

Australian Citizen Science Association

Member & network feedback 2018

From July to October 2018, we asked for feedback from Australian Citizen Science Association members and our broader network to find out more about our community and how we can help support this network.

Of 176 respondents willing to use their feedback for research purposes:

- 48% ACSA members / 52% non members
- 58% were actively involved in citizen science activities
- 88% were involved in projects affiliated with an organisation
- Most people wanted to hear from ACSA via Facebook, newsletter & website

OUR KEY LEARNINGS



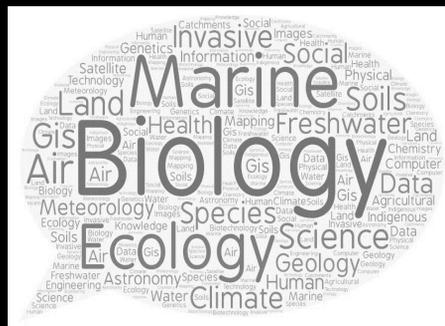
People were seeking a citizen science **COMMUNITY** through ACSA.



ACSA members were most interested in exchanging knowledge & experiences, and building a professional network.



Most members and non-members agreed that ACSA has an important role to play in helping connect people to projects.



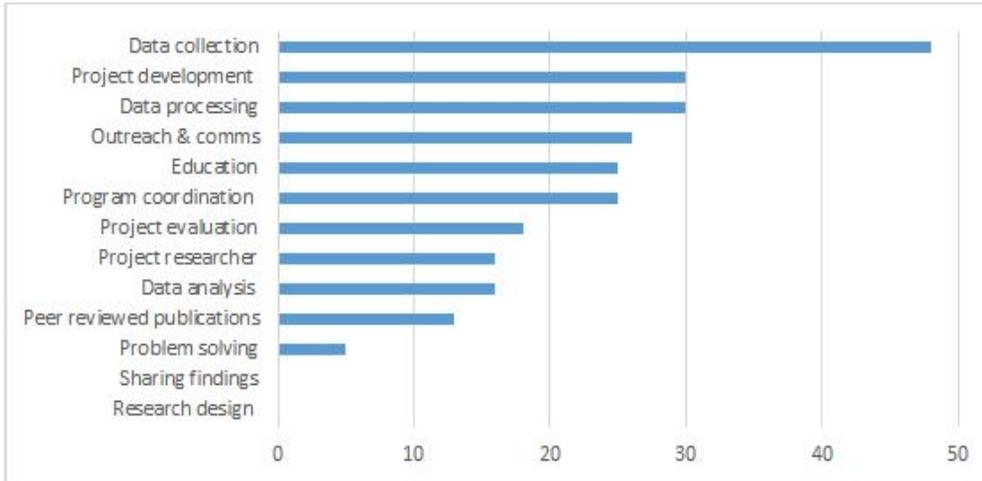
SCIENCE DISCIPLINES

Most respondents (97%) were involved in natural science projects.

ACSA is a community that supports, informs and develops citizen science.

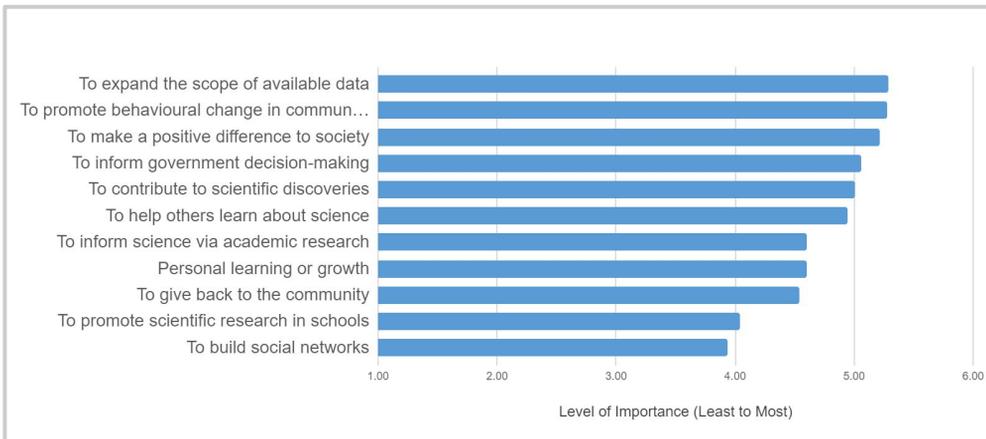
Survey results

TYPES OF CITIZEN SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

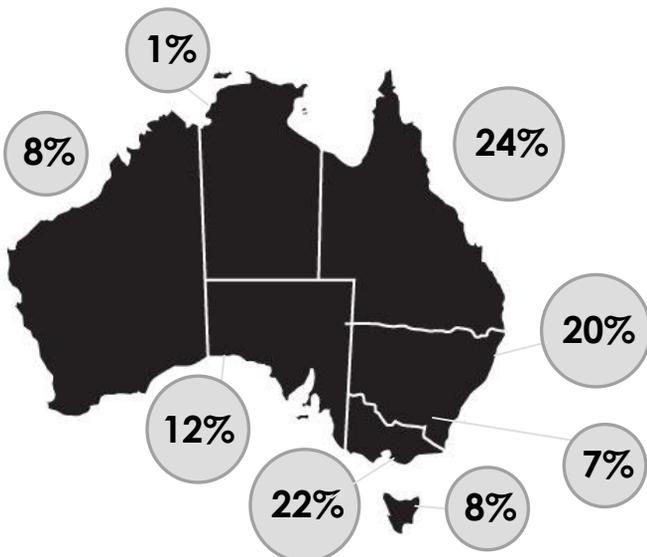


Members were more likely to be involved in outreach and communication activities, education, and peer-reviewed publications than non-members.

WHY BE INVOLVED IN CITIZEN SCIENCE?



The top three reasons for why respondents chose to be involved with citizen science to expand data, promote behaviour change, and make a positive difference.



STATE REPRESENTATION

Survey respondents were from all around Australia, with Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales having the highest representation. There were also a few international respondents (3%) and one from an unknown location.

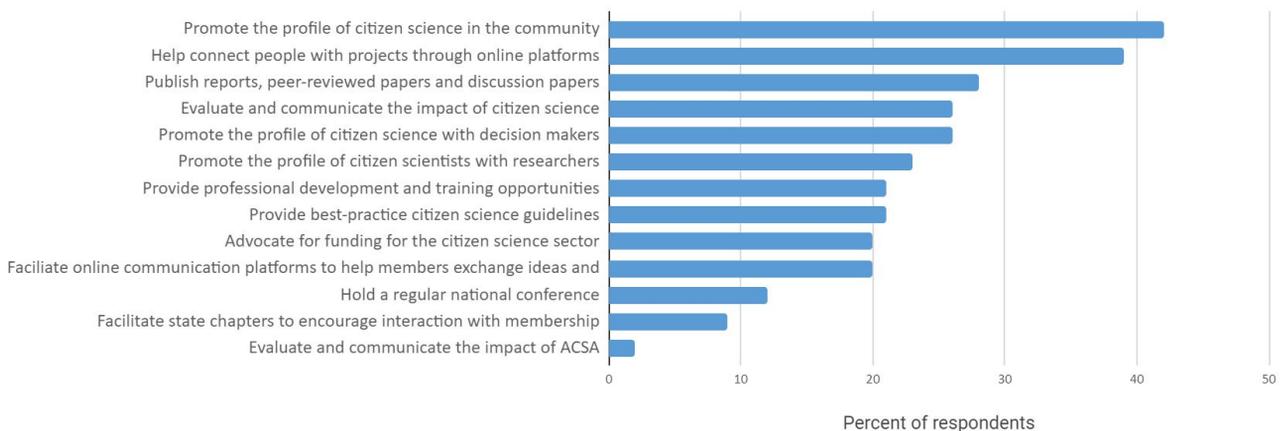
Survey results

LEVEL OF AGREEMENT



Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement with statements about interactions with ACSA and other people involved in citizen science. Responses indicated that people wanted to expand their network & interact through ACSA, hear how ACSA is tracking on goals, access training opportunities, and engage with state chapters.

HOW CAN ACSA HELP SUPPORT GOALS?



When asked the three most important actions that ACSA could deliver to help respondents and their citizen science goals, responses highlighted that promoting the profile of citizen science in the community was more important for members. Professional development opportunities were more important for non-members. Both indicated that helping connect people to projects was a high priority.

Member & network feedback 2018

WHAT MEMBERS WANT FROM ACSA:

- Hear updates about strategic goals
- Contribute to a state chapter
- Interact with other members face to face
- Promote the profile of citizen science in the community
- To expand their professional network.

WHAT NON-MEMBERS WANT FROM ACSA:

- To get involved in activities coordinated by chapters
- Professional development opportunities

HOW WILL FEEDBACK BE ACTIONED?

This feedback has already contributed to efforts to support, develop and grow the ACSA community by informing the development of the strategic plan for 2019-2021. In response to survey feedback, ACSA's management committee commits to:

- Continuing to implement the five pillars of the current strategic plan (participation, partnerships, practice, impact, platform), which are still strongly aligned to what members are seeking from ACSA.
- Seeking resources for an impact assessment on citizen science in Australia
- Strengthening platforms to support member connections, with a focus on cultivating state chapters and actively using digital communications channels
- Investing in initiatives to promote the profile of citizen science and connect people with projects
- Supporting the key communication channels preferred by our network, including Facebook, newsletter & the ACSA website

A research study may be pursued in the future.

Thank you to Dr. Angela Dean, Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions at The University of Queensland for a providing social research expertise and research ethics for this project. Thanks also to ACSA committee members who contributed to this initiative including Jessie Oliver, Ellie Downing, Kylie Andrews, and Jenn Loder.