

EXPLORING THE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE



Indigenous health and wellbeing take centre stage in Cairns

FAST FACTS

Event: Third International Lowitja Institute Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference 2023

Dates: 14 – 16 June 2023

Destination: Cairns

Professional Conference Organiser: Encanta Event Management

Number of Delegates: 1,230

Event Type: Association Conference

assets, and an opportunity to holiday post-conference, Cairns was a natural choice to hold this incredible, culture lead and community-focused event.

CELEBRATING CONNECTION, COMMUNITY-LED INITIATIVES AND OUTCOMES

A strong line-up of international and local Indigenous leaders including **Professor Marcia Langdon** and AFL football legend, **Adam Goodes** together with over 250 community-led research presentations from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA was a big highlight for delegates. The mix of light-filled indoor and sun-drenched outdoor spaces at the **Cairns Convention Centre** provided opportunities for Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous colleagues to connect, share knowledge, and explore past, present and future health research, policy and practice that uphold and value Indigenous-led initiatives whilst being conscious of the overall well-being of our planet.

Organisers were particularly keen to ensure the participation and acknowledgement of the traditional owners and local Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander businesses, creating innovative gathering and yarnning spaces with bright, comfortable furnishings by **NQ Exhibitions** and a local artisan pop-up market filled with jewellery, weaving, art and relaxing massage to inspire and encourage more significant interaction.

GETTING SOCIAL IN UNIQUE VENUES WITH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL TALENT

Utilising the natural and historic assets of the region, the social program included a welcome reception immersed in the beauty of the botanic gardens and **Tanks** event space styled by **Two Tribes**. Drawing on the opportunity to showcase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditions, the event featured a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony by traditional owners, the **Gimuy Walubara Yidinji and Yirrganydji Elders**, and performances by the **Yidinji Dance Group** and Torres Strait **Boigu Island Dance Group**, culminating in a heartfelt set by Brisbane singer-songwriter **Thelma Plum**.

A wide range of finger food was provided by **Ochre Catering**, whilst **Sash KaiKai** brought the cultural flavours, serving a selection of Torres Strait Islander cuisine and rounding out an evening filled with culture and tradition.

Not to be outdone, the additional two social evenings at stunning, heritage-listed waterfront brewery **Hemingway's** and the refurbished **Cairns Convention Centre**, surprised and delighted with a mix of renowned indigenous performers, including singer-songwriter **Dan Sultan**, Torres Strait soul singer **Rochelle Pitt**, Aboriginal electronic music duo **Electric Fields**, rapper **BARKAA** and locally grown talent **Nightshift**.



The third International **Lowitja Institute Health and Wellbeing Conference** celebrated record delegate numbers, delivering one of the most extensive programs on offer featuring a strong representation of local and international speakers and a rich cultural and social program showcasing local venues, produce and a swathe of outstanding indigenous performers.

Australia's only national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health research institute working for the health and wellbeing of First Nations people, the event brought together a global audience of leaders, researchers, professionals, decision-makers and community leaders to Cairns to connect and share knowledge.

With a rich Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, stunning weather, lush surroundings, an abundance of natural

UNIQUE INSTALLATIONS

Our Cultures Count

TANKS ARTS CENTRE

CAIRNS CONVENTION CENTRE

CAIRNS & GREAT BARRIER REEF
BUSINESS EVENTS

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