

SLIDE 1

logging in & turning audio off

SLIDE 2 **Intro**

Hello everyone. Please be aware that this session is being recorded and the link will be available on the conference website

Welcome to Regional Voices Crying out to be Heard. Thank you to my physical room moderator Geri who is with you at the conference.

Just a little housekeeping before we start. Please feel free to add comments and questions in the text chat at anytime. I will try and field as many as I can (I usually try to include the answers in what I am saying) We may be able to fit in some audio questions at the end. Please also be aware that although you can send private messages to other participants these can be seen by moderators!

I would also like to welcome my special guest Cheryl Wiltshire who has kindly joined us – later on Cheryl will give you a brief “word picture” on the consultation from her perspective as an organiser/table moderator

In this session we will

SLIDE 3 **objectives**

Take a look at how the WA regions were able to be heard in the national consultation process for the development of the National Foundation Skills Strategy

The Regional WA consultation was done through Elluminate where my own prior experience over the last seven years especially since 2008 when I have been delivering CGEA online to regional students in WA and hosting global webinars was invaluable in making choices and decisions about how to achieve the requirements of the consultants

We will also take a look at the process and its effectiveness in meeting the data collection needs of the consultants and consider how we might use virtual platforms not just for teaching but also to enable more regional and other voices to be heard.

SLIDE 4 **Where did you come from**

Lets start with a little “food for thought” where did you come from to attend this conference?

Please use the select tool (up & left pointing arrow) to drag a symbol to that approximate location

Comment on locations

SLIDE 5 **Travel time**

And approximately how long was your travel time? Selecte A B C D or E from under the participant list

Post poll result

My travel time of course is zero – I am sitting at home in regional Western Australia.

SLIDE 6 **Tyranny of distance**

But we are all – even those of you living in capital cities – affected by the size of this country, the time it takes to travel from one place to another and the cost both to ourselves and the environment.. For those of us in regional areas

SLIDE 7 **Population**

..and that's a third of the population the impacts are much larger and its hard for us to be heard when we often can't attend public meetings or consultations because they are too far away

SLIDE 8 **NFSS Strategy consultation**

When the Dept of Education Employment and Workplace relations initiated a consultation process to inform development of the new National Foundation Skills Strategy the consultations were focus groups on a World Café model to take place in the capital cities and regional centres in some states but not WA

SLIDE 9 **Into context WA size**

Now WA is big! Just for a little light relief take a guess at how big – choose A B C or D from the choices below the participant list

SLIDE 10 **Impact of size on voice**

... at around two and a half million square kilometres WA is a thousand times the area of the Australian Capital Territory and makes up about a third of the area of Australia. The distances involved made it almost impossible for the regions to be properly represented at the consultation planned for Perth.

SLIDE 11 **Cheryl & Margaret**

However thanks to Cheryl Wiltshire who is online with us today and Margaret McHugh – who is at this moment presenting one of the concurrent sessions at this conference WA regional voices have been able to take part in this national consultation process.

Margaret and Cheryl knew of my long term Elluminate experience and that I use it with regional students as part of my online delivery of CGEA and asked me to help with the virtual room aspect

SLIDE 12 **Consultant's needs**

The challenge was to meet the consultant's needs for comparable data by matching the process used in the face-to-face focus groups for this they needed:

everyone together for an initial briefing
tables to allow the group to break up into smaller groups
to have the capacity to re-mix the groups enabling a revisiting of the two focus questions by different combinations of people
and finally for everyone once again to come together and access all of the 8 further questions independently at will
All of these within a fairly tight timetable

SLIDE 13 **Decisions 1**

This meant some decisions to make about how to best manage the process

Use one room with breakout rooms for the tables		Use different rooms for each table	
Pro	Con	Pro	Con
Only one link needed	No recording in breakout rooms	Recording available	Several links needed
Moderators can move participants to b'kout rooms	Increased risk of "dropout" due to higher bandwidth need	Fewer "dropouts" likely	Risk people in wrong rooms
	Slow to move people between rooms	Activity "pressure" dispersed	
	All activity "pressure" on one room		

SLIDE 14 **Easy decision**

For me it was relatively easy to make this decision based on my experience with breakout rooms in our regional context, and the lack of recording potential in the breakout rooms

SLIDE 15 Room movement model

The model finally used was for all to start in the briefing room and then move to their first group for the first focus session. Then everyone except room moderators moved on to different rooms for the second focus session. Finally all reconvened in the briefing room for the final supplementary questions session

SLIDE 16 Links on whiteboard

However the multi-room option did in itself pose other possible problems. Again from my own experience with my own students and in a professional development context I am very aware that it isn't a good idea to send out several links in one email – this is true however carefully and clearly you think you have written the accompanying instructions. If there is more than one link then someone will end up in the wrong place at some point. The solution was to use a list of names for each table with a live link for them to select. This worked well.

SLIDE 17 Five open rooms

An interesting challenge for me (and for my internet connection) was having 5 Elluminate rooms all live at the same time. I logged in to all of the rooms to be available in case any moderators experienced drop out and also in case any trouble shooting was needed.

SLIDE 18 Supplementary questions

At the end of the two focus sessions everyone was asked to return to the briefing room where we used “whiteboard roaming” to enable everyone to visit and contribute to the supplementary question boards in their own time. The session was then closed

SLIDE 19 Input Cheryl & Teresa

From my point of view it all ran very smoothly but I would like to hand you over briefly to Cheryl from the WA Dept of Training & Workforce development who was one of the prime movers in getting this happening and was also a table moderator to give you a short “word picture” from her perspective and I think Cheryl will be happy to respond to any questions in text chat.

SLIDE 20 Feedback from consultants

Feedback from the consultants was very positive – they were perhaps a little surprised at the volume and richness of the data but also pleased at the easy availability to them.

SLIDE 21 Richness of data

One of the best things I find with a virtual platform is the multiple ways of communicating that often enable several conversations to happen at once through a mix of audio, textchat and whiteboard. The “richness” of the data that can be gathered that way as well as the potential for information sharing and exchange and also serendipitous learning is immense. The whiteboards were filled, text chat was extensive and audio discussion continuous.

SLIDE 22 Toon

All of the data was available to the consultants in contrast to the inevitably selective and comparatively small amount distilled from face to face focus groups because of the pressure on one person to record sometimes in the light of a dominant participant.

SLIDE 23 Comprehensive supplementary answers

The answers to the supplementary questions were also comprehensive and in terms of data gathered they were probably similar in richness to the data from face to face groups as there was only the one channel (ie the whiteboards) in use.

SLIDE 24 Successful???

Do you think this was a successful exercise? Please choose the tick or the cross under participant names to let us know.

SLIDE 25 where to from here?

And now its your turn – ideas for the continuing journey- where can we go from here.?

This activity follows the “roaming strategy” used in the consultation. Please move between the next four whiteboards at will and add your comments and ideas – you will have aboutminutes. Please try and visit and add your thoughts to all four boards! Perhaps if your name begins with a letter in the range A to M you might start with the first of the four and work forwards and if you are N to Z please start with the last of the four and work backwards. If you need help please raise your virtual hand (blue had with green arrow) or use a text message and I will try and help

SLIDE 26 **suggestions where to from here**

SLIDE 27 **advantages for adult lit practitioners**

SLIDE 28 **support for adult lit practioners**

SLIDE 29 **increasing chance of being heard**

PULL ALL BACK to SLIDE 24

Run through and comment on the above

SLIDE 30 **wind up**

Hopefully today you have seen how our “regional voices” were heard in a national consultation and how we are trying to overcome the tyranny of distance

Thank you so much for listening and special thanks to Cheryl, to Geri my wonderful room moderator in your physical room.

I would be so please to get some feedback – I have my standard three slides for quick polls about the session and a blank page for any other comments.Please help me to do this better by responding.

SLIDES 32-34 **Feedback**