



NATIONAL CENTRE FOR
**FARMER
HEALTH**

Evaluating scholarship in strengthening rural women

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12 September 2018



Photo courtesy of Museum Victoria, *Activities, Women on Farm Gathering, Glenormiston 1994*

2nd International Conference on Women in Agriculture



The Second International Conference
on Women in Agriculture

Women Coming Together to Feed the World

June 28 - July 2, 1998
Washington, D.C.

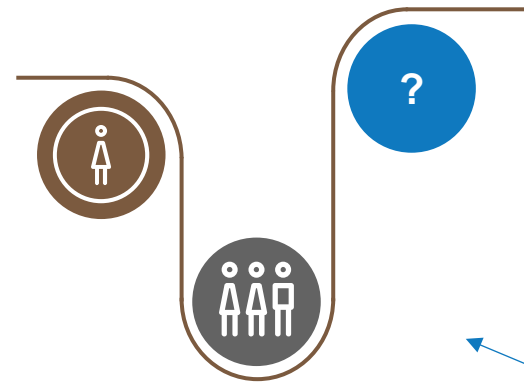
Sponsored by The President's Interagency Council on Women

Objective

To understand the **effect** of the experience on attendees’:

- skills
- knowledge
- subsequent activity in rural **communities, education programs, the agriculture sector and politics.**

Method



- Evaluation rubric
- Purposive sampling
- Contextualised reflections

Case-crossover analysis

Method of inquiry

Overarching objective: Isolating and understanding the exposure effect

Context of the exposure

Rural Women's Movement, bursary recipients selected on their involvement in rural community and women's issues

Scope of the exposure

Conference, pre-Conference Agricultural Tour, membership of the Victorian delegation

What was the exposure designed to achieve?

Leadership capacity and progress



How was this going to be accomplished?

Knowledge and experience



What information do we need to measure this?

Evidence from grey literature

Online survey

56 open-ended and pre-coded (5-point Likert scale) questions

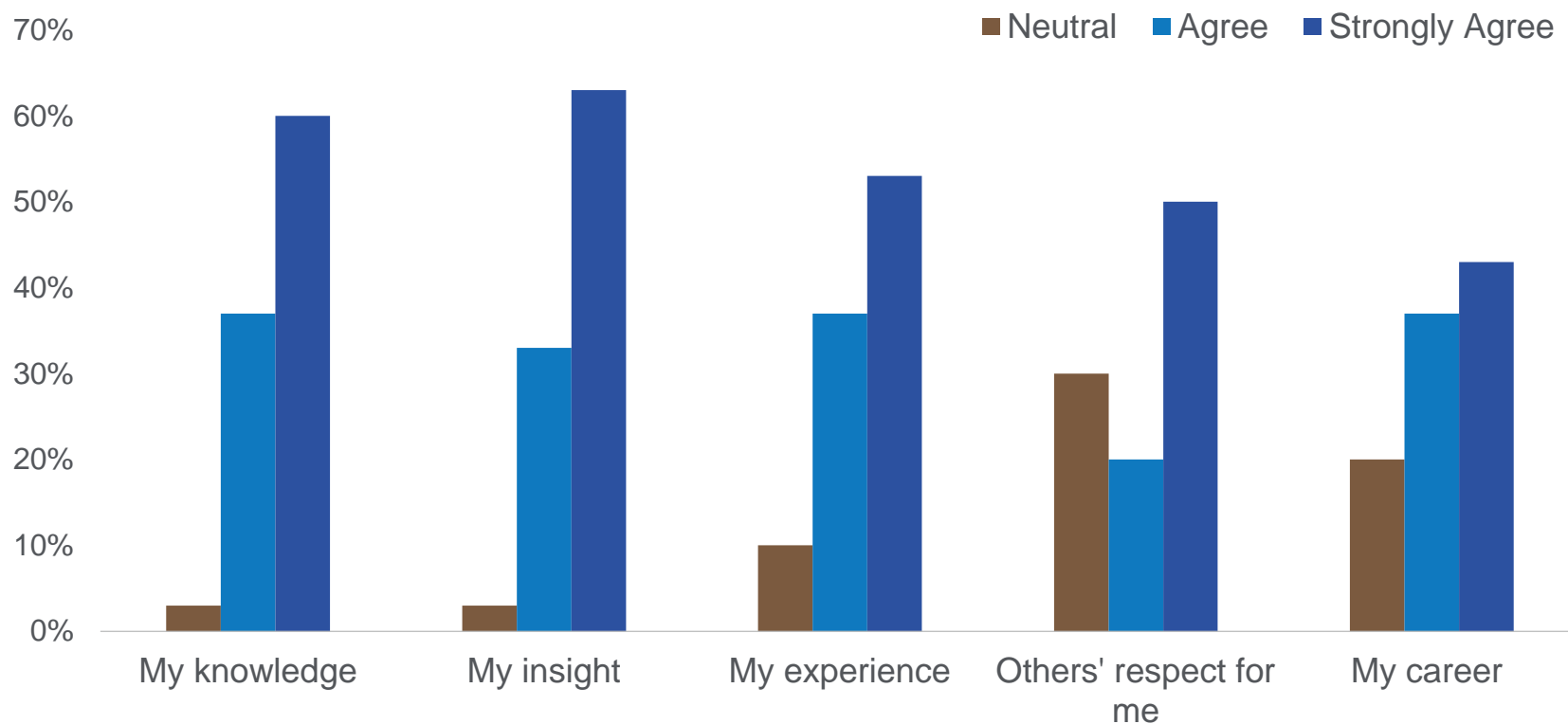
Focus Group Discussions

Contextualised reflections

Results

The opportunity developed:

(N=30)

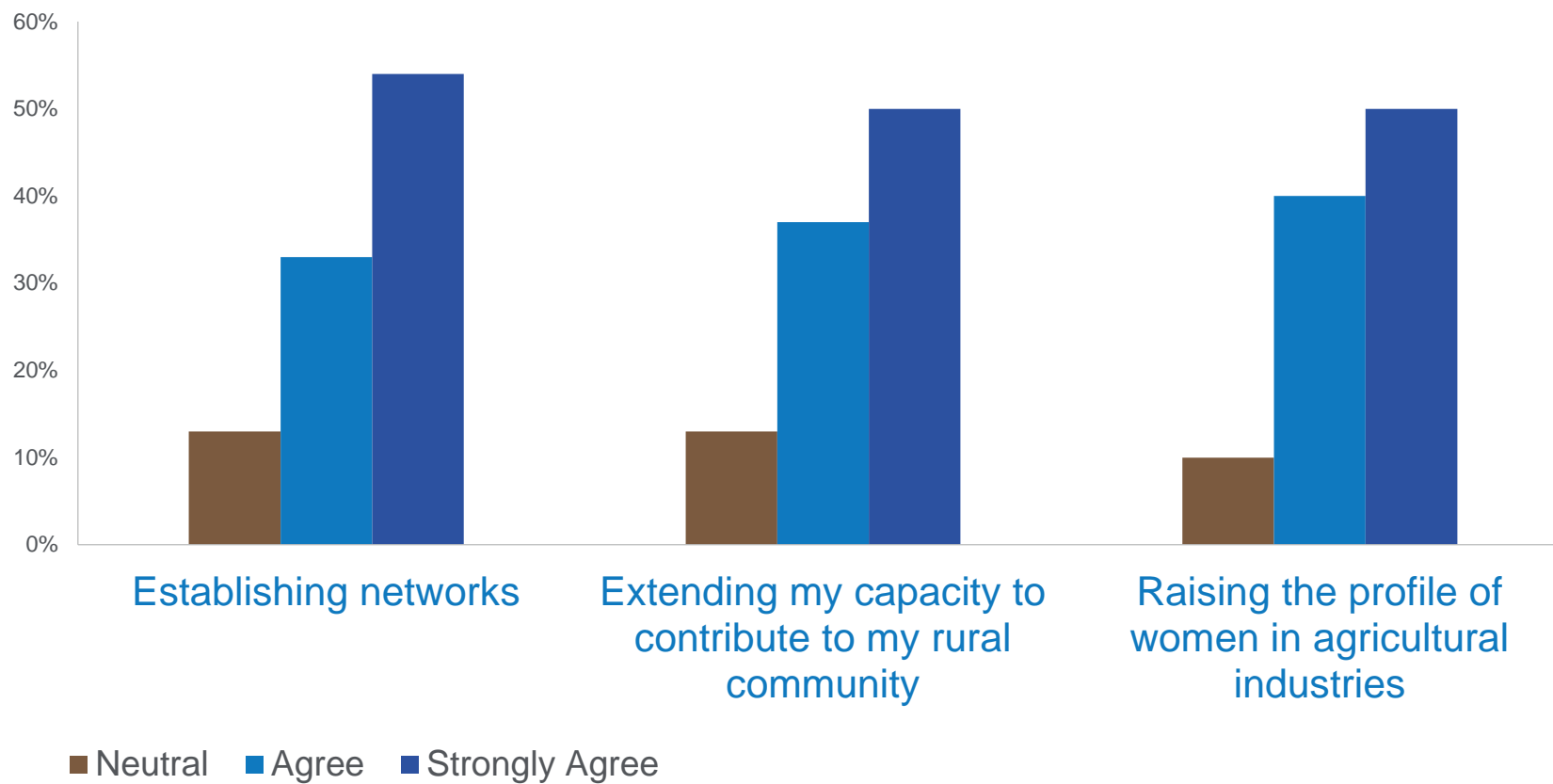


**The table reflects that no participants Strongly Disagreed or Disagreed to these statements*

Results

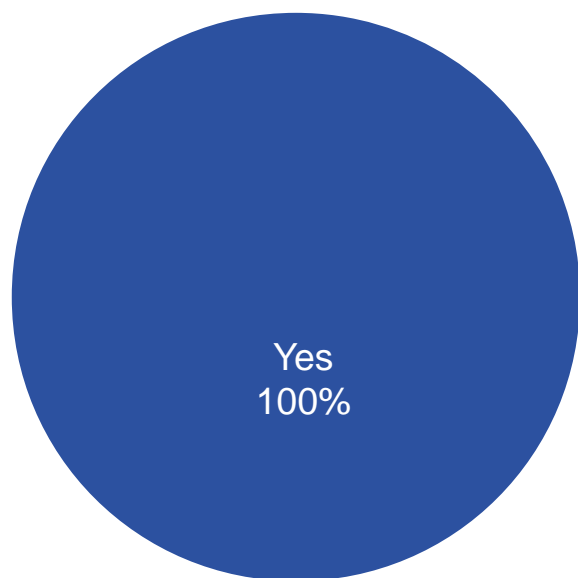
The opportunity was successful in:

(N=30)

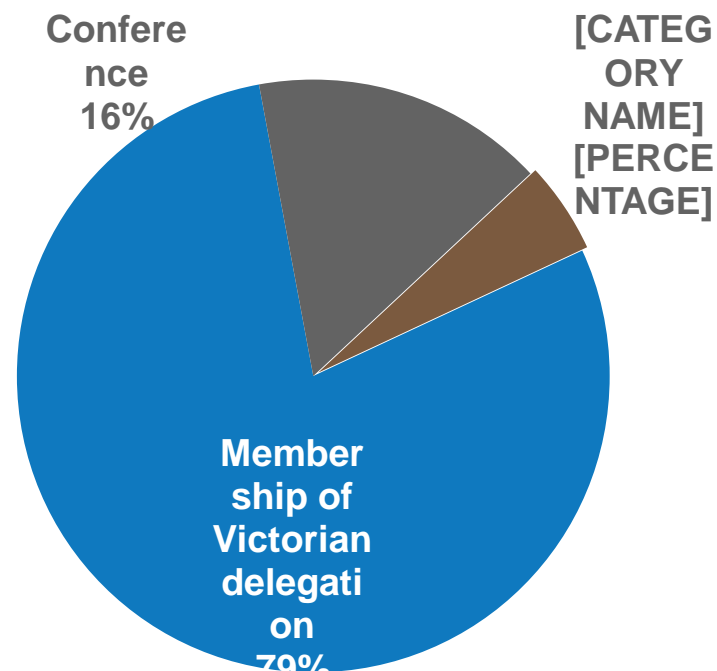


Results

Did **receiving a bursary** and attending the Conference and pre-conference agricultural tour **positively affect how you view yourself as a leader?** (N=19)



Which **aspect** of the experience was **most valuable** in terms of developing your self-identification as a leader?



Participant responses

'Bursaries raised the profile of many of these women and gave them greater influence at a local, state and federal level – something we were striving for in 1998...'

'The chance to meet, to network, to share ideas, concerns and information and support was amazing and had a profound effect on many of us...'

'These bursaries were recognition of the grassroots work being done by many women...'

'I used my expanded list of contacts as an information source and reference group when lobbying to government on behalf of farm families...'

'I felt that I had to give back to my rural community after returning from the USA. So I travelled to speak at many community groups...'

'I felt it was my duty to share my experiences and learnings with my community and industry groups – I wrote articles for local papers. I liaised with other women from the Conference to supply information for industry groups...'

Since the Conference...



90% of participants returned home with a **sense of purpose**



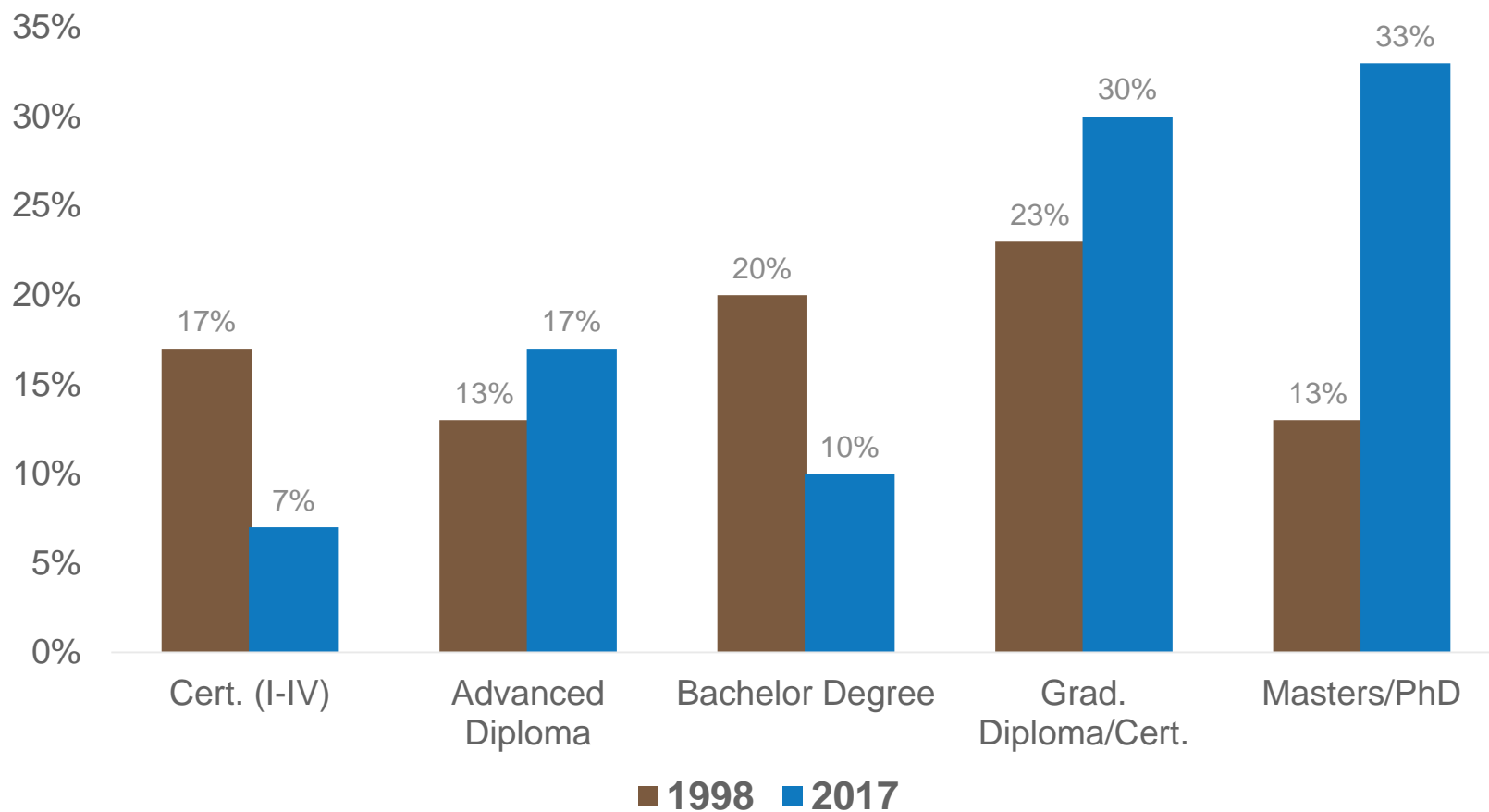
80% returned home **'charged'** with the idea that they had the capacity to be an **instrument of change**

'It was just in everything I did after that...I think I assumed a lot about equality until I engaged with other women who hadn't had the opportunities I had. So it made me more motivated to help women working in agriculture; it gave me a greater understanding of what we were up against...'

Interestingly...

Highest level of education attained

(N=30)





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Thank you

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