SLaM Network Survey 2014 Overview

At the end of 2014, the Committee members agreed to each call 10-15 people on our network lists, to ask them some questions that we had put together in a survey.

Some of us used the survey, and others had a more informal conversation that added to some of the survey questions. We attempted to speak to some 200 people, and ended up with 48 responses in the survey – though we spoke to some 70 people.

Most (67%) of those we spoke with are either consultants or at executive levels of leadership in their organisations. Most (71%) work in small businesses or are self-employed. Education was the most dominant industry sector (54%), with health, human and organisational development and spirituality-focussed organisations also significant (20-30%). We are mindful that these figures only represent those we spoke with and are not necessarily a complete picture of our network members.

People already have strong capabilities in leadership and visioning, self-development, communication, collaboration and being independent thought leaders. What people want from SLaM is to learn about:

* The ways in which **spirituality can be understood** in leadership and management contexts (80%)
* **How to practice** forms of spirituality in work and everyday life (75%)
* And about **different kinds of spirituality** and their value to health and wellbeing (45%)

Learning about indigenous spirituality, religions, the value, the future and risks associated with spirituality in the workplace were of least interest (2-6%).

By far, respondents’ most pressing problem was experiencing **a lack of opportunity to realise potential** (75%). Co-worker relationship problems, exhaustion and depression were the next level of concern. Financial pressures and bullying were of least concern (under 20%).

Books, being in sacred spaces and participation in events –both face to face and on line - were most valued ways that our network members developed their interests in our area. By far (70%) of interviewed members want from SLaM the kinds of activities that let them feel a sense of **being part of a community** that affirms their understandings about spirituality in organisations. Talking up front, or opportunities to rest, were of least interest.

83% of respondents were between **51 and 70** years of age, with slightly more females to males – but the unequal data entry resulting from different approaches to using the survey means that these demographic results are not very strong.

Both **distance from events and restrictions on time were** the most inhibiting factors with regard to engaging with us.