

Hi Delegates,

Wow, what a conference, our biggest one yet with 417 registered delegates! The sharing of culture, vibrant tropical surrounds, great venue, amazing presenters and fabulous delegates and exhibitors came together to make AIDA Conference 2019 a memorable event and certainly one I'll remember for quite some time.



Thank you to the Larrakia People for the warm welcome extended to all involved with AIDA 2019. The Saltwater Cleansing Ceremony, welcome to country and the smoking ceremony connected us to Larrakia People, Larrakia land and to each other. I would also like to thank Uncle Tony Duwun Lee and the healers who supported us all throughout the conference.

So many innovative, inspiring and thought-provoking presentations. From Dr Kelvin Kong's workshop, Dr Bart Currie sharing the work for international innovators such as the "organ on a chip", inspiring talk from Marion Scrymgour, first female CEO of the Northern Land Council and Olga Havnen's presentation on Danila Dilba delivering services to our young people at Don Dale Detention Centre once again affirming the pivotal role of the Aboriginal Community Control Sector in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

The gala dinner was another highlight for me, introducing 28 new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Doctors and 3 new Fellows and our AIDA Awards recipients, hope lives.

A big welcome to our newest Patron, Dr Jeff McMullen. Jeff joins our exiting Patrons Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue, Sir William Dean, Ms Nova Peris and Mr Phil Truskett. Thank you to all AIDA's Patrons for their continued support.

Thank you to the Board and AIDA members for the warm welcome I have received, I look forward to working with the Board and members and continuing the important work of AIDA.

My final thank you goes to Lara, Joanna and the entire Secretariat team for their tireless efforts in bringing together this year's conference. I am truly honoured to be working with such a dedicated, passionate and fabulous team.

AIDA Conference 2020 is heading to Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast from 7-9 October 2020 so lock it in!