

Online Survey Results

The following results are from the RRR Women's Network of WA. A total of 138 responses were collected between January and February 2014 based on a total number of members of 1,800 e-news subscribers. This indicates a confidence interval of 92% indicating that if the survey was run again we would get the same results 92% of the time. In the qualitative comments specific names of individuals have been de-identified.

The survey had two main elements:

- a) A series of questions that explored members' experience of the network. This section explored three main areas: satisfaction; expectations and future directions. This section utilised a 5-point scale with various response options, e.g.:

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree		Neutral		Strongly Agree

- b) A series of demographic questions and qualitative questions that investigated the effectiveness and future direction of the network.

Member information

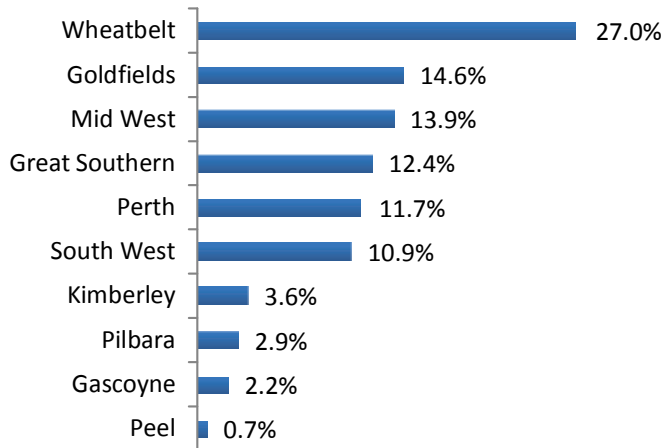
A total of 138 members completed the survey. Of these, 58% (n80) indicated they were a "Network Member", with the others Alumni (5.1% n7), Reference Group Members (6.5% n9) or Stakeholders (10.1% n14). Overall 28 members (20.3%) did not indicate how they were involved. Others listed the following involvements:

- x Generally interested (n13, 9.1%)
- x Community Resource Centre Manager
- x Facebook "friend"
- x Former Reference Group member
- x Media

Two members indicated they just received the newsletter and were unaware there was such a thing as formal membership.

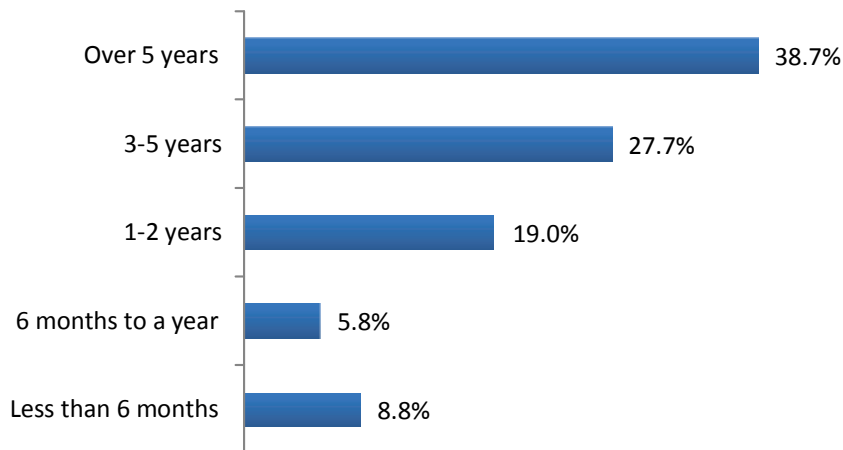
As the table below indicates, the majority of respondents lived in the Wheatbelt (n37 27.0%), Goldfields-Esperance (n20 14.6%), Mid West (n19 13.9%) and Great Southern (n17 12.4%) regions. The figure below outlines member location, with other members indicating they were from the Eastern Wheatbelt and other areas.

Member Regional Location



As the table below indicates, the majority of respondents had been connected with the network for more than one year (n117 84.5%), with two respondents (14.6%) with the network for less than one year.

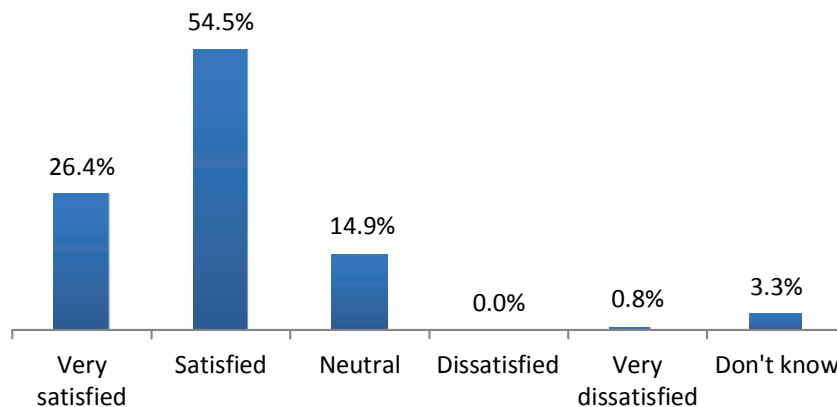
Length of Membership



One member indicated they were a member of the original Rural Women’s Taskforce initiated by then Minister for Agriculture, Julian Grill, in 1988. Another member indicated they were one of the initial ladies who created the network in 1994.

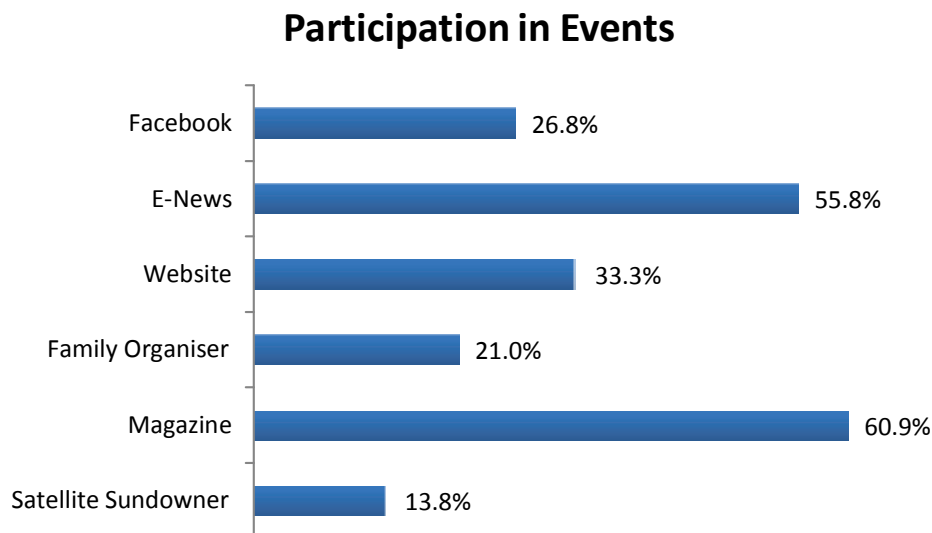
Responses to survey questions

Q4. Overall, how satisfied have you been with the RRR Women's Network of WA?



Overall 80.9% (n98) of respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with the network. Only one respondent (0.8%) was very dissatisfied with the network.

Q5. In the past year, which of the following have you participated in?



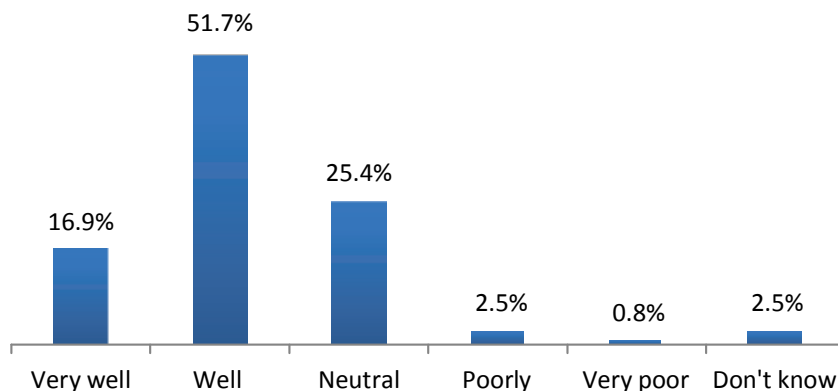
The majority of respondents had participated in the e-News (n77 55.8%) and magazine (n84 60.9%). However less than 40% had participated in the Sundowner (n19), Family Organiser (n29), Website (n46) or Facebook (n37) areas.

Q6. What do you value most about being a member of the RRR Women's Network of WA?

Members of the RRR Women's Network of WA value the following:

- x Having an avenue for communication/access to information and opportunities. This includes being kept up to date with what activities are happening in the region and across the state, thereby fostering a sense of community (55 members)
- x Receiving the magazine and having access to the inspiring stories that celebrate women's achievements and the challenges they have overcome (40 members)
- x Being able to connect with other women who are like-minded (22 members)
- x Having access to up to date and relevant information on the website or via e-news (7 members)
- x Receiving information about scholarships, grants and funding (5 members)
- x Being able to have a say in issues involving women in rural, regional and remote WA (3 members)

Q7. How well is the RRR Women's Network of WA meeting your needs and expectations?



Overall 68.6% (n81) of respondents indicated the network was meeting their needs and expectations, well or very well. Only four respondents (3.3%) said the network was meeting their needs and expectations poorly or very poorly.

Q8. How is RRR Women's Network of WA meeting your needs and expectations?

Members indicated the RRR Women's Network of WA met their needs and expectations through the following:

- x By informing members of what is happening within the area and the wider region of WA; this includes the provision of information in relation to events (38 members)
- x The website (in particular the links to funding opportunities and grants), e-news and emails (18 members)
- x By providing members with the magazine which provides inspirational stories and showcases achievements and opportunities (18 members)
- x By providing an opportunity to connect with other women (7 members)

One particular comment that summarised the overall theme of respondents is below:

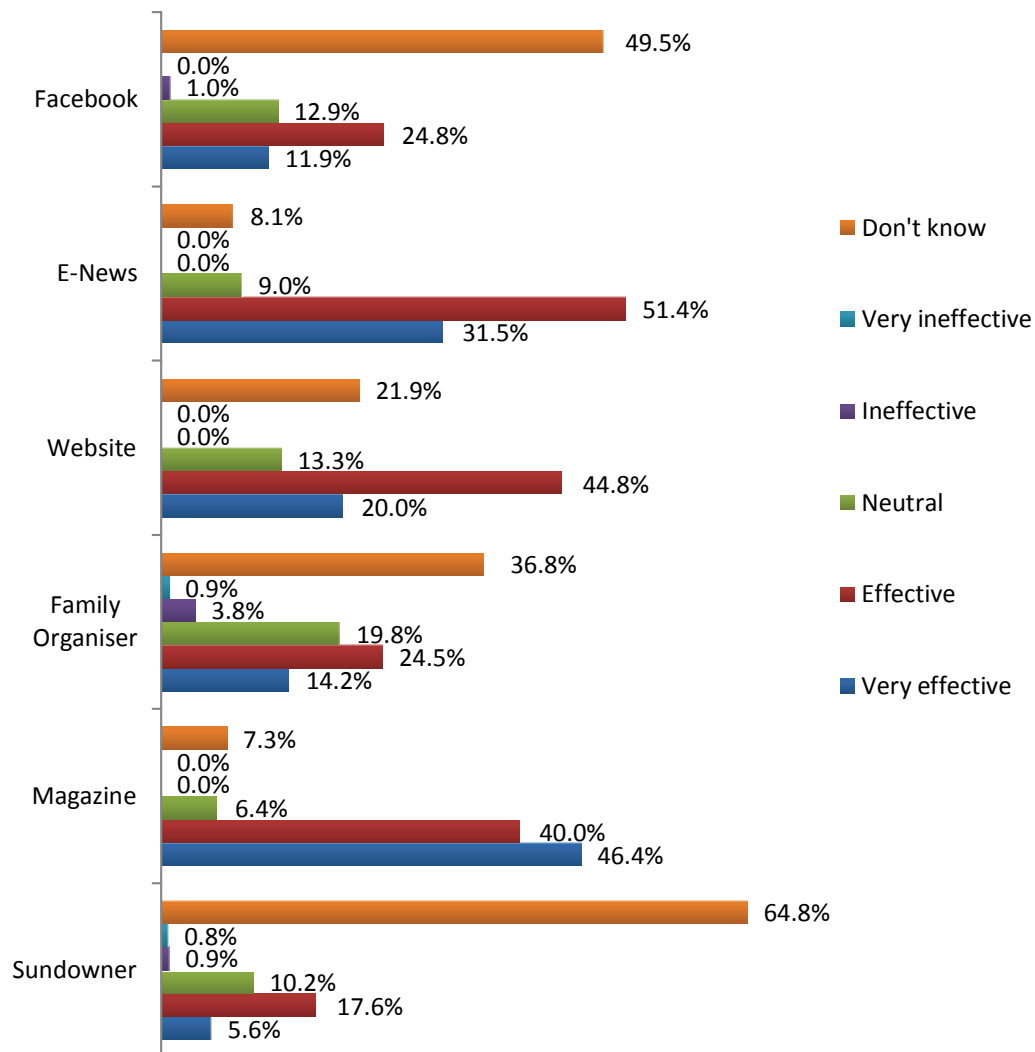
"I really look forward to the e-news as it has relevant information such as potential grants all in the one place. I look forward to the magazine each quarter, getting a cup of tea and having a few quiet moments."

Q9. How is RRR Women's Network of WA failing to meet your needs and expectations?

Members indicated the RRR Women's Network of WA was failing to meet their needs and expectations for a number of reasons. There was no single reason, however a range of specific reasons have been included below:

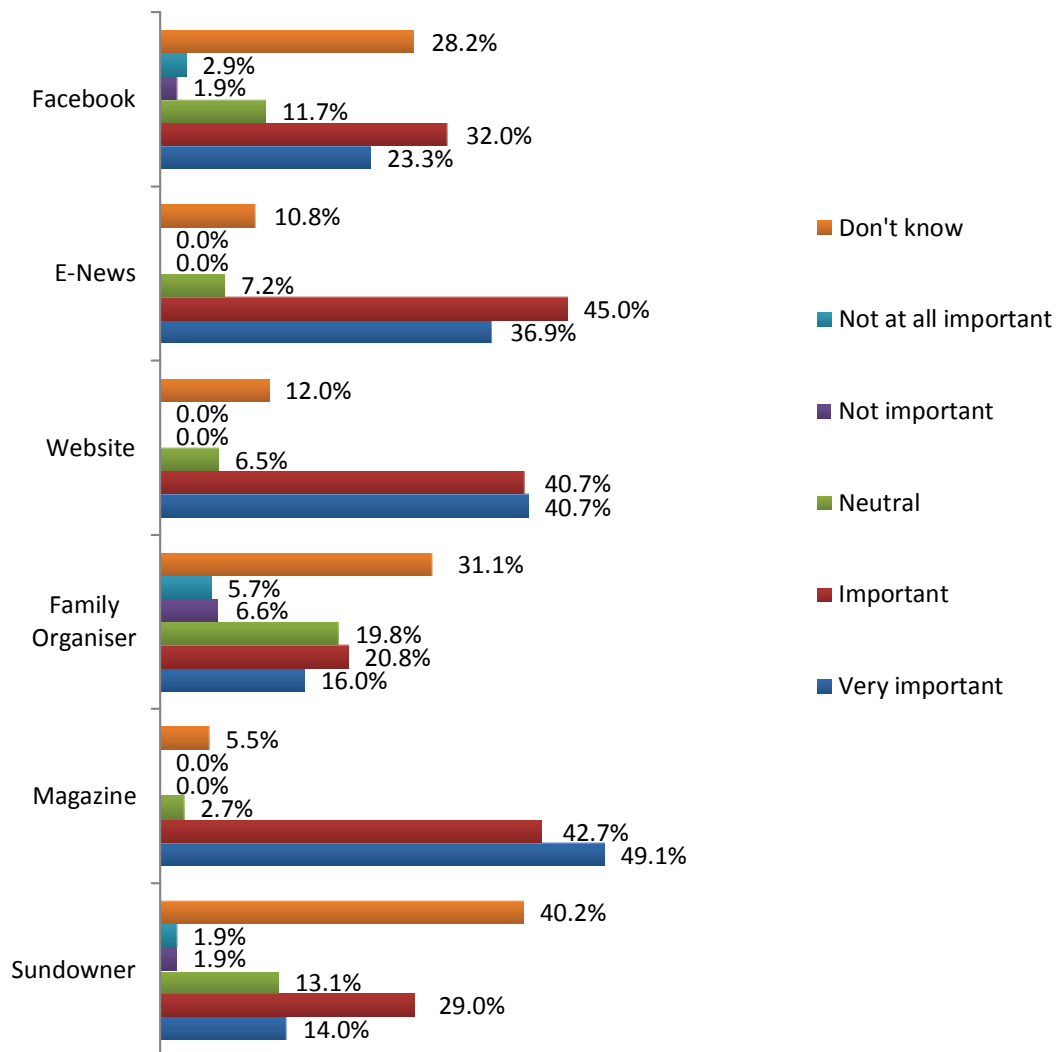
- x Members were unsure as to how it could help them personally (5 members)
- x Members indicated there was not enough community interaction, with a suggestion to advertise for new committee members, as only a small group of women get to actively participate in the group (4 members)
- x Members would prefer to have regular meetings in rural areas (4 members)
- x Members indicated more community information and less information about women in business was needed (3 members)
- x Members indicated that they would like to see more health issues raised (access and costs) and how health practitioners operate in rural communities (2 members)
- x One member suggested a need for more partnerships
- x One member indicated that it was one of the lowest paid government boards, despite having one of the highest workloads, with reference group members contributing to magazine articles and social media management with no recognition of time spent on these activities
- x One member indicated they would like to see more locals in the magazine
- x One member indicated a need for more focus and support for remote aboriginal women and their women's centres

Q10a. How would you rate the effectiveness of each of the following?



- x The magazine, website and e-news were rated as the most effective communication strategies
- x Facebook and the Sundowner were the least effective strategies, however 49.5% and 64.8% of participants respectively indicated “don’t know”, as they did not use Facebook or attend the Sundowner
- x Family Organiser received the most “ineffective” responses (n5 4.7%), however n41 (38.7%) of respondents still found it effective

Q10b. How would you rate the importance of the following activities?



- x The magazine, website and e-news were rated as the most important activities
- x Family Organiser, Facebook and Sundowner were rated as the least important activities, with 12.3% (13) of respondents indicating the Family Organiser was not important

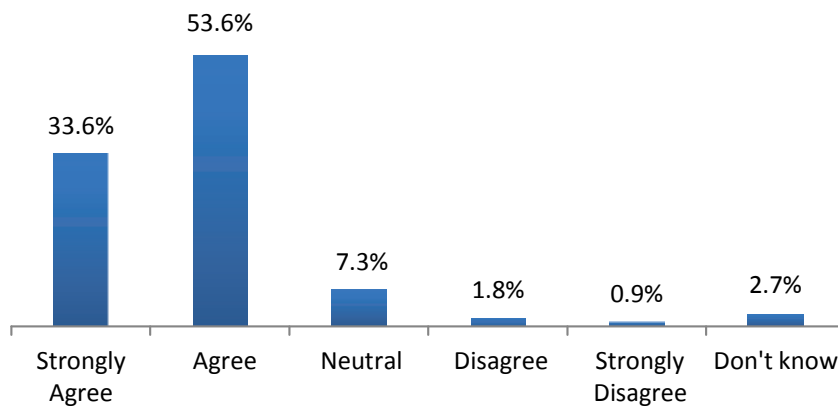
Q11. What other services should the RRR Women's Network of WA consider offering or focusing on to remain relevant and beneficial to you?

Members indicated the following were options the RRR Women's Network of WA should consider offering or focusing on to remain relevant and beneficial:

- x Face-to-face activities, workshops, training and networking events (20 members)
- x Links to assistance for women struggling in areas of domestic violence, financial hardship and mental illness (6 members)
- x Provide remotely delivered training and networking, including online webinars. One comment summarised this stating: "Maybe they could look at teleconference speakers/ presenters on various topics (e.g. leadership, networking, social media, etc) and members could log in and listen and contribute from the comfort of their home. Something that could be offered in the evenings and women of all ages and stages could take time to relax and network with like-minded people without having to leave home. I have been involved in a few of these programs run from the Eastern states and they were fantastic although the time difference made it hard for me at times, the benefits were huge, we don't really have anything like that run from WA." (5 members)
- x An online forum where women can get instant advice (4 members)
- x Having a local ambassador/representative for each area who is proactive and can organise local events regularly (4 members)
- x Annual event (e.g. annual ball or gala) or a meet and greet for everyone in the network (3 members)
- x Liaise with other organisations such as CWA, Women in Agriculture or interest groups such as State Royal Agriculture Societies (3 members)
- x Providing a directory of businesses which are owned/run by rural women so members can support each other (2 members)
- x Be easily accessible on social media (2 members)
- x Have a stronger presence in other government departments
- x Assist in bridging the gap between city and rural women by placing excess-print copies of RRR Network News in doctors' and dental surgeries in urban areas
- x Run events in different regions
- x Provide a childcare guide

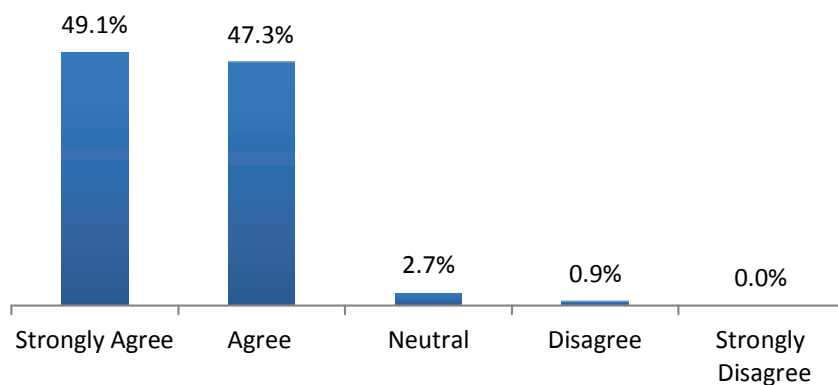
- x Provide information on farm safety
- x Include fun competitions, like sending in a photo of something relevant to RRR
- x The network needs to promote the concept that the RRR is a network, made up of many members and doesn't just consist of the reference group with members just 'being'
- x Provide information about help available to seniors regarding home help and local aged care
- x Provide information about services for young families in rural WA
- x Provide more business information and highlight ATO changes
- x Networking internationally
- x Regional award ceremonies around the state. One member gave the example of Tidy Towns, which has 6 events in the regions each year.
- x Creating a mentor program
- x Having a stronger focus on supporting very remote Aboriginal women and their issues

Q13a. The RRR Women’s Network of WA has been successful at providing opportunities for connecting women and their families from rural, remote and regional Western Australia?



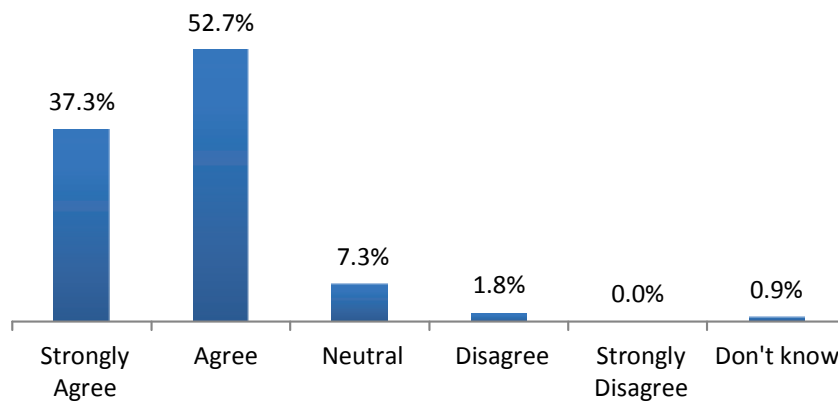
Overall 87.2% (n96) of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that the network had been successful in providing opportunities for connection. Only three respondents (2.7%) disagreed with this statement.

Q13b. The RRR Women’s Network of WA has been successful at recognising the contribution that women and their families from rural, remote and regional Western Australia make to their communities



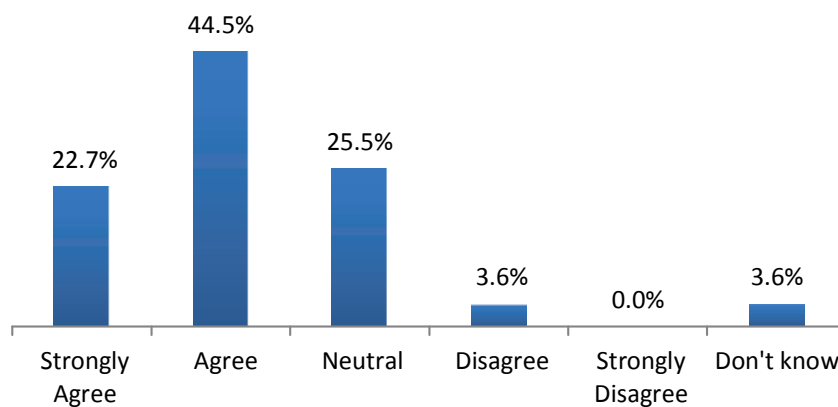
Overall 96.4% (n106) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the network had been successful at recognising the contribution of women and their families. Only one respondent (0.9%) disagreed with this statement.

Q13c. The RRR Women’s Network of WA has been successful at promoting the contribution that women and their families from rural, remote and regional Western Australia make to their communities



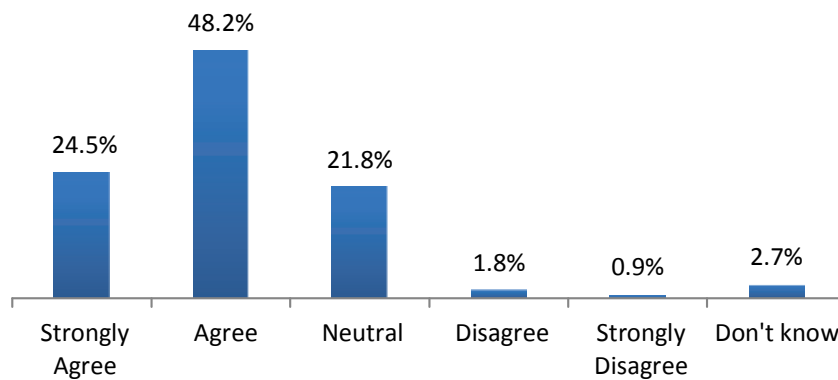
Overall 90% (n99) of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that the network was successful at promoting the contribution of women and their families. Only two respondents (1.8%) disagreed with this statement.

Q13d. The RRR Women’s Network of WA has been successful at expanding the contribution that women and their families from rural, remote and regional Western Australia make to their communities



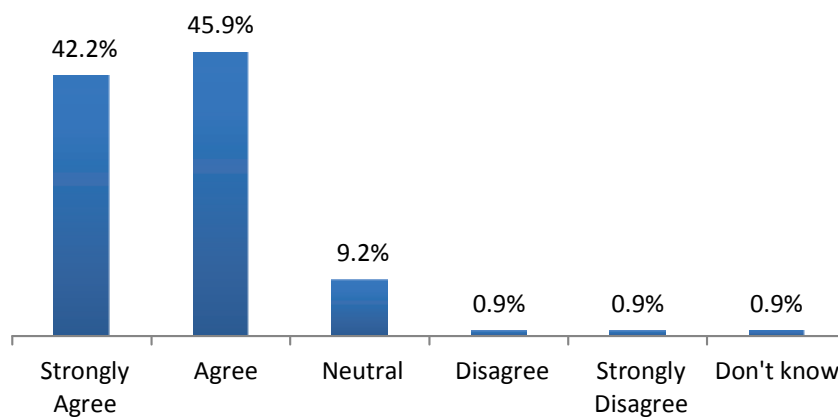
Overall 67.2% (n74) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the network had been successful at expanding the contribution that women and their families make. A total of four respondents (3.6%) disagreed with this statement.

Q13e. The RRR Women’s Network of WA has been successful at providing a supported resource network?



Overall 72.7% (n80) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the network had been successful at providing a resource network. Only three respondents (2.7%) disagreed with this statement.

Q13f. I recommend the RRR Women’s Network of WA to other women?



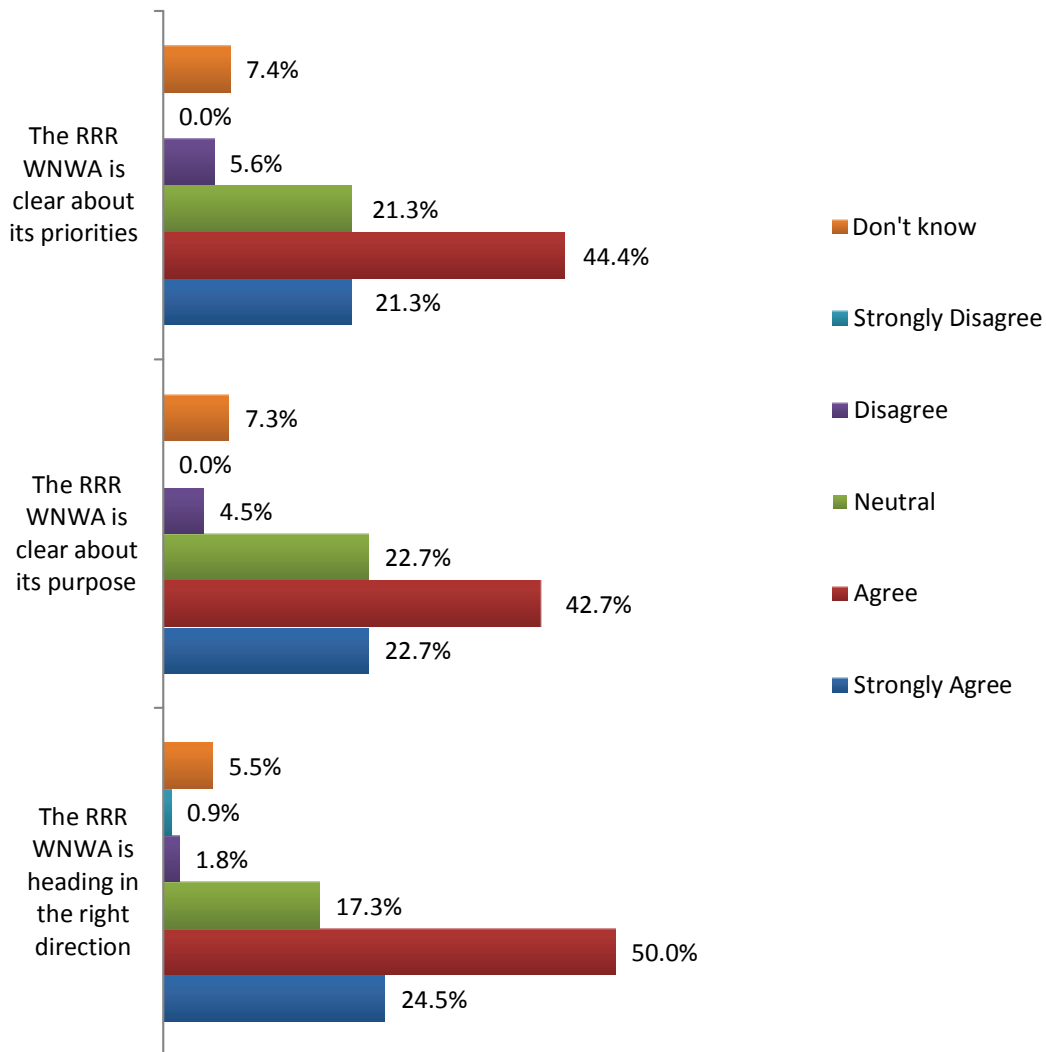
A high majority of respondents (88.1% n96) agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend the network to other women. Only two respondents (1.8%) disagreed with this question.

Q14. If you rated Neither agree or disagree, Disagree or Strongly Disagree, please let us know what would make it more successful?

Members indicated the following would make the RRR Women's Network of WA more successful:

- x Be more visible to women living in rural/regional areas by hosting local events (4 members).
- x Disseminate the stories through mainstream media to broaden our impact and increase promotion.
- x Focus on more awareness and promotion of the RRR Women's Network.
- x Target a wider range of women by using social media.
- x Offer a means whereby women who are more isolated, can participate from home.
- x Include follow-up stories in the magazine to re-visit women who have featured in earlier editions.
- x Increase staff to provide a wider more focused service including training and development opportunities.
- x More focus on Aboriginal women in remote and very remote communities, and their issues and concerns.
- x Expand the website or include a blog.
- x While the RRR is meeting the needs of women with higher education, they aren't meeting the needs of those that are less educated, more isolated and have lower socioeconomic status. Addressing this issue would make RRR Women's Network more successful.

Q15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



- x Overall 65.7% (n71) of respondents felt the network was clear about its priorities
- x Overall 65.4% (n71) of respondents felt the network was clear about its purpose
- x Overall 74.5% (n82) of respondents felt the network was heading in the right direction
- x 3 respondents (2.7%) disagreed the network was heading in the right direction
- x 6 respondents (5.6%) disagreed the network was clear about its priorities
- x 5 respondents (4.5%) disagreed the network was clear about its purpose

Q16. What could the RRR do differently to better serve the network?

There was no overarching theme on ways the RRR could better serve the network, however a range of specific suggestions has been included below:

- x By doing more regional visits and networking sessions (4 members)
- x By using digital communications technology to connect women (3 members)
- x By being aware of how policy changes can affect women in the network
- x By developing stronger collaborations with appropriate partners
- x By educating urban women about achievements of rural, remote and regional women
- x By including more information on health issues
- x By explaining its role within government more clearly
- x By communicating clearly to the members what the group is doing
- x By promoting it further (e.g. on TV), to involve younger women in particular
- x By including more information on Aboriginal women, their success and achievements, and health and wellbeing information for them
- x By including members in the magazine content (e.g send in photos)
- x By using Westlink to deliver programs, seminars, etc.

Q17. Is there anything else the RRR should consider as part of the planning process?

Members identified the following, as factors the RRR should consider as part of the planning process:

- x Addressing and recognising Aboriginal women's needs (3 members)
- x Continuing to partner closely with the CRC Network (2 members)
- x Doing more work in the way of advocacy (2 members)
- x Organising more face-to-face gatherings (2 members)
- x Providing support for women who have their children in boarding school
- x Creating a sense of belonging to the network
- x Addressing disabled women's needs and access to services
- x Including follow-up stories on previously featured women
- x Hiring more staff to address the highlighted issues
- x Promoting the magazine to non-rural women to increase their understanding of rural women's lives

Appendix – Survey Instrument

{see next page}

2014 Network Survey

The Rural, Remote and Regional (RRR) Women's Network of Western Australia (WA) is embarking on the planning process for determining the direction and key activities for the coming twelve months. As part of this process, it is really important that our decisions are driven by the needs and aspirations of our network. We would really appreciate it if you could take a few moments of your time to provide feedback by completing this survey. A summary of the results will be published in an upcoming edition of E-News. This survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Please be as honest as possible as the results are confidential and will not identify individuals.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Vivian Garde from Aha! Consulting on (08) 94439474 or email viv@ahaconsulting.net.au.

Closing Date: Responses to this survey close at 5pm on Friday 14 February 2014.

MEMBER INFORMATION

First we would like to understand a little about you ...

*1. In what region do you live?

- Gascoyne
- Goldfields-Esperance
- Great Southern
- Kimberley
- Mid West
- Peel
- Perth
- Pilbara
- South West
- Wheatbelt

Other (please specify)

*2. How long have you been connected to the RRR Women's Network of WA?

- Less than 6 months
- 6 months to a year
- 1-2 years
- 3-5 years
- Over 5 years

Other (please specify)

3. What best describes your main relationship to the RRR Women's Network of WA? (please choose one option)

- Network Member
- Alumni
- Reference Group Member
- Stakeholder

Other (please specify)

***4. Overall, how satisfied have you been with the RRR Women's Network of WA?**

- Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied Don't Know

***5. In the past year, which of the following have you participated in? (select as many as apply)**

- Satellite Sundowner
- Network News Magazine
- Family Organiser
- Network Website
- E-news
- Facebook

Other (please specify)

***6. What do you most value about being a member of the RRR Women's Network of WA?**

***7. Has well is the RRR Women's Network of WA meeting your needs and expectations?**

Very Well

Well

Neither poor
nor well

Poorly

Very Poorly

Don't Know

*a. How is **RRR** Women's Network of WA meeting your needs and expectations?

|

*9.How is **RRR** Women's Network of WA failing to meet your needs and expectations?



***10. Overall, how would you rate the effectiveness of each of the following activities?**

	Very effective	Effective	Neither effective or ineffective	Ineffective	Very ineffective	Don't Know
Satellite						Sundowner
Network			News			Magazine
Family						Organiser
Network						Website
E-news						
Facebook						
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>					

***11. How would you rate the importance of the following activities?**

	Very important	Important	Neither important or not important	Not important	Not at all important	Don't Know
Satellite						Sundowner
Network			News			Magazine
Family						Organiser
Network						Website
E-news						
Facebook						
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>					

*12. What other services should the **RRR** Women's Network of WA consider offering or focusing on to remain relevant and beneficial to you?

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***13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
The RRR Women's Network of WA has been successful at providing opportunities for connecting women and their families from rural, remote and regional Western Australia	\	\	\	\	\	\
The RRR Women's Network of WA has been successful at recognising the contribution that women and their families from rural, remote and regional Western Australia make to their communities	\	\	\	\	\	\
The RRR Women's Network of WA has been successful at promoting the contribution that women and their families from rural, remote and regional Western Australia make to their communities	\	\	\	\	\	\
The RRR Women's Network of WA has been successful at expanding the contribution that women and their families from rural, remote and regional Western Australia make to their communities	\	\	\	\	\	\
The RRR Women's Network of WA has been successful at providing a supported resource network	\	\	\	\	\	\
I recommend the RRR Women's Network of WA to other women	\	\	\	\	\	\

14. If you rated Neither Agree nor Disagree, Disagree or Strongly Disagree, please let us know what would make it more successful?

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

*15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
The RRR Women's Network of WA is heading in the right direction	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
The RRR Women's Network of WA is clear about its purpose	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
The RRR Women's Network of WA is clear about its priorities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

16. What could the RRR do differently to better serve the network?

17. Is there anything else that RRR should consider as part of the planning process?

2014 Network Survey

Thank you for your time!

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Vivian Garde from Aha! Consulting on (08) 94439474 or email viv@ahaconsulting.net.au.



Rural, Remote and Regional Women's Network

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Background

The Rural, Remote and Regional Women's Network (RRR Network), Western Australia was established by the state government in 1996 to recognise, promote and expand the contributions that women make to their communities.

The RRR Network has two main roles:

1. The RRR Network provides a mechanism for networking, sharing and disseminating information relevant to the development of women and communities in rural, remote and regional Western Australia.
2. The RRR Network's Reference Group provides advice and feedback to the Minister for Regional Development on issues impacting women and communities in rural, remote and regional Western Australia.

The RRR Network Reference Group comprises up to 12 members, including a Chair, who are appointed by the Minister for Regional Development from non-metropolitan Western Australia through a public application process for a term of three years.

The Reference Group sets the strategic direction of the RRR Network, ensures the RRR Network is on track to achieve its objectives.

The Reference Group members represent a broad diversity of interests, expertise, demographics, backgrounds and networks. They are aware of issues which impact on women and their communities.

The RRR Network provides an important forum for discussion of issues and opportunities that relate to rural, remote and regional women, their families and communities.

Vision Statement

Rural, remote and regional women in WA actively contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of their communities.

Mission Statement

We will support rural remote and regional women to grow strong and vibrant communities in Western Australia.

Objectives

- To inform the Minister for Regional Development on emerging issues.
- To connect women
- To share and disseminate information
- To build the capacity of women
- To showcase women's contributions

Strategies

Strategy 1 : Communicate

To facilitate communication with, and amongst, rural remote and regional women to develop their capacity through information and conversations.

Strategy 2 : Connect

To bring together rural remote and regional women to actively support and encourage each other.

Strategy 3 : Develop

To build the capability of Reference Group members, and RRR Network members, to increase their skills and confidence to take on greater roles in their communities and the state.

Strategy 4 : Influence

To have a positive effect on decision makers and rural remote and regional Western Australia.

Evaluation:

To ensure the RRR Network meets the ongoing needs of the Minister for Regional Development and key stakeholders.