

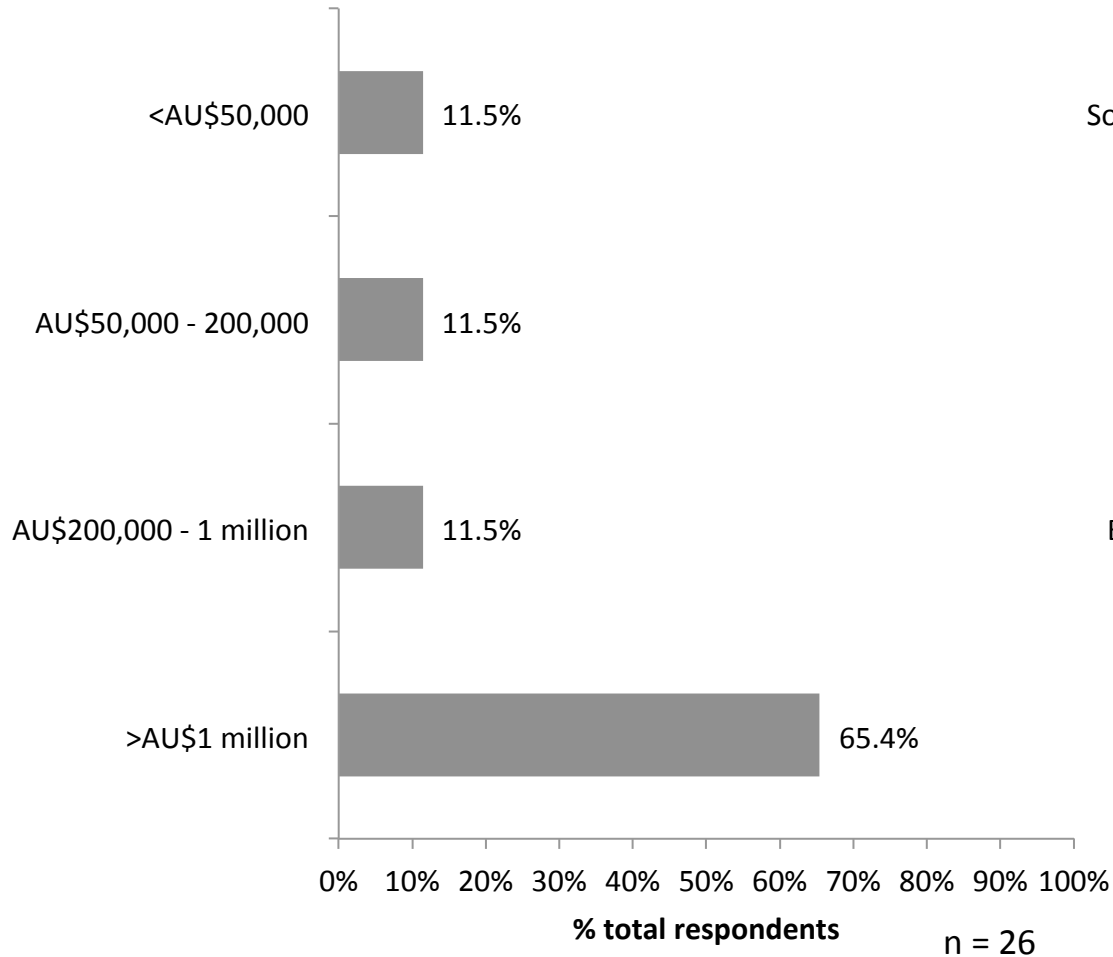
Volunteering researcher/ practitioner roundtable survey

April 2012

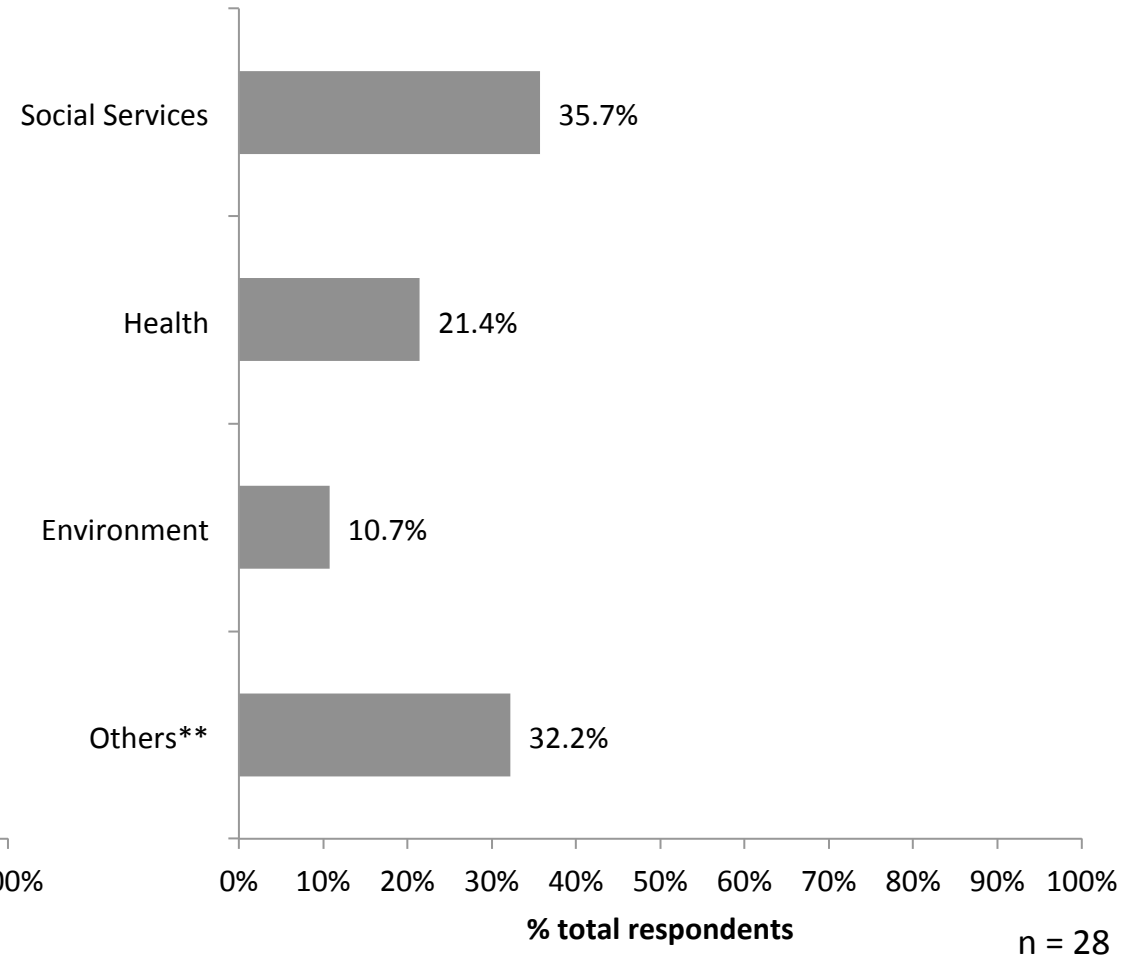
- The survey was conducted in order to provide insights for discussion at the volunteering research/practitioner roundtable
- The questions were developed by Volunteering Victoria and Right Lane Consulting
- The survey was conducted using an online survey platform
- A link to the survey was distributed in late March via e-mail to 15 community sector peak bodies for distribution to their contacts; other distribution channels included social media, the VV website and the volunteering discussion forum OzVPM
- The survey contained in total nine questions relating to:
 - the profile of participating organisations (four questions with pre-determined ranges)
 - participating organisations' practices and views on researcher/practitioner engagement (five open ended questions)
- The survey closed in late April
- In total, there were 28 responses
- The survey data were transferred from the online survey platform into Excel for analysis

Profile of organisations responded

Annual total income



Organisation categories*



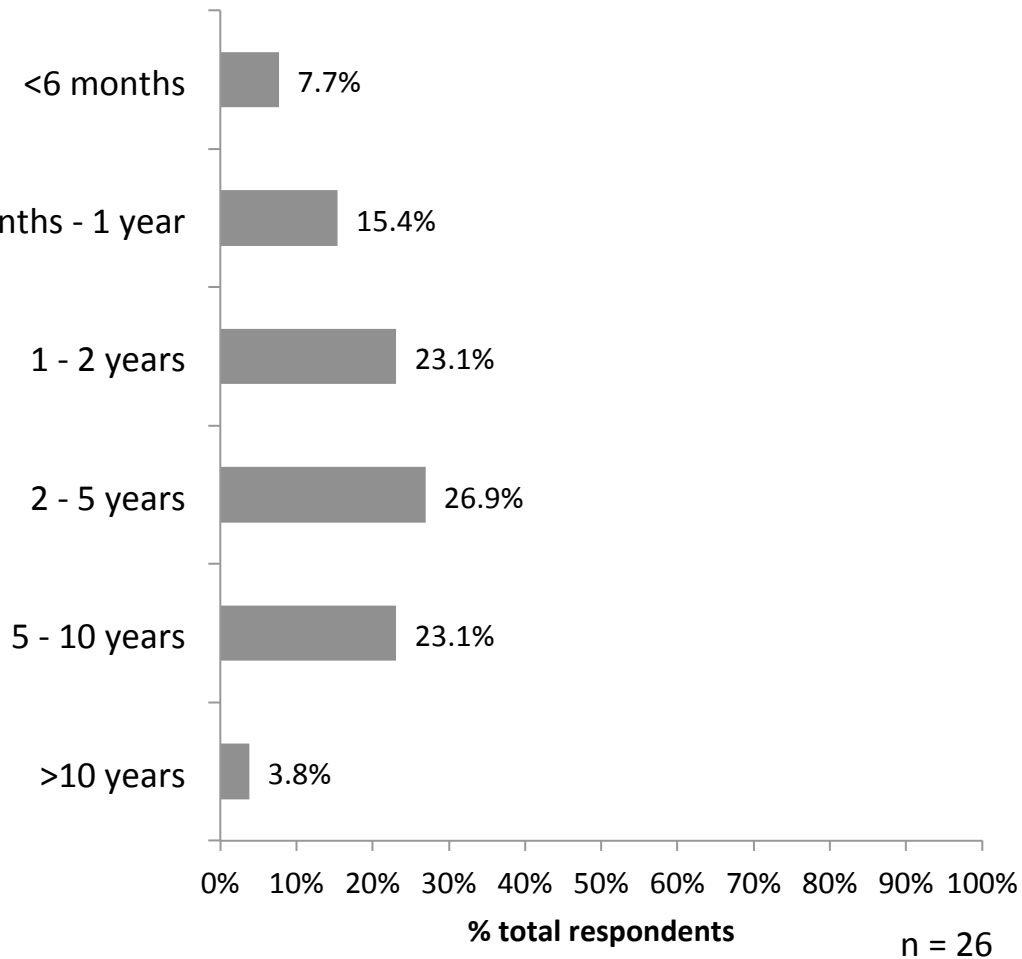
* Organisation categories based on Australian Bureau of Statistics categorisation of not-for-profit organisations

** Others include Emergency services (10.7%), Local government (7.2%), Youth (7.1%), Aged (3.6%), International (3.6%)

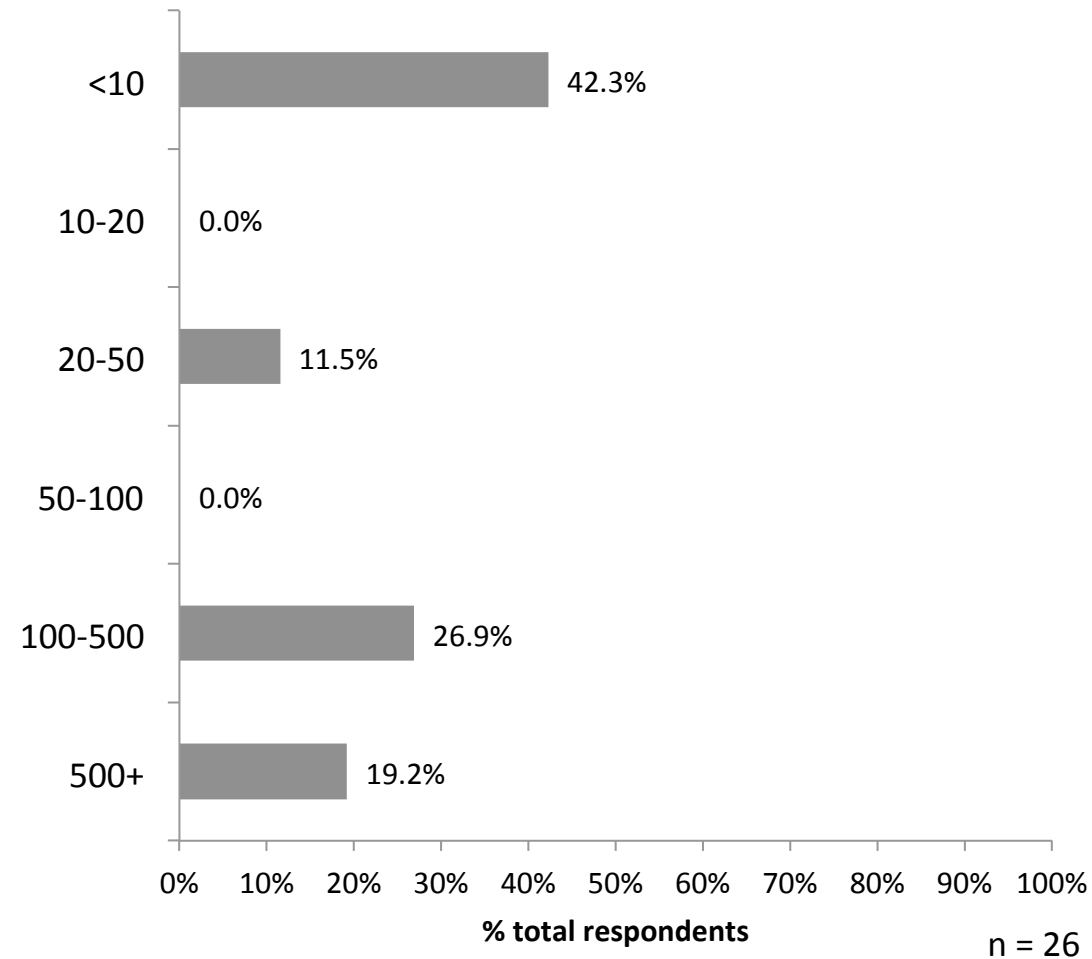
Source: Right Lane Consulting, Volunteering Victoria 2012, *Volunteering research/practitioner roundtable survey*, April

Profile of respondents

Duration in current role



No. volunteers currently manage



Use of research in their role as a volunteering practitioner

The main purposes of research by volunteering practitioners are: to assist in the development of training programs and strategic plans; to understand volunteering so as to help improve retention; and to review the progress of projects. Some example quotes are shown here:

'To understand volunteer motivation, satisfaction & retention, demographics. To review effectiveness of recruitment campaign...to improve volunteer program'

'To assist in planning for trends in how people volunteer and quoting to other staff when saying how we need to change to meet these trends. To know what other volunteer organisations are doing'

'We commission our own research on various volunteer programs we run...also try to stay up to date with various research through forums and other websites'

'Formulating training sessions, connecting with experts in specific fields, distributing studies/research around networks'

Challenges and barriers in researcher/ practitioner engagement

Understanding of the organisation, lack of resources and expertise, and lack of networks were the major challenges identified by respondents

Network **Funding** **Time**
Complexity
Costs **Implementation** **Culture**
Expertise
Resources **Collaboration**

Current engagement and potential improvements

A summary of respondents' answers are provided here:

Current practices
Attend volunteer manager network
Engage one-on-one with other practitioners
Attend regional and sector networks
Involve Social Work Masters students

n = 15

Recommendations for improvement
Share credible research findings among similar organisations
Link research to practice
Create networking opportunities to bring researchers and practitioners together (incl. social networks and digital forums)
Collaborate to achieve mutual goals for researchers and practitioners
Formal partnership between Volunteering Victoria and universities and research programs

n = 14

Reinvigorating volunteering research in Victoria

A summary of respondents' answers are provided here:

- 1 Knowledge sharing among organisations enabled by forums and networking opportunities
- 2 Social networks, digital forums and platforms to drive collaboration and networking
- 3 Collaboration of organisations in funding research
- 4 Government funding for quality research and access to quality peer-reviewed journal articles
- 5 Linking research outcomes to practice; basing plans, actions and initiatives on evidence generated by research