



# THE 17TH OTTAWA CONFERENCE & THE ANZAHPE 2016 CONFERENCE

**WHAT YOU DID:** Medical educators from across the globe met in Perth for a program logistically delivering up to 27 concurrent sessions across three venues; predominantly at PCEC for conference sessions, the exhibition and all catering; the adjoining Adina Hotel for smaller meetings; and the nearby Parmelia Hilton for satellite sessions. The program included: 1112 abstracts, four keynote sessions, 209 sessions and at its peak 27 concurrent sessions, 648 speakers, 342sqm, and 288 posters.

As delegates entered the PCEC's Riverside Theatre for the Opening Ceremony the room was darkened with a solo didgeridoo player on stage followed by a traditional welcome to country ceremony including a dance performance from Wadumbah. Formal speeches included the Minister for Health on behalf of the Premier. The Variety Youth Choir completed the presentation.

Rather than a traditional networking space in the exhibition, organisers teamed with theming company Phenomenon to create an Aussie backyard right down to an iconic Hills Hoist clothesline and cricket pitch with an esky used as wickets. The zone was significant in size and offered a variety of seating options. Delegates loved it.

Organisers wanted to create a warm welcoming atmosphere and what better way than a good old fashioned Aussie barbecue. The PCEC's Summer Garden was the perfect backdrop for the Welcome Reception. Delegates were led to the garden by a stockman cracking his whip and accompanied by a guitarist. International delegates loved the opportunity to get up close with a koala, snake, wombat and dingo. A warm Autumn evening enriched the atmosphere with delegates enjoying traditional Aussie fare including prawns on the barbie! Australian branded stubby holders enhanced the theme and delegates took these home. The Perth skyline provided a stunning backdrop as the sun set and the city lights took centre stage.

Other social activities included:

- A Captain Cook Dinner Cruise along Perth's iconic Swan River - this sold out very quickly and proved extremely popular.
- ANZAHPE President's Dinner Dance in the PCEC's River View Room. A no frills event with limited theming, but very well received and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.
- An Accompanying Partners' Program showcased a range of Perth activities with good take-up.

The organising committee was spread over different time-zones and that, in the past, would have proved challenging when convening face to face meetings. Skype allowed committee members to connect at reasonable hours across all time zones. Given the particularly complex program, Skype was a necessity to ensure effective communication.

**CLIENT'S COMMENT:** "... I think this has been one of the most successful Ottawa Conferences to date. I think you and your staff did a marvellous job and this contributed to the success of the meeting... (we) found everyone very supportive throughout... the meeting has not only been an academic and social success, but a financial one too."

**WHY WE LIKE IT:** The central location was great, plus the collaborative work of EECW, PCEC and local suppliers showcased their creative use of exhibition space and the Summer Garden enhancing the program by giving delegates ownership of the entire venue. **m**

**NAME:** THE 17TH OTTAWA CONFERENCE & THE ANZAHPE 2016 CONFERENCE  
**TYPE:** CONFERENCE  
**BY:** EECW PTY LTD / THE ASSOCIATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION IN EUROPE (AMEE) AND THE AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS  
**VENUE:** PERTH CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE  
**ATTENDEES:** 1405  
**NO. ON ORGANISING TEAM:** EIGHT (8)

