

2026 Registry Centre Annual Symposium

Summary report and evaluation results

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Background

The Symposium is a flagship event for the SAHMRI Registry Centre, providing a unique forum that brings together leaders from government, registries, research, clinical practice, policy, and the community to discuss the evolving role of clinical quality registries in improving health care. The strong attendance, growth in numbers and engagement each year reflects the increasing recognition of registries as a critical component of a learning health system.

For the Registry Centre, the Symposium serves several important purposes. It provides an opportunity to showcase the breadth of work being undertaken across its national network of registries and highlight how registry data can drive quality improvement, inform policy, and support better patient outcomes. It also creates space for meaningful dialogue between clinicians, researchers, policymakers, and consumers, helping to foster new collaborations and strengthen existing partnerships across the sector.

The Symposium also provides a timely platform to share major milestones and resources from the Registry Centre. In 2026, the event offered the opportunity to release the latest Annual Report from the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute Registry Centre, highlighting a year of growth, collaboration, and national impact. [2025 Registry Centre Annual Report](#)

Together, these elements make the Symposium a key event for advancing the visibility, collaboration, and influence of clinical quality registries across Australia.

The Datathon has grown steadily in both participation (closing registrations a month before the event) and scope (three National Clinical Quality Registries providing datasets). What began as a smaller collaborative event has evolved into a nationally engaging initiative, attracting participants from multiple states and a broader range of professional backgrounds. The increasing number of teams, interstate participation, and growing interest from clinicians, researchers, data scientists, and students reflects the rising enthusiasm for using clinical registry data to address important healthcare questions.

The Symposium and Datathon are complementary events that together highlight the power and potential of registry data. The Datathon provides a hands-on opportunity for multidisciplinary teams to analyse real-world registry datasets and generate new insights. The Symposium brings together national leaders in Clinical Quality Registries, health policy, research, and community advocacy to explore how registry data can be used to improve healthcare quality and equity. Together, the two events showcase both the analytical potential of registry data and its real-world impact on health systems and patient outcomes.

Report

Symposium

The Registry Centre held its 2026 Annual Scientific Symposium on the 13 March, attracting a record 133 attendees. A volunteer organising committee was formed from representatives of the Registry Centre member registries to support the event.

The theme was: *Advancing Equity Through Clinical Quality Registries* and the focus was on how registry data could be used to ensure a more equitable health care system. The event was sponsored by Dell Technologies / Copilot+PC and the Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health (CEIH).



Figure 1 - Keynote presentation by Professor Michael Kidd.

Australia's Chief Medical Officer addressing the role of clinical quality registries in national health policy.

This year, we were delighted to have Karen Ashford, former current affairs journalist with SBS, as the event's MC, and Aunty Ros Coleman, who delivered a heartfelt Welcome to Country. Having Australia's Chief Medical Officer, **Professor Michael Kidd**, as the keynote speaker was a tremendous privilege and highlights the growing national importance of clinical quality registries. His participation accentuated the role that high-quality data plays in informing national health policy, improving clinical practice, and strengthening the health system. He also reinforced the relevance of the Symposium's theme 'Advancing equity through clinical quality registries' by connecting the work of registries directly with broader priorities in healthcare leadership and policy.

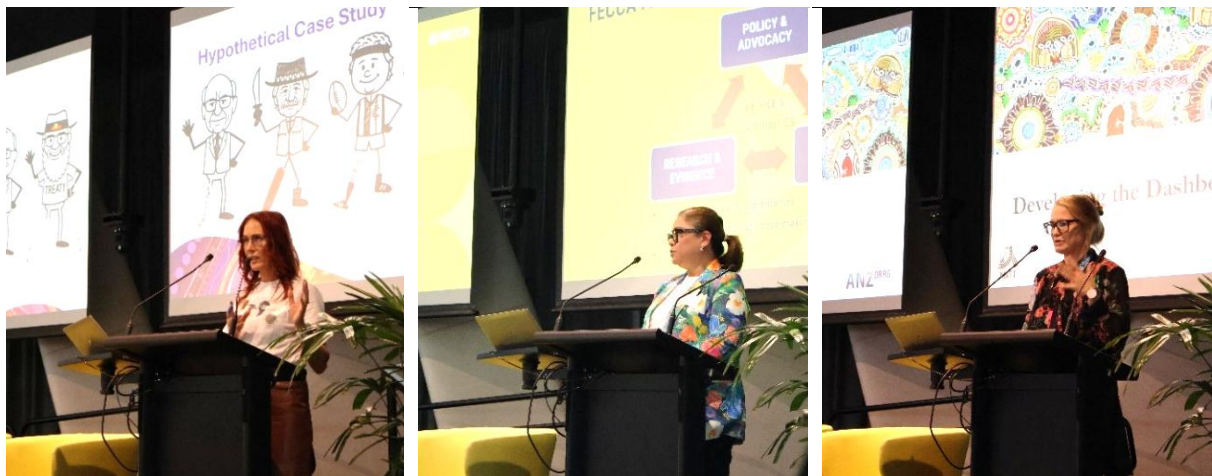


Figure 2 - Plenary speakers at the 2026 Registry Centre Annual Symposium.

Featuring Associate Professor Courtney Ryder, Mary Ann Baquero Geronimo, and Katie Cundale, shown left to right.

We were pleased to have the following high profile plenary speakers:

- **Associate Professor Courtney Ryder** from Flinders University spoke on governance and data sovereignty in CQRs
- **Mary Ann Baquero Geronimo**, CEO of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) discussed driving policy impact for multicultural communities
- **Katie Cundale** and **Stephen McDonald** from the Australian & New Zealand Organ Replacement Registries Group (ANZORRG) who provided a demonstration of their real-time National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce reporting dashboard

Throughout the day, we heard from a diverse group of speakers from across Australia, including six interstate presenters. Invitations were extended to all interested participants to submit an abstract. Submissions and evaluations were managed using REDCap. Three categories were available: using registry data to identify and understand inequities; ethics, governance and data sovereignty; and reporting, quality improvement and policy impact.

A total of 20 abstracts were received and reviewed by a minimum of three independent judges, with all identifying information removed to ensure a blinded assessment process. From these submissions, seven abstracts were selected for oral presentation, each allocated a 15-minute presentation slot.

Owing to the high calibre of abstracts submitted this year, a 'rapid fire' session was introduced, in which four speakers each delivered a concise four-minute presentation. All remaining abstract authors were invited to present a poster, with five electing to do so. In addition, the winner of the previous day's Datathon was invited to present their results to attendees.

The afternoon session featured an engaging panel discussion on meaningful consumer and community involvement in registries. The panel included consumer representatives from three SAHMRI Registry Centre registries— Registry of Senior Australians (ROSA), Australian Particle Therapy Clinical Quality Registry (ASPIRE), and Australia and New Zealand Organ Replacement Registries Group (ANZORRG). This authentic, and at times deeply moving, discussion underscored the critical importance of genuine and meaningful consumer engagement in registry design and delivery.

The event concluded with a networking and cocktail session, providing attendees with the opportunity to connect beyond their immediate professional circles and to explore potential opportunities for future collaboration, knowledge sharing, and partnership.



Figure 3 - Panel discussion on consumer and community involvement in registries.

Daniel Johnstone, Billie Tuckerman, Paolo Cardelli, Bryan Morden, and Shyam Muthuramalingam, shown left to right.

Symposium Evaluation Summary

Overall, the Symposium was highly successful and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees. Participants represented a diverse range of backgrounds, including management, statistics and analytics, data management, project management, students, researchers, consumers and community representatives, and clinicians.

An evaluation survey was distributed following the event to gather attendee feedback. All respondents (100%) reported being either extremely satisfied or satisfied with the program content, while 98% indicated they were extremely satisfied or satisfied with the quality of the speakers. Additionally, 96% of attendees rated the keynote presentation by Professor Michael Kidd as either extremely interesting or very interesting.

Attendees highlighted the networking opportunities, high calibre of speakers, and the consumer session as the most valuable aspects of the Symposium. One attendee noted, “Michael Kidd’s presentation was very inspiring, and I could have listened to him all day.”

The primary area identified for improvement was the event seating arrangement. Several respondents expressed a preference for a round table format over the theatre-style setup, suggesting this may better support engagement and interaction.

Overall, respondents recognised the strong value of the SAHMRI Registry Centre Symposium, with 98% rating the event as important or very important. Additionally, 96% indicated they would definitely or probably recommend the Symposium to their colleagues.

Datathon

On 12 March 2026, the day preceding the Symposium, the Registry Centre hosted its second annual Datathon. The event was fully subscribed, with a total of 58 participants in attendance.

The SAHMRI Registry Centre partnered with the Australia and New Zealand Intensive Care Society Centre for Outcome and Resource Evaluation (ANZICS CORE), the Australian and New Zealand Dialysis and Renal Transplant Registry (ANZDATA), and the Australian and New Zealand Hip Fracture Registry (ANZHFR) to provide datasets for the Datathon. These datasets were used by participating teams to address a defined clinical question.

Sponsorship from Dell Technologies/Copilot+PC and the CEIH enabled the Registry Centre to deliver this professional development event at no cost to participants. In addition, Dell supported the event by providing 20 desktop monitors to assist participants in their work.



Figure 4 - Participants collaborating during the 2026 SAHMRI Registry Centre Datathon.
Multidisciplinary teams working with clinical registry datasets.

A pre-event training session was held to provide information participants needed prior to the Datathon and it was also provided as a recording. This prepared the participants with essential information to allow them to 'get stuck in' and have more time on the actual task on the day. The competition was highly collaborative while still fostering a strong sense of friendly rivalry. Teams worked intensively over five hours to analyse the provided datasets, develop meaningful research questions, and present their findings to a judging panel. The quality of the analyses and presentations was exceptionally high, demonstrating both the creativity of participants and the value of the datasets being explored.



Figure 5 - Participants during presentations.

A key objective of the Datathon was to bring together people with an interest in registry science from a range of professional backgrounds to provide an opportunity to learn and collaborate. Participants were allocated to 10 pre-determined teams to ensure a balanced mix of experience and capability, while also fostering opportunities for learning and knowledge sharing.

Teams included participants from South Australia as well as interstate (>10%), highlighting the growing national interest in the event. Participants came from a diverse range of professional backgrounds, including clinicians,

researchers, epidemiologists, statisticians, data scientists, registry managers, health service staff, and students. This diversity is a key strength of the Datathon, allowing teams to approach problems from multiple perspectives. Team member roles included data analytics, presentation design, researchers, presenters.

Experienced mentors were available throughout the day to support teams in addressing their clinical question and preparing their findings for presentation. Following data analysis, each team presented their work, which was evaluated by a panel of three judges against criteria including novelty, clarity, clinical relevance, and potential impact. An additional point was awarded to teams that addressed a question aligned with the theme of equity in healthcare.



Figure 6 - Participant team collaboration.

Thanks to the generous support of Dell, each member of the winning team received a pair of cordless headphones. The winning team was also invited to present their work at the Symposium the following day. The competition was closely contested, with only one point separating the winning team from the two tied runners-up. The winning team: 'The Homeward Care Collective' analysed data from the ANZICS Adult Patient Dataset to determine *'Who makes it home after ICU admission in Older Australians?'*



Figure 7 - Datathon winning team, 'The Homeward Care Collective'. Shumirai Mushangwe, Zulekha Khan, Stef McMahon, Hsiao-Chi Liao, and Carl Holder, shown left to right.

Datathon Evaluation Summary

Of the 58 Datathon attendees, 43 completed the evaluation survey, representing a 72% response rate. Among respondents, 88% reported attending the pre-event training session (or viewing the recording), and of those, 97% indicated that the session provided all the information they needed. Additionally, 93% of survey respondents felt there was a good mix of experience within their team.

Participants particularly enjoyed meeting new people, forming connections, and learning from colleagues in different professions. A recurring comment was that there was not enough time to fully explore their projects. Half of the respondents indicated they intended to continue investigating their clinical question further. One participant remarked that the event should be held twice each year. Notably, 100% of survey respondents reported learning something valuable from attending the Datathon.

Conclusion

Hosting the Symposium and Datathon at SAHMRI is particularly exciting because it highlights the organisation's leadership in clinical quality registries and data-driven health research. The event provides a platform for collaboration across institutions and disciplines, showcasing how registry data can be used to generate actionable insights that improve patient care and advance health equity. It also helps build capability in the next generation of researchers and clinicians working with real-world health data.

The Registry Centre would like to acknowledge the contribution of the following people in making this year's event a success; Chris Davies, Dana Forcey, David Pilcher, Jennifer Singh, Lara Harvey, Michelle Lorimer, Paul Seacombe, Phil Clayton, Shaila Chavan, Tamara Hooper, Tina Hardin, Yinhao Deng, Asty Prastyani, Stephanie Harrison, Anita Deakin, Kelly Skelton, Amber Murray, Feruza Kholmurodova, and Matilda Dantoine.

Symposium Evaluation

Attendance Overview

A total of 133 individuals attended the symposium, with 39% of participants providing feedback through the evaluation survey.

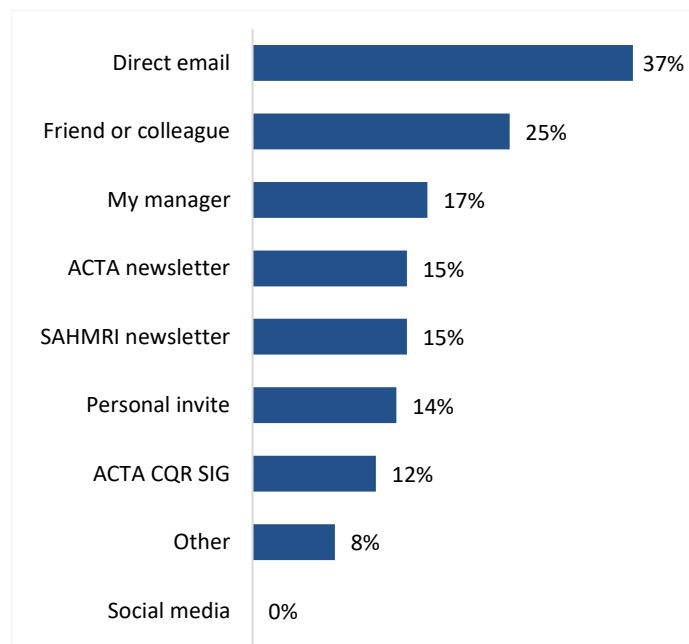
METRIC	TOTAL
Total Registrations	146
Actual Attendees	133
Survey Responses Received	52
Response Rate	39%

Results

1. How did you hear about the SAHMRI Registry Centre Symposium?

**Multiple responses were permitted for this question therefore column percentages do not add up to 100.*

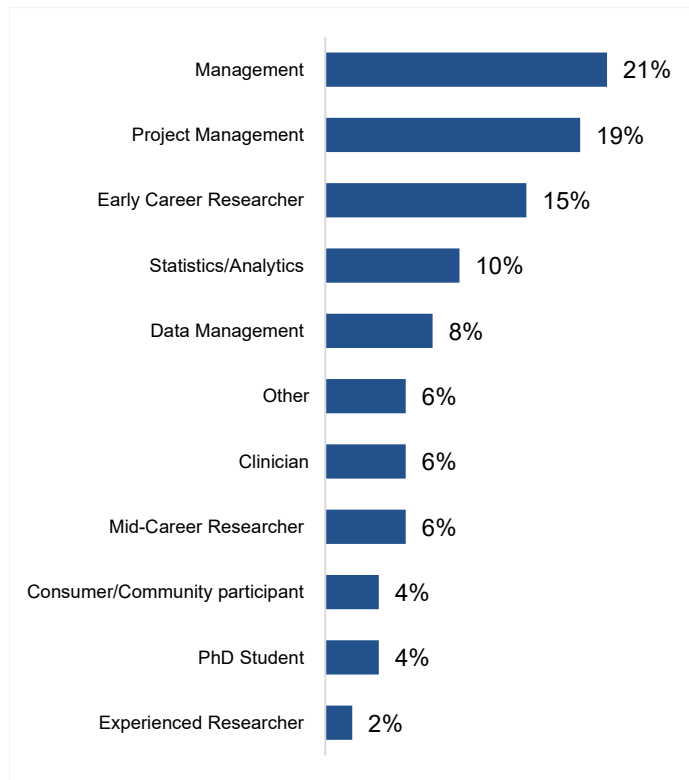
SOURCE	(N)	(%)*
Direct email	19	37%
Friend or colleague	13	25%
My manager	9	17%
SAHMRI newsletter	8	15%
ACTA newsletter	8	15%
Personal invite	7	14%
ACTA CQR SIG	6	12%
Other	4	8%
Social media	0	0%



2. Please tick the category that best describes your professional background

**Multiple responses were permitted for this question therefore column percentages do not add up to 100.*

OPTIONS	(N)	(%)*
Management	11	21%
Project Management	10	19%
Early Career Researcher	8	15%
Statistics/Analytics	5	10%
Data Management	4	8%
Mid-Career Researcher	3	6%
Clinician	3	6%
Other	3	6%
PhD Student	2	4%
Consumer/Community participant	2	4%
Experienced Researcher	1	2%



3. How satisfied were you with the program content?

Extremely Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
23, 44%	29, 56%	0, 0%	0, 0%	0, 0%

4. How satisfied were you with the quality of the speakers?

Extremely Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
30, 58%	21, 40%	1, 2%	0, 0%	0, 0%

5. How interesting did you find the Keynote Speaker Professor Michael Kidd?

Extremely interesting	Very Interesting	Neutral	Not so interesting	Not at all interesting
33, 64%	16, 31%	3, 6%	0, 0%	0, 0%

6. How interesting did you find the Plenary Speaker Courtney Ryder?

Extremely interesting	Very interesting	Neutral	Not so interesting	Not at all interesting
20, 39%	21, 41%	10, 20%	0, 0%	0, 0%

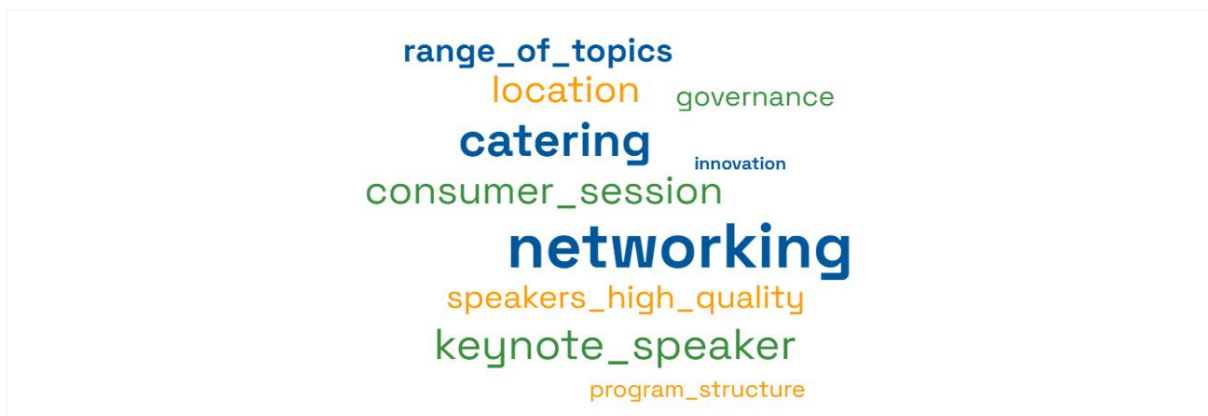
7. How interesting did you find the Plenary Speaker Mary Ann Baquero Geronimo?

Extremely interesting	Very interesting	Neutral	Not so interesting	Not at all interesting
17, 33%	26, 51%	8, 15%	0, 0%	0, 0%

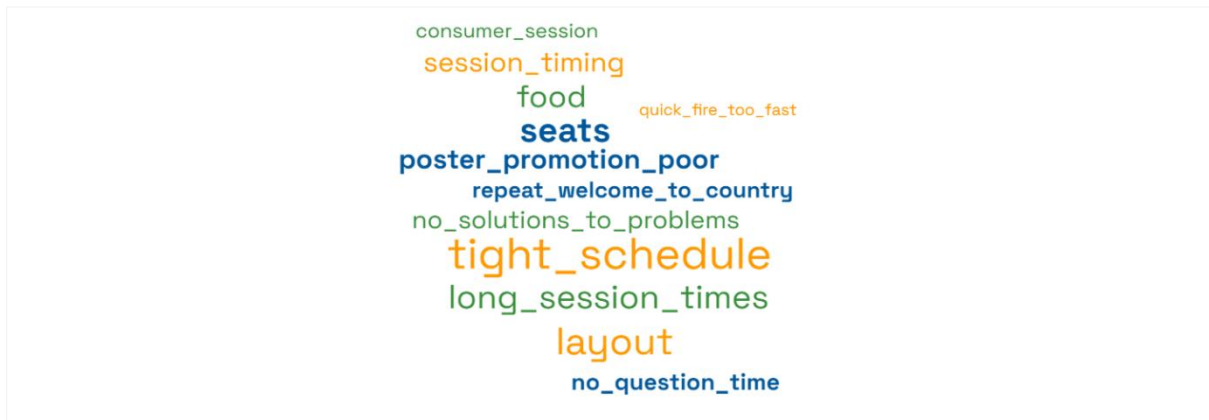
8. How interesting did you find the Plenary Speaker Katie Cundale?

Extremely interesting	Very interesting	Neutral	Not so interesting	Not at all interesting
15, 29%	26, 51%	10, 20%	0, 0%	0, 0%

9. What did you like most about the SAHMRI Registry Centre 2025 Symposium?



10. What did you like least about the SAHMRI Registry Centre 2024 Symposium?



11. How would you rate the importance of having the Annual Symposium?

Very important	Important	Moderately important	Slightly important	Not important
34, 65%	17, 33%	1, 2%	0, 0%	0, 0%

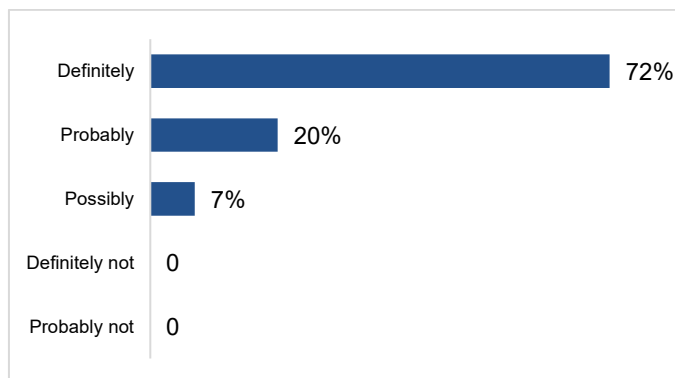
12. Do you have any other ideas for topics/activities that you would like to see the Registry Centre host in 2026/2027?



13. Have you gained a better knowledge / understanding about the SAHMRI Registry Centre, from attending this event?

Yes (43, 83%), No (9, 17%)

14. How likely are you to recommend the SAHMRI Registry Centre Annual Symposiums to other colleagues?



15. Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

Thank you

- *"Thank you for running this excellent event."*
- *"Keep up the great work all."*
- *"Well done to all involved. It was an excellent day and very worthwhile from my perspective!"*
- *"This is a valuable forum for the registry sector."*
- *"Thanks for organising and hosting a very useful symposium each year."*
- *"Well done to the team, a huge effort - thanks. "*
- *"Thank you for organising the symposium."*

Food

- *"The food was really lovely, and the conference space was comfortable."*
- *"The morning tea was a bit cake heavy. Would have like to have fruit. Chicken for lunch was AMAZING."*
- *"Food was amazing - especially as someone with dietaries."*

Lived experience

- *"I recommend that for next year's Symposium, that the Consumers have the opportunity to talk / present at the start of the day. Their lived experience and perspective is very powerful and would nicely set the tone for the remainder of the presentations and the work that we do."*
- *"I would love to see more time for the lived experience input/discussion. Would also be useful to provide speakers with some tips on presenting and structure."*
- *"Great to have a devoted lived experience session."*
- *"Loved the consumer aspect to the day and hearing their stories."*

Other

- *"I appreciated not having break-out sessions, so that I could hear from all presenters."*
- *"Really well organised. loved the shot booth. probably didn't need all the chair on the stage the whole time, would have made more room and they could've been shifted when needed."*
- *"Wasn't much focus on posters?"*
- *"Would be good to hear from the actual Registry Centre staff on what the Centre itself actually does? I understand all the different registries, but outside of the symposium, what does the Centre do and how does it contribute value to the registries?"*
- *"I would have liked some facilitation of networking as I'm a bit shy."*
- *"A larger space would be beneficial as it was very cramped during breaks."*

Datathon Evaluation

Participant numbers

A total of 67 individuals attended the Datathon, with 75% of participants providing feedback through the evaluation survey.

Plus 8 mentors, 3 judges, 2 facilitators (all excluded from the survey responses).

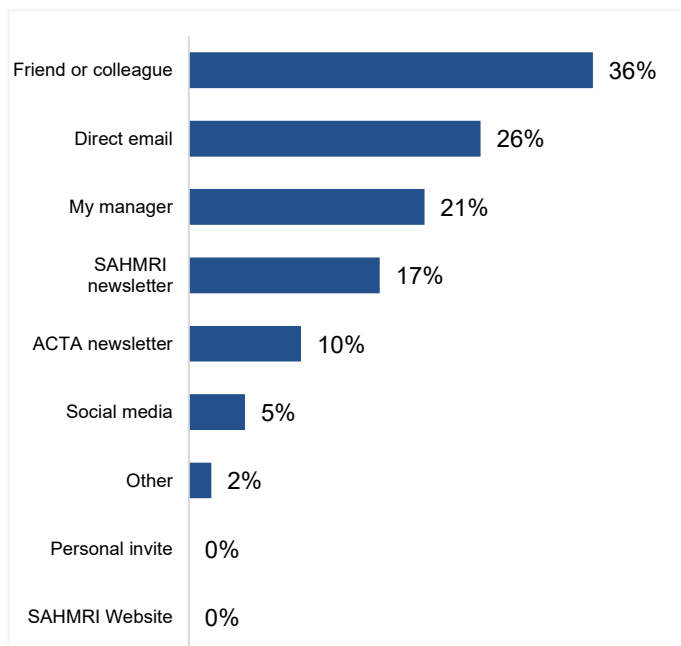
METRIC	TOTAL
Total Registrations	67
Actual Attendees	58
Survey Responses Received	43
Response Rate	75%

Results

1. How did you hear about the SAHMRI Registry Centre Datathon?

**Multiple responses were permitted for this question therefore column percentages do not add up to 100.*

OPTIONS	(N)	(%)*
Friend or colleague	15	36%
Direct email	11	26%
My manager	9	21%
SAHMRI newsletter	7	17%
ACTA newsletter	4	10%
Social media	2	5%
Other	1	2%
SAHMRI Website	0	0%
Personal invite	0	0%



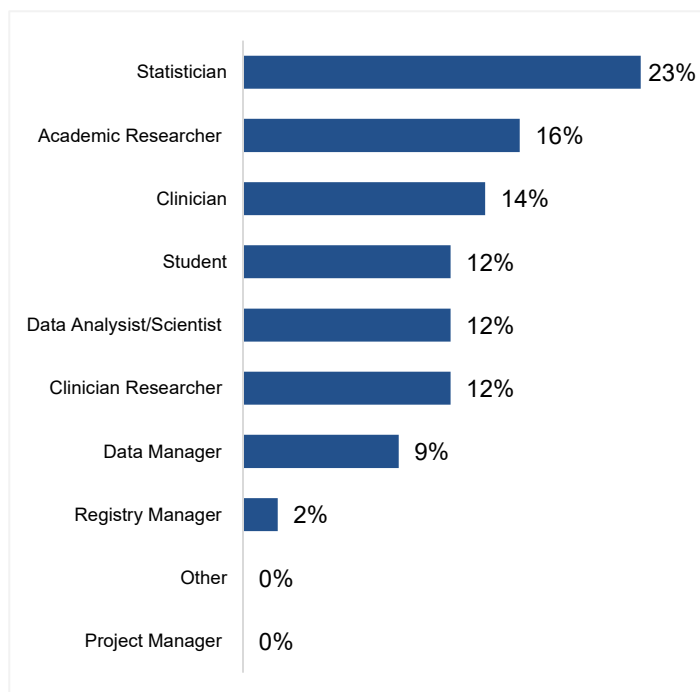
2. How satisfied were you with the registration process (i.e. via Humanitix)?

Extremely satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
25, 58%	17, 40%	1, 2%	0, 0%	0, 0%

3. Please tick the category that best describes your professional background

**Multiple responses were permitted for this question therefore column percentages do not add up to 100.*

OPTIONS	(N)	(%)*
Statistician	10	23%
Academic Researcher	7	16%
Clinician	6	14%
Clinician Researcher	5	12%
Data Analyst/Scientist	5	12%
Student	5	12%
Data Manager	4	9%
Registry Manager	1	2%
Project Manager	0	0%
Other	0	0%



4. Did you attend the pre-event training session or view the recording?

Yes (38, 88%), No (5, 12%)

5. Did the pre-event session (online or recording) provide you with all the information you needed?

Yes (37, 97%), No (1, 3%)

6. Please let us know what information was missing

- *"Didn't tell me exact location of event i.e. it was on ground level of the building in which room."*

7. Overall, how satisfied were you with the information provided prior to the Datathon?

<i>Extremely satisfied</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>Very dissatisfied</i>
19, 44%	23, 54%	1, 2%	0, 0%	0, 0%

8. Was there a good mix of experience amongst your team i.e. database, clinical, other?

Yes (40, 93%), No (3, 7%)

9. Please comment if you have any recommendations or improvements on the team allocation process

- *"More clinicians."*
- *"We had one statistician, I think more would have been helpful."*
- *"Too many statisticians led to different software use and different denominators."*
- *"Needed more clinicians, we were mostly data scientists."*
- *"This year's team has more statistical/analysis people, which is great in helping completing the analysis."*
- *"Please confirm on people's commitment so no one leaves halfway."*
- *"Was spot on! amazing."*
- *"The team allocation was great!"*

10. What did you like most about the SAHMRI Registry Centre Datathon?



11. Did you learn something from the Datathon?

Yes (40, 100%), No (0, 0%)

12. How likely are you to recommend the SAHMRI Registry Centre Datathon to other colleagues?

Definitely	Probably	Possibly	Probably not	Definitely not
31, 72%	9, 20%	3, 7%	0, 0%	0, 0%

13. What did you like least about the SAHMRI Registry Centre Datathon?



14. Please include other suggest areas for improvement regarding the registration process, pre-session information, Datathon day.

Pre-event

- "Having an idea of who is in your group before you arrive."
- "We may do a pre-analysis of dataset before the Datathon day."
- "Some of the missingness of the data wasn't obvious initially."
- "Possible to make team allocation known a day before?"
- "Have a little 1-pager with things to know for the day e.g. location, times, what to bring, catering etc."
- "If we could understand the limitations of the registries before the event, it would have allowed for us to move faster. Also, if there isn't anyone at the table who has first-hand experience with the actual database, it would be great to have those limitations spelled out beforehand if at all possible"

Datathon day

- *"Time at the start or end to socialize without working."*
- *"Advice and examples before the day of appropriate slides with not too much data, in large fonts."*
- *"Please consider having strict timing for presentations - 1min warning and cut off at 5mins. The Dell speaker was great but he needed to be told to stand in front of the microphone when he wandered. maybe if we got 4 hours instead of 5 to work on the project it would be less tiring."*
- *"Consider giving general advice to teams on how to make the best use of their time, such as finishing analyses 30 min before the end to focus on the presentation."*

15. Do you/your team intend to continue to investigate the question and analysis further?

Yes (20, 49%), No (21, 51%)

16. Please share any other comments

- *"Thank you for a great day!!"*
- *"Thanks for organizing it!"*
- *"I have concerns about data management and all participants downloading data to their own machines. Participants could accidentally upload data to the internet or AI models, inadvertently (e.g., if they have copilot in VSCode). Its also hard to actually remove data from memory fully, even if it is "deleted".*
- *"Not really, liked it."*
- *"Always a great day. need a second one each year 🎉. I liked Dell being here. just felt sorry for them because we're so busy, I couldn't spend much time over there,"*
- *"I really enjoyed most of the day. It was also great to have food supplied. I would definitely do this event again."*
- *"Thanks for sending this survey link, I couldn't access it on my phone on the day. Please keep doing this! I'd pay to attend again. The value of this experience cannot be understated."*
- *"We managed to answer our questions definitively and do not need to continue further investigations. Just a massive thank you for obtaining this event and creating such collaborative atmosphere!"*
- *"Being the first time, it was a great experience meeting with new people and working on a project. It was also a good understanding of the registries, gave me a good idea of the variables collected through these registries. Have to understand how to get access to the data for other projects."*