



'Understanding Best Practice Research when working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Organisations and People'

A CMHDARN Research Forum

Feedback Report
August 2014





Community Mental Health Drug Alcohol Research Network

Mental Health Coordinating Council
Building 125, Corner of Church & Glover Streets
Lilyfield NSW 2040

PO Box 668
Rozelle NSW 2039

For any further information please contact:

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Event Information

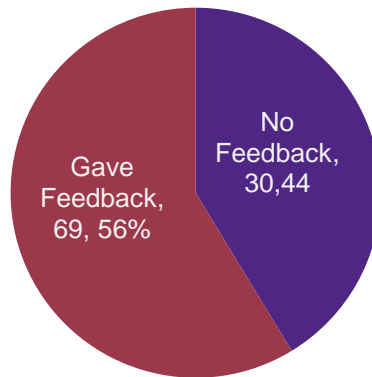
Background

| Date | Venue | Registrations | Attendees | Feedback forms |
|-------------------------|--------|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| 2014 August 7, Thursday | Sydney | 50 | 46 | 32 (70%) |

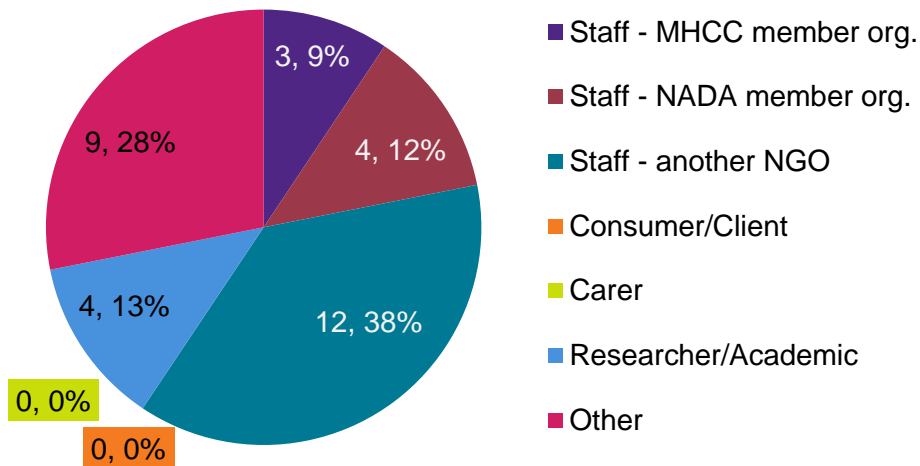
Evaluation for the workshop was conducted through surveying the attendees. Evaluation forms were distributed which were collected after the event.

Participants

Participants with Feedback



General Profile

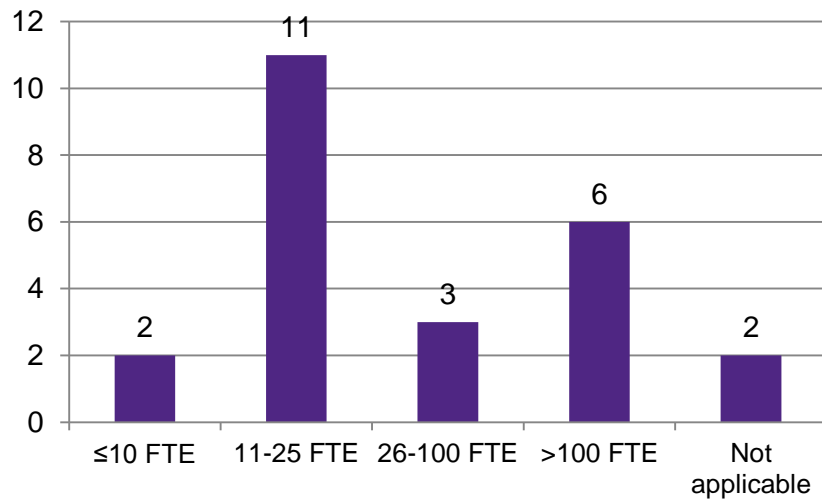


Other:

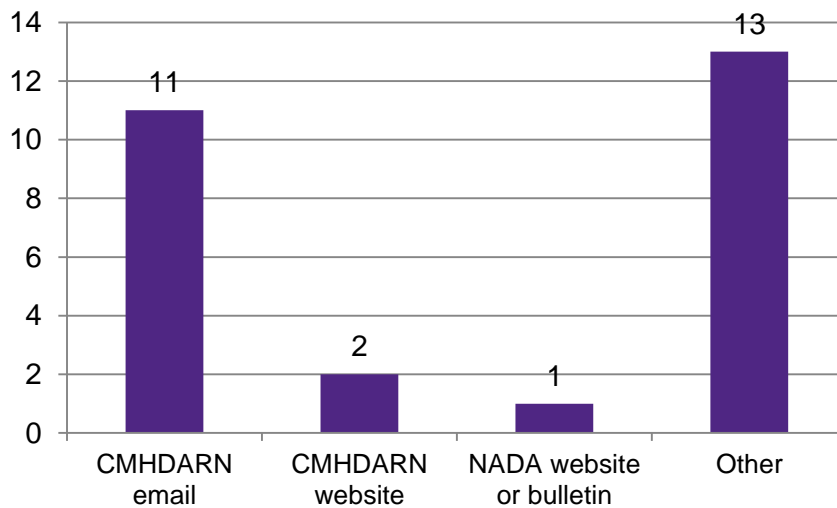
- Sydney Children's Randwick.

-
- Project officer of a Group.
 - Volunteer of a group.
 - Social work Student
 - LHD Child and Family Health - Aboriginal Families
 - MHCC
 - The Smith Family
 - Catholic Care Diocese Broken Bay
 - Benevolent Society
-

Organisation Size



How Participant Knew about the Forum



Other:

-
- Invited speaker x 4
 - MHCC website
 - Staff member x 2
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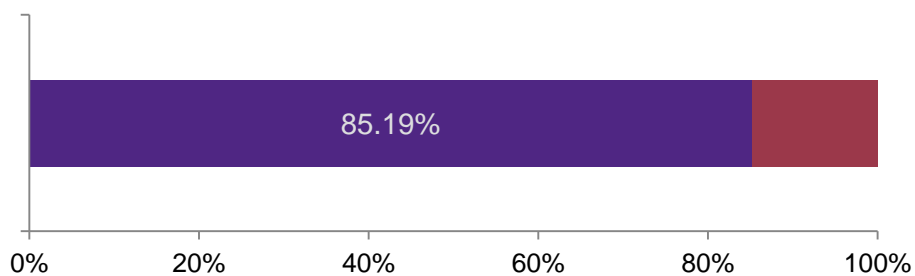
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- Supervisor/ Manager x 2
 - CMHDARN email forwarded to NGO Research Mailing List
 - Interagency email share
 - Email forwarded by a colleague
 - Clinical Manager told me about it
-

Evaluation Results

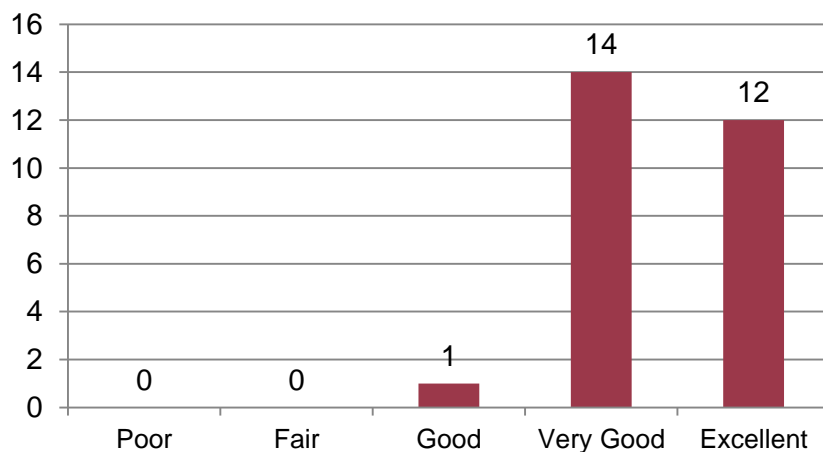
The graphs that follow display the average percentage rating received for the event. For example, “0%” would indicate that all participants rated the event as ‘Poor’ or ‘Strongly Disagree’ with the related statement, and “100%” would indicate that all participants rated the event as ‘Excellent’ or ‘Strongly Agree’ with the related statement. The number of responses received per rating is further shown in graphs.

Overall Rating

Overall Score of Event

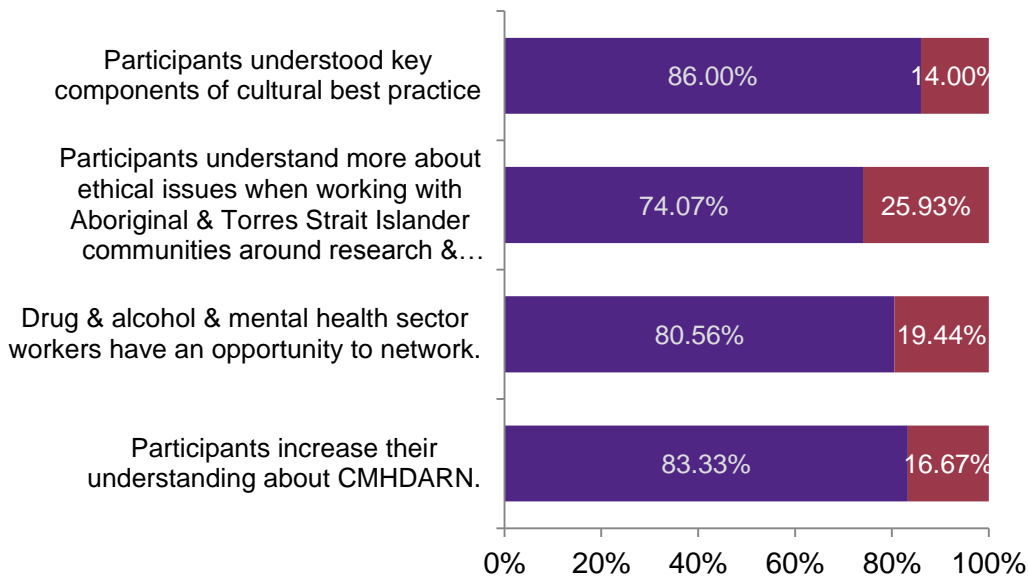


Breakdown of Overall Scores

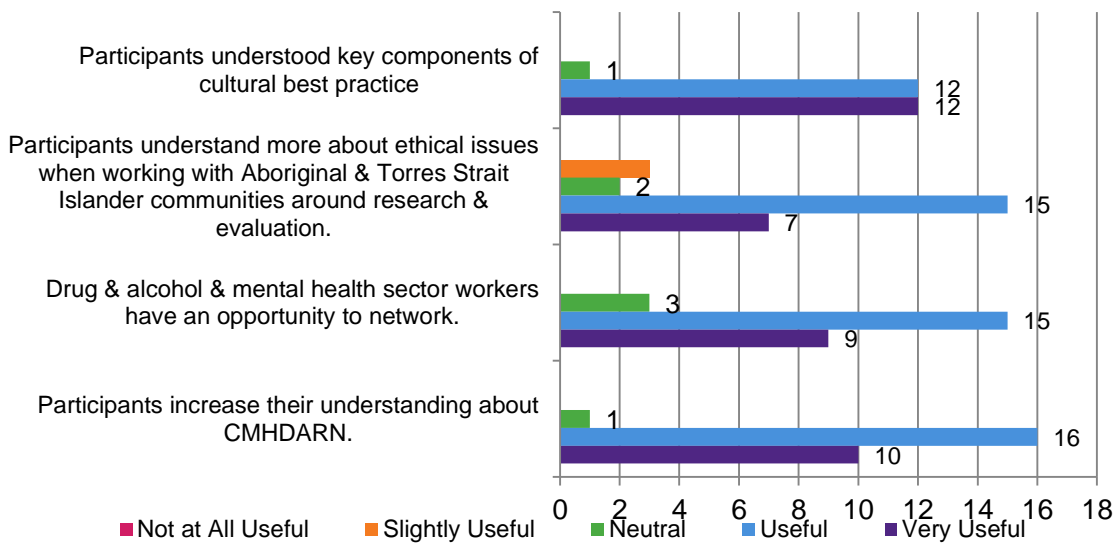


Forum Ratings

Participant Ratings of Forum

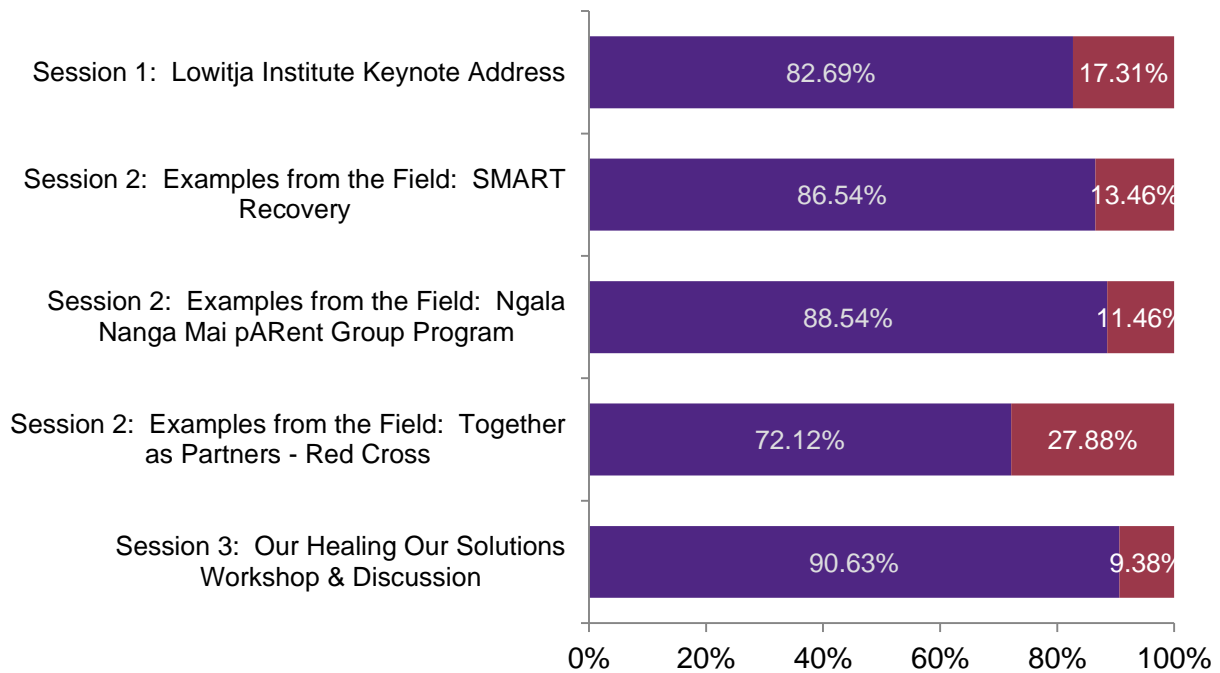


Breakdown of Ratings

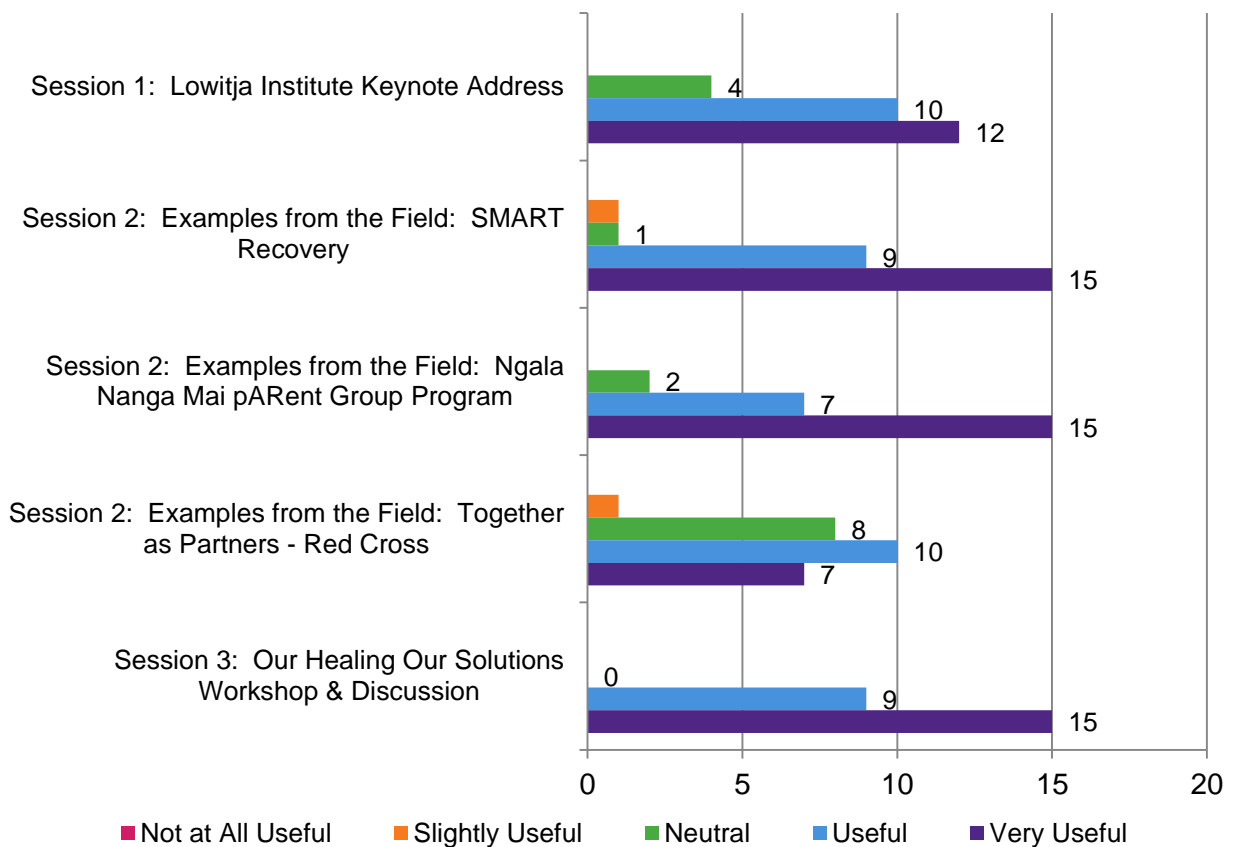


Session Ratings

Usefulness Scores per Topic Segment



Breakdown of Topic Scores



Feedback Comments

General Feedback and Comments

- RE: Ngala Nanga Mai pARent Group Program: Presenter!
- RE: How many staff members employed: Only 1 Project Officer
- Smiley scales irritate me. The smiley can be conflated with the respondents internal emotional state.
- I know there was limited time but a name + organisation intro for each person would help with Networking
- Very good session - thanks for the diversity of presenters.
- Great Forum and need more of them.
- Examples from the field are by far the most insightful and USEFUL; research to PRACTICE is what it's all about!
- Great collection of speaker attracting a broad audience.
- Fantastic forum, thank you one suggestion for improvement -> timing. I would've preferred to have 2 presentations between morning tea and lunch and two in session 3. Session 2 seemed rushed and then Session 3 had plentiful time.
- Useful forum: great variety of presenters.
- I appreciated learning about the small initiatives that don't get a lot of airwave. I enjoyed the use of videos to break with the presentation style.
- Thanks.
- I found it interesting to hear about the various programs in general. I would have preferred a greater emphasis on evaluation.

**Note: The original wording supplied by the participants has been retained.*

What was the session you gained the most from, and why?

General x 7

- All sessions gave me excellent insights, and I learnt a great deal.
- All presentation gave a good overview of available programs & ongoing areas for improvements.
- Equal between SMART recovery & Our Healing Our Solutions as both had rich content, detailed practice approaches and clean evidence of success ie. much to learn from!
- All session 2 presentations & session 3 really stressed the need to build pride & value in the contribution indigenous people can make to programs that will benefit their (& our) community. V. inspiring
- I attended the Research Forum to learn more about best practice research with Aboriginal communities, so learned the most from the presentations that directly addressed this - the Ngala Nanga Mai, Red Cross and 'Our Healing' presentations
- Session1 and Session 3 provided useful and concrete examples to understand best practice research when working with Indigenous Australians.
- Ngala Nanga Mai, Healing Foundation - empowerment models, wellbeing

Session 1 x 2

- Lowitja - History of Aboriginal Health
- Session 1 was useful introduction to the cultural specifically @ Aboriginal Research.

Session 2 x 11

- Session 2 as it is practical work done in the field
- I liked hearing about the small projects because they had 'non-traditional programs'.

SMART Recovery x 5

- Josette's talk on SMART recovery as it was Drug + Alcohol related.
- SMART Recovery - Simple focus on behaviour, rather than addiction, able to be used broadly. Healing Foundation identified programs which were meaningful to community.
- Smart Recovery - wonderful 'needs based' continuum - model of support/strategy & planning

Ngala Nanga Parent Group x 4

- PAREnt group. Flexible, holistic approach.
- Ngala Nanga Parent Group - very interesting & Can see great benefits from the Program.
- Ngala Nanga Mai: the variety of perspectives given during the presentation was helpful. The presentation was comprehensive & demonstrates the translation of theory & evidence into practice
- Program presentation - Ngala Nanga Mai; very passionate & respectfully provided information & inspiration for culturally appropriate wellbeing initiatives.

Session 3 Healing Foundation x 3

- Healing Foundation -> learning about projects underway
- Healing Foundation -> Powerful Case Studies & Videos.

Liked the healing foundation - STRONG BALA. - well organised & very well explained.

How might you change your work practices, following this Research Forum?

- Include some key learning to the community groups.
- Look for more community collaborations.
- Find appropriate funding for research + assistance to conduct accurate research.
- Get involved with other services
- Implement the key components of best practice as outlined today.
- GREATER Knowledge of history of multi-generational Trauma
- Look at commencing discussions with Aboriginal Communities about what's needed in terms of: trauma and healing support and work from there.

- Reference many of the Organisation's websites for contemporary research that will inform practice. Feedback to Practice Management re ATSI programs - possible partnership/collaboration opportunities.
- Further cements the work being done to build our organisation's RAP. Great - I wish all of MHCC could have been here.
- Much better understanding of how to approach and conduct research with Aboriginal communities. May change some of the evaluation tools used based on the Ngala Nanga Mai presentation.
- Accessing resources (in particular those from the Lowitja Institute) & evaluating current practices against best-practice evidence.
- Be more aware of the barriers preventing Indigenous peoples engaging with our services.
- I expected to get more tools/knowledge in terms of harder evidence but I think this will be covered by the CMHDARN website.
- To study more about Indigenous programs.
- Dissemination of guidelines for research across my organisations team. Better look @ program evaluation, including the utilisation of the above.
- Strengthening of ideas for informing organisational programs with best care for intergenerational trauma.
- I walk away with a greater awareness of intergenerational trauma which will help in my work with Aboriginal Clients & the importance of connection to culture or lack thereof.
- Focus on program logic & outcomes -> evaluation of our service/programs

Were you able to meet new people, and in what ways was this beneficial to you?

N= 18

Yes x 17

Benefits?

- Yes extremely beneficial

Networking x 4

- Always good to network!
- Yes - great networking.
- Built more connections.
- Yes - great networking opportunities

New insights/ knowledge/ referral options x 7

- Met a range of people from other NGOs - looked at issues of evaluations, funding, and keeping things simple.
- SMART RECOVERY Co-ordinator Josette - very helpful.
- Yes, a couple. Insight into other services/positions
- Yes. Able to get assistance in possible training for staff.

- Yes i learned more about appropriate referral options for clients, as well as funding opportunities. Feel a sense of being a part of bigger picture.
- Yes - fabulous new perspectives & improved understanding listening to people tell their own stories.
- Yes, fantastic venue for facilitating meeting people. Will be beneficial for going forwards and sharing research experiences.

No- Unfortunately I was under a deadline today & had to absent myself during breaks to complete the project

Are there any research areas you would like to see covered in future CMHDARN activities?

- Would like to see Re development of guidelines within the 'Facilitated Development Approach' that guides community orgs/communities towards developing their pathways, and towards facilitating their research capacity.
- Action research?
- How research fits in the process of improvement & change. How to use research gained to force change in Govt + NGOs.
- CALD MH & Drug & Alcohol Research - methods, challenges & how to address these.
- Best practice research with CALD communities
- How agencies particularly church based agencies can engage with the indigenous communities.
- Residential Rehab Program evaluation
- Synthetic drugs - trends/impact or mental health of consumers