



**The Lowitja Institute
International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference
November 8–10, 2016
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre**

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Introduction

The Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference 2016 will celebrate, share and strengthen Indigenous knowledges and offer a strong scientific program and cultural framework. It will bring together more than 800 Indigenous and non-Indigenous delegates from Australia and around the world whose expertise and interests are in Indigenous health and wellbeing.

Background

The Lowitja Institute is Australia's national institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research named in honour of our Patron, Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG.

The Institute is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation working for the health and wellbeing of Australia's First Peoples through high impact quality research, knowledge exchange and by supporting a new generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers.

Established in January 2010, the Lowitja Institute operates on key principles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership, a broader understanding of health that incorporates wellbeing, and the need for the work to have a clear and positive impact.

The Lowitja Institute hosts the Lowitja Institute Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Cooperative Research Centre.

Vision

The conference theme **Identity | Knowledge | Strength** will translate into a unique opportunity for delegates to:

- celebrate Indigenous knowledges in a safe and strong cultural space
- share wisdom and stories, and learn from Elders and each other
- learn about the best science, practices and solutions
- participate in exploratory and difficult conversations and leave the conference with new perspectives and expanded methodologies
- connect and enrich engagement with colleagues and peers
- build and enhance opportunities for partnerships across research, policy and community
- craft a strong statement to inform action and influence national and international Indigenous health and wellbeing agendas
- enjoy a rich and varied art, performance and social program
- leave the conference inspired and energised by our identity, knowledge and strength to drive individual and collective work that benefits Indigenous peoples.

Conference Program

The comprehensive conference program will include keynote addresses from national and international experts and a range of modalities to showcase delegates' work: concurrent, individual and joint presentations; posters; interactive workshops and panels and yarning circles; Elder-specific and family-specific events as well as for men and women.

Delegate Profile

The conference will be a rewarding and inspiring experience for Australian and international Indigenous and non-Indigenous colleagues whose expertise and interests are in Indigenous health and wellbeing.

We anticipate an attendance of more than 800 delegates, including:

- Indigenous community organisations, leaders and individuals
- Community controlled health organisations
- Researchers from universities and health research institutes
- Policymakers and government department representatives
- Politicians
- Health professionals
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers
- Students
- Service providers and health workers
- Non-government organisations
- Not-for-profit organisations
- Philanthropists
- Media

The Venue

The Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) is recognised as Australasia's leading meeting and conference centre. Located in the centre of the arts and entertainment precinct of Melbourne, visitors to the MCEC enjoy spectacular architecture and scenery as well as state of the art technology and service to enhance their experience as delegates' and exhibitors.

Pre-conference event: Welcoming Ceremony

On the evening of Monday 7 November, Elders representing the custodians of the land of the conference venue, will conduct a traditional Welcome to Country ceremony. Participating Indigenous delegations will be invited to respond according to their cultural protocols. The event is expected to be of two hours duration, including refreshments.

Proposal for Volunteers and in kind sponsorship

In order to facilitate the smooth running of the conference and its program, the Lowitja Institute is seeking conference volunteers. The conference, including the Welcoming Ceremony will run for four days from Monday 7 November until Thursday 10 November, with various volunteer roles required to be filled. Such roles include:

- assisting Elders
- ushering conference delegates to sessions
- assisting Lowitja Institute and events staff

It is proposed that the Lowitja Institute Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander company members AIDA, CATSINaM, NATSIHWA, AIATSIS, IAHA and Healing Foundation would be conference sponsors by providing two or more appropriate volunteer candidates, as an in-kind contribution. The member will cover the cost of travel (flights if interstate, travel costs if in Victoria) and accommodation for the volunteers. The Lowitja Institute will provide complimentary registrations.

Volunteers will be treated with respect and gratitude for their contribution and will carry out duties assigned by the Lowitja Institute and conference event managers, ASN Events. The Volunteers would be rostered to allow for participation in the International Indigenous conference program, providing an invaluable opportunity for professional development.

Responsibilities of the Lowitja Institute and ASN Events

- A Volunteer Supervisor shall be responsible for organising the coordination and training of volunteers and shall ensure that each volunteer is capable of fulfilling their functions adequately
- The Volunteer Supervisor will ensure that each volunteer has received a conference induction, read and signed the Volunteer Deed before commencing their volunteer functions.

Conference sponsorship benefits

Sponsorship of the conference provides an excellent opportunity to:

- ✓ Support an international conference that will celebrate Indigenous identity, knowledges and strength with Indigenous and non-Indigenous delegates from around Australia and the world
- ✓ Increase awareness and knowledge of your organisation
- ✓ Network and build new relationships with national and international Indigenous community, research and government delegates
- ✓ Extend your branding and visual presence
- ✓ Promote your products, services and initiatives
- ✓ Be openly acknowledged for your contribution.

Exhibitors

The exhibition area will be the location for all morning and afternoon teas as well as the daily lunches and the scheduled poster viewing sessions. As an exhibitor you will receive the following benefits and recognition as a sponsor:

- Shared exhibitors space, with table clothed trade table, 2 chairs, lights and power
- A quarter page mono advertisement within the conference program book
- Logo placement in conference audiovisual material
- Logo placement and link to your own homepage from the conference website; logo included in the conference app
- Promotional material displayed in the Information Hub.