

Summary Results to Questions Tabulated | 2022

Topic/Question		Yes	No	N/A Unsure no answer
2) IMPACTS OF COVID IN 2020 & 2021 to your Centre across Riders, Carriage Drivers, Coaches, Whips and Volunteers. Max 50 words	<p>Lost coach. Volunteers didn't return. Low number or no sessions in 2020 due to Lockdowns. Rules too tough. Coach left and took horses. Evicted from showground. Lockdown. Closed. Volunteers found other activities elsewhere. Lost 2 coaches due to COVID. Lost 3 programs due to risk of infections. Some Cancellations due to lockdowns in 2021. 3 riding days in 2020. 1 riding day 2021. Limited sessions 2020 & 2021. Volunteers left due to limited sessions. Extra workload for sanitation. Clients stopped coming. Mainly closed due to COVID. Coaches retiring. Reduced class sizes impacted Volunteers, who left. Less volunteers, more participants. NDIS brings more adults, over weight limits. Volunteers prefer children not adults. Disastrous, soul destroying lost riders and volunteers. Centre decimated by unfounded horse welfare accusation. Building up numbers. Decreased dramatically. Lost riders to other riding schools. Trained 2 coaches to reopen Centre. Hard COVID lockdown. No school programs 2020 & 2021 due to Dept Education restrictions. Fear – public /social interactions. Changes of work and family circumstances. Nearly closed down due to lack of participants and volunteers. Need for fully vaccinated! Changes in lifestyle. RDA NSW and NSW Health COVID restrictions. RDA NSW still under Stage 3 restrictions which do not align to rules pertaining to mask wearing & vaccination status. Lockdown. 2020 Floods, Fires and Wet weather reduced Volunteers and Riders (some moved interstate). Illness and health issues. Closed! Riders moving to High School missed out. No riding in 2020. Assistant coach course stalled. 2020 didn't operate. 2021 very limited riding and carriage driving due to school based COVID restrictions. Older volunteers discouraged.</p>			

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3) RIDERS AND CARRIAGE DRIVERS:				
3a) Impacts on 2022; whether your numbers are up or down against previous years? Max 20 words	<p>Rider numbers up – NDIS riders are more demanding. Numbers increasing slowly. Rider number well down. Consistent with previous years. Have a waiting list of riders and schools. One ride! Special school changed activity away from RDA. Dept of Education regulations have increased. Do a lot of lobbying with agencies and schools. Rider numbers well up due to more coaches. Volunteer numbers are not growing. Down due to a lack of coaches and volunteers. Well down post COVID. About the same, but hard due to restrictions on close contact for staff at the school. Down but slowly improving. Numbers down! Rider numbers constant, limited by number of coaches. Small increase due to adults taking up carriage driving.</p>			
3b) Are the rider/carriage driver weight limits impacting your numbers? Yes/No circle one.		5	20	
3c) Are riders joining the Centre because of NDIS? Yes/No circle one		6	19	
3d) Are riders leaving the Centre because they have more choice through NDIS funding? Yes/No circle one		4	19	2
3e) Do you believe that RDA NSW needs to change its programs to attract more riders? Yes/No circle one		6	16	3

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3f) If your answer to question 3e was Yes, please provide a brief explanation of how the programs might be changed? Max 20 words	No two Centres operate the same – leave to the coaches to determine. Offer existing classroom riding, plus, one on one riding for higher functioning disabled people . Need more therapeutic non-riding programs ; holistic wellness and mental health. Equine therapy is regularly requested. Short excursions . Shorter classes for highly independent riders . Implement changes due to participant needs. Programs need to be Centre or Regionally specific; generic is impossible. Centres should grow and changes programs to benefit participants.			
4) COACHES AND WHIPS:				
4a) What impacts (external or internal) are driving your Coaching or Whip numbers up or down? Max 20 words	Coaching requires more time than people have available. Time! Friction at home due to time demands. Lack of younger volunteers willing to train . Lack of interest. None! Life! Coach training is very intensive. Lack of supervisors. High commitment required. Lack of applicants. Assistant Coaching and Coaching is excessive. Lack of Assessors to visit regularly. Higher mileage rate might help. Lost 2 whips due to sickness and death . Busy volunteers find it hard to get the study done. Supervisors not well versed with the training syllabus or technology. Down due to changing work and family circumstances, age and health.			
4b) Do you think that the training for RDA Coaches is too extensive? Yes/No circle one		15	8	2
4c) Do you think that the training for RDA Coaches is just about right? Yes/No circle one		10	11	4

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4d) What changes should be made to the training? Max 20 words	<p>Simpler and practical. Expand training on horse to rider allocation. Expand training on working with people with disabilities; physical, social, mental. Trimming of detail in syllabus. Assistant coach promoted to full coach after a suitable period of experience, without further assessment. Keep simple and short. More workshops throughout the year. More "hands-on". Absolutely nothing – sole coaches need the whole syllabus. Reduce the amount of study and supplement computer skills. Stage qualifications so that trainees contribute earlier. Backfill for supervising coach. Too extensive, too long, turning people off. Simplify to attract more people. Stop duplication of assessments. Less modules to obtain qualifications. Remove irrelevant information. More group support. Consider prior coaching experience. First unit of study should be horse unit. Intensives. Could be more extensive. More focus on supervising coaches. Retain RTO status, but more user-friendly program for Centre coaches. Lots of dropouts. More training workshops in regions. Simplify! More RPL. Option to print material. Less intensive. Shorter course for people with previous horse experience. Prior learning recognised. Exposure to trainers qualified in a different discipline – clinic format.</p>			

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5) VOLUNTEERS:				
5a) What impacts (external or internal) are driving your Volunteer numbers up or down? Max 20 words	<p>Word of mouth and publicity of Centre. Work and family pressures. Transportation costs to Centre. Work! COVID – numbers impacted everywhere. Unvaccinated people cannot participate. Age and lack of youthful volunteers. Stigma in community resulting from horse welfare accusation. Fear of getting sick. Retirement age extended. Mostly older women, need younger volunteers and men. Lack of riding days. Work commitments and sickness. Riding less days. Competition from other NFPs. Lack of publicity. COVID created jobs! Less volunteers in the last 10 years. Most households have 2 workers now. Professional approach to induction. Introduction classes. Valuing volunteers and good communications. Down due to age, personal circumstances and fear of COVID. Age/Health issues. Age; most in 60s and 70s. Young people need paid work. Valued equally. Both parents working. Retirement age up. Time closed during COVID; people are now volunteering elsewhere. Age and health issues. Getting older. Younger ones work. Army help from Holdsworth Rehab unit.</p>			
5b) What actions can your Centre take to increase and sustain Volunteer numbers? Max 20 words	<p>Family events for volunteers; meet the horses. Feedback sessions. Professional trainers. Engaging community groups. Provide COVIDSafe practices. Need to enrol younger people. Putting RDA “out-there” through social media and public speaking. Boost morale and share load. Community awareness. Make volunteering a better experience. Welcoming atmosphere. Ride on weekends. More media blitzes. Showcase riders. Social media, word of mouth, local papers. Communication and training. Advertising – people don’t want to commit. Interaction with other horse organisations. Make them feel valued. Local advertising. Display at show. More riding days to give choice. Personal contact. New clubhouse. Promotion and active in community. Team work. Broader involvement.</p>			

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5c) What actions should RDA NSW take to increase and sustain Volunteer numbers? Max 20 words	<p>Promote the syllabus that we have and our competitor's lack. Stay out of local issues. RDA needs to promote. More assistance training of volunteers. Recognition from State. Advertise through schools and Unis to get younger volunteers. TV ads; more publicity and awareness of RDA. Volunteer training and recruitment days. Create a media budget and promote RDA. Flyer for local use. Don't know what State can do to rectify. Be more hands-on. Increased Brand/Image marketing. Promotion via social media. Improve communications and listen to suggestions. Prompt reply to requests. Volunteer management software to improve education and communication. Advertise and promote all Centres and target younger people to join. Increase funding to Centres for a part-time employee at Centre. Get "Jobstart" people to share expected hours of volunteering across different organisations. Ask Dept of Education to allow year 9 & 10 students to do volunteer hours. More community awareness. Advertise the values of RDA for riders and volunteers. Attract younger volunteers. Open communication between Board and Centres. Promote communication between Centres.</p>			
6) FUNDRAISING (Excluding Infrastructure and Capital Equipment Grants):				
6a) Are your fundraising efforts covering your expenditures? Yes/No circle one.		19	5	1
6b) If your answer to question 6a was No; how long can your Centre continue to operate based on your current savings? Max 20 words	<p>12 months maybe! We will not give up! Do more fundraising events. 18 months. Financial strategy under review. Difficult to estimate. Cannot foresee all horse associated costs.</p>			

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6c) Are you finding it more difficult to fundraise since COVID? Yes/No circle one.		15	9	1
Please explain? Max 20 words	Struggled through COVID, no fundraising. Less money around, businesses don't have the funds to help. Not enough volunteers to cover Bunnings BBQ, markets, etc. Same group does it all. Less cash from donation boxes. Not a wealthy town. Live day to day. Lucky to get a large donation. Well supported in community. Working harder at it. Takes a lot of time. A different strategy is required to fundraise post COVID. Several fundraisers impacted by COVID and not restarted. Lack of enthusiasm to fundraise.			
7) SITE AND INFRASTRUCTURE:				
7a) Is your Centre located on an RDA NSW owned property? Yes/No circle one		2	23	
7b) Does your Centre have a riding or dressage arena? Yes/No circle one		23	2	
7c) If your answer to question 7b was Yes, is your arena covered? Yes/No circle one		15	10	
7d) Do you have enough paddock space to house and feed your horses; accepting that they may need supplements? Yes/No circle one.		17	6	2
7e) Do you require assistance when applying for Grants? Yes/No circle one		4	19	2

