit of oneness.

The invigorating feel of a community of like-minded individuals.

Lovely environment, people were very friendly.

Harmony, peace, respect.

The food was great!

Catching up with fellow sojourners in working towards harmonious interfaith/intercultural relations.

The warmth, friendliness and openness of the people at the Conference which is partly a reflection of the way it is organised.

The people. Especially meeting them and having conversations.

The casual sharing of food and networking was very clever and enjoyable.

The speakers and the Asylum Seeker workshop.

Opportunity to reconnect and meet new people.



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The strong sense of unity was fantastic. The long lunch networking time. Food was fantastic and great catering. Keynote speaker was great too.

The theme and workshop on Asylum Seekers and Refugees – very inspiring to hear their stories.

Networking and meeting others.

Mixing and sharing with other people.

Format was very good. Presentations were excellent. Speakers all very good.

Delicious food and participation.

Understanding the refugee situation created by our Government.

I really enjoyed the young people, so intelligently expressive and enjoying their faith.

Location easy to get to from a distance (came from Ballarat). Registration was efficient and smooth.

Good period and time for networking. Enjoyed the program and the Youth workshop very much.

Topics were very relevant to today's issues.

Lively and vibrant. All together it was fantastic.

Multiculturalism being practised and encouraged.

Youth workshop was great. Great questions and very relevant, and excellent answers by panellists.

Meeting new people, learning about shared beliefs.

The Youth workshop and the food. It was wonderful to see the future leaders giving their opinions and feedback.

The unity shared amongst many faith adherents.

Smooth flowing agenda and friendly atmosphere.

The workshops, the keynote speaker, and the food.

Very well organised, loved the food and networking with other faith members.

The diversity and openness of everyone. Food was delicious. Venue was spacious.

Keynote speaker and his workshop. Literature given with each bag you received on registration.

Diversity of participants.

The atmosphere.

Inclusion of almost everyone.

Togetherness. Ease of movement. Variety. Sound was great. Well done!



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Food. Meet and greet at the start. I met lovely people from different faiths. Child Safe workshop was great. Performances (Bell Choir and Performing Arts workshop). Event was effective, concise and run for just enough time.

The passion, understanding, and meeting new people from different faiths. Youth forum was excellent.

Great networking opportunity. Coming together with friends from other interfaith networks. Venue was easy to get to (from out of the city). Refugee workshop was very inspiring and I hope now I can be a catalyst in my own community to help raise awareness in faith communities about these issues.

The keynote speaker and the interactive event.

Meeting people.

Food. Networking.

The shared vision of love and unity.

Making friends and having fun. My knowledge has improved via the workshop I attended.

Everything was well organised. Food tasty and sufficient. Show bag had plenty of goodies and the stalls were well staffed and very informative. Welcome by volunteer at entrance made us feel warm. Loved the diversity and unity that prevailed.

Speech by the keynote speaker.

Networking time. Keynote speaker.

A local event that is free with good food and networking opportunities.

It illuminates my mind to see so many different cultures and faith groups getting together, sharing the same healthy environmentally friendly food, and being in harmony with one another. Event was very well planned and efficiently organised. Food was more than delicious. Workshops seem very useful and full of substance.

END OF QUESTION 7.



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Q8 & Q 9. What can we do to improve the event? Any additional comments or suggestions?

Summary of feedback

Have more displays and information about other faiths.

Too many speeches at the start and finish.

Statement about parking would have been helpful! If the parking area is compromised some signs to the parking area would be helpful.

Start earlier so we can attend more workshops (ie how to apply for funding, how to run successful interfaith networks etc).

Broader promotion to the community. Should have been all day to allow more time to attend multiple workshops and for interaction within each workshop (felt more like a seminar than a workshop due to restricted time).

Opportunity to attend two workshops (probably shorter sessions).

Car parking was messy as the Springvale hall was under construction. Surprised to see Victorian Police not represented. No Islamic faith representatives in Bell Choir. Maybe have a workshop on how faith and its expression through dance, songs, music, theatre can be organised with help of funding and support of councils and faith groups (ie temples, mosques, churches) at grass roots and LGA level.

All workshops should be on the stage, so that everyone can enjoy and see every workshop.

Waiting for completion of renovations to Town Hall parking and Library. So happy that I am a resident of Springvale and very proud to be on the interfaith network committee.

If there are building or road works, a map to the parking area would be helpful. The name tags would have been better if a larger font had been used so they can be easily read.

Thank you for all the work it is much appreciated.

Thank you for continuing to make such an opportunity possible, received with gratitude.

Perhaps a snapshot of some of the great work the Interfaith Network of the City of Greater Dandenong GD has conducted would have been informative also.

Show brief examples of how interfaith dialogue is taking place and in what forms can it take to engage younger people and the broader community.

Maybe the name front size on the name tag could have been larger so it could easily be read.

More around interfaith and climate change.

The venue would normally have been great but the building works made it hard to access.



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Perhaps a focus on how interfaith dialogue takes place in settings where the broader community spend their day to day lives and share common ground (ie in the workplace, in community settings, sports clubs, shopping centres, schools, age care, public services, volunteering, environmental projects), see diversity policy and practice in action (ie police, CFA, PTV etc) and to what a difference this makes to increasing understanding and cohesion.

I think the venue layout is important and this year was good. The bell choir was really cute - this fun stuff is excellent. I loved the 'arts' workshop - an opportunity to laugh with friends of all ages. I think this is important - many opportunities to have fun together.

Hearing the voices of young people. While they were prepared really well and the discussion was facilitated really well there was no space to ask questions all workshops should include interactive opportunity even if it is facilitated through collecting questions on the whiteboard to avoid monologues from largely older participants.

Some formal opportunities to meet members of other interfaith networks. While some people can rely on informal networking, some people do need more formal settings to make new connections.

I would suggest that Indigenous voices are represented more strongly. The organisers should do more research and educate the participants about the impact of the faiths and religious traditions on the local Aboriginal people and understand who the traditional owners are. The City of Greater Dandenong acknowledges Wurundjeri and Boonwurrung people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which Greater Dandenong is now located.

In some areas of Victoria, commitment to interfaith is flagging. I would like to see workshop(s) directed to (a) Recruitment - particularly the younger generations, (b) What sort of programs can interfaith/multifaith organizations present to the community to stimulate interest, and (c) Financial viability for interfaith/multifaith networks.

Detail the program on invite. Would have liked to cover all workshops - suggest a full day event.

Our family lives in Cranbourne. Any interfaith network in the Cranbourne area?

Please add an interactive workshop with audience rather than a panel.

To create more opportunities for participants to attend other workshops.

More motivational speakers - underlying how, what, who - case studies.

It will be good to give time to different faiths to talk about one subject in their faiths (around 10 minutes) so people can learn about their similarities.

To accommodate big numbers we should get bigger venue.

Facilitate networking opportunities.



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Perhaps more time for networking/chatting... say during afternoon tea. I understand the need to run a tight program.

It would be good to find a way of getting people to reconvene after the workshops - perhaps a top name performer so that people won't leave early?

The main hall was very large this time and not as intimate as last year, but I know there will always be limitations on venues available. Some more hot food would have been welcome on a fairly cool day.

In a gathering of many faiths there might have been more times for silent reflection, meditation or prayer.

There could be more engaging stands. Even though the speeches were all very positive, they tended to be repetitive and perhaps too positive. A representative of each different faith could briefly explain the symbol. It could be an item on the program.

If registration time was shorter, people could attend two workshops (rather than one).

More stands and representatives from faith groups where you can ask questions. More musical performances.

Car parking issues with venue.

Music Unifies: cross-cultural, inter-religious, faith.

Run a workshop on Climate Change.

Be able to ask questions (rather than comments) to panellists.

It would be good if we could attend two workshops.

More music, plays, dancing....

Was the upstairs workshop available to people with a disability? I could not go upstairs.

Ensure car parking information is clearly passed on to attendees before arrival.

Interfaith networks need more support from Councils to get people from other faiths to join.

More faith communities to be involved and participating.

More workshops – perhaps women workshops, empowering multi-culturalism in women.

A workshop community can participate it that can make a difference - 'Practising what your preach'.

More stalls. Publicise event so more people can turn up.

Venue and parking could be better earmarked.

More publicity to get young people to attend.



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Have songs, prayers from each religion represented.

Write ID name tags in larger font, hard to read. Especially the first name.

A map of how to get to the parking would have been helpful considering the building works.

All interfaith groups across Australia should be specifically invited to this annual event.

More communication among various interfaith committees.

Invite more people to attend.

Keep holding the event in a building near a car park or railway station. Thank you for the lovely food.

It would be great to involve youth / young adults.

A longer day with two workshop sessions.

Great food. More comedy.

Have some hot food on a cold day and sweet dessert. Curtail the time, 4 and half hours is too long!

Too much paper... consider sustainability.

I would love to see a special prayer to heal the world – national and natural disasters (ie current events with NSW fires).

Can't wait for renovations to be completed. So happy to be a resident of Springvale South.

END OF QUESTION 8 & 9.