

Case Study: Lowitja Institute 3rd International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference 2023



Indigenous excellence in health research from across Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand, Canada, Hawaii and the United States was the focus of the 3rd Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference held in Cairns, on the lands of the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji and Yirrganydji peoples, from the 14 – 17 June 2023.

The theme of the conference was Truth, Rights, Response and the three-day event, with nearly 1200 attendees, was the largest gathering of global and national Indigenous health experts in Australia since before COVID-19.

The program consisted of more than 250 presentations and covered topics ranging from important work in cervical cancer screening, kidney care and diabetes and across all determinants of health. Speakers at the conference included leading global and national Indigenous leaders on Voice, Treaty, Truth-telling, Indigenous data/research sovereignty, decolonisation, nation building, climate and health, genomics and justice.

A rich social and cultural program included weaving demonstrations and artists stalls in the Exhibition area in addition to the Opening Reception held at Hemingway's Brewery and the Gala Dinner in The Arena at the Cairns Convention Centre, where the Lowitja Institute Awards for excellence in research were presented. Entertainment from special guests Thelma Plum, Dan Sultan, Barkaa, Electric Fields and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists at the Gala was a joyful way to finish the Conference.