

HEALTH

NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA

As one of a small number of advanced economies located in the tropics, a region which is home to 40 percent of the world's population, the Northern Territory (NT) is well placed to respond to the growing health needs of its nearby developing country neighbours. Tropical health and research has also been identified as a key focus for the Australian Government's 'Developing Northern Australia' initiatives.



HEALTH STRENGTHS

Health research is a major sector in which the NT's **Charles Darwin University (CDU)** excels. As a research-intensive university, it is ranked in the top two percent of universities in the world by **Times Higher Education**, the company behind the world's most influential university rankings. It also features on their list of top 50 universities in the world, which are less than 50 years old.

CDU's **Menzies School of Health Research** conducts world-class research into issues of major public health importance in northern Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. These include malaria, tuberculosis, melioidosis, staphylococcal and streptococcal disease, rheumatic heart disease, pneumococcal disease, influenza and Hepatitis B. The Menzies-led research undertaken on **malaria** and conducted in more than 20 countries across the Asia-Pacific region, is deemed to have saved thousands of lives.

The Menzies team is made up of over 250 staff operating across Australia and the Asia Pacific Region and is led by Darwin-based **Professor Alan Cass**, a kidney specialist with an impressive research background in the prevention and management of chronic disease and Indigenous health. A number of health conference planners have leveraged this network of experts and projects to provide rich on-ground content for their events staged in the NT. This was one of the key reasons why the **Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology** decided to hold their conference in Darwin in 2017.

Also located in Darwin within the Menzies School of Health Research faculty is **RHD Australia**, the Australian Government's national coordination unit that supports the control of rheumatic heart disease in Australia. From its Darwin base,

the RHD Unit works to prevent and reduce acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease in Australia. Internationally recognised expert, **Dr Bo Remenyi** from RHD Australia recently won the NT Australian of the Year Award in 2017 for her contribution to the prevention and management of rheumatic heart disease.



Darwin's **National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre (NCCTRC)** has a renowned international reputation for excellence in health training. It was developed in 2005 to respond to incidents that pose significant health threats to the population, and its location makes it Australia's first responder to major onshore and offshore incidents in Australia and South East Asia. The NCCTRC's operations are supported by a significant disaster medical research program.

In October 2015, the NCCTRC in partnership with the **World Health Organization**, hosted the world's first training exercise on disaster response coordination. This initiative led to the creation of a group of skilled medical disaster professionals who can be deployed by governments around the world when major disasters occur.

A visit to the NCCTRC can be coordinated through the NT Convention Bureau for conferences which relate to specialist medical,

emergency management and disaster response.

Australia's **Royal Flying Doctor Service** is one of the largest aero-medical organisations in the world. Using the latest in aviation, medical and communications technology, it delivers primary health care and 24-hour emergency service to people in regional Australia. The Alice Springs base serves an area of approximately 1.25 million square kilometres. The Royal Flying Doctor Service operates showcase facilities in Alice Springs and Darwin. A visit to these can be an excellent inclusion in conference programmes, enabling delegates to obtain insights into this amazing operation. The Darwin Waterfront-located facility is just a short stroll from the Darwin Convention Centre, making it an especially convenient and innovative venue, activity and touring option.



HEALTH FAMILIARISATIONS

Each year, the **NT Convention Bureau** hosts a health familiarisation event for specialist event organisers within the health sector. This educational event provides the opportunity for participants to connect with leading NT practitioners in Indigenous Health, Trauma & Emergency Response, Tropical & Infectious Disease and Rural & Remote Health services.

"I've found this week just fantastic, inspirational and just full of promise. I came along hoping to get some good ideas and I've found things that I hadn't even imagined that we could do with our Trauma Conference. It was really important to meet people from our industry. I didn't think that I would necessarily connect with them but I did because one thing led to another. It was fabulous. I've learned so much and I'm very excited about coming here in 18 months."

Ms Lyn Journeaux
Executive Officer, Trauma Department
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons



CONFERENCE SUCCESS



The **Internal Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand (IMSANZ)** and **The Society of Obstetric Medicine of Australia and New Zealand (SOMANZ)** combined for the very first time in September 2016 when their Annual Scientific Meeting was held in Alice Springs. This inaugural joint meeting showcased the latest research and knowledge in both Internal Medicine and Obstetrics. The conference programme incorporated a presentation and tour of the **Royal Flying Doctor Service Alice Springs** base as well as a visit to Alice Springs dialysis specialist clinic, social enterprise and community centre known locally as **The Purple House**.

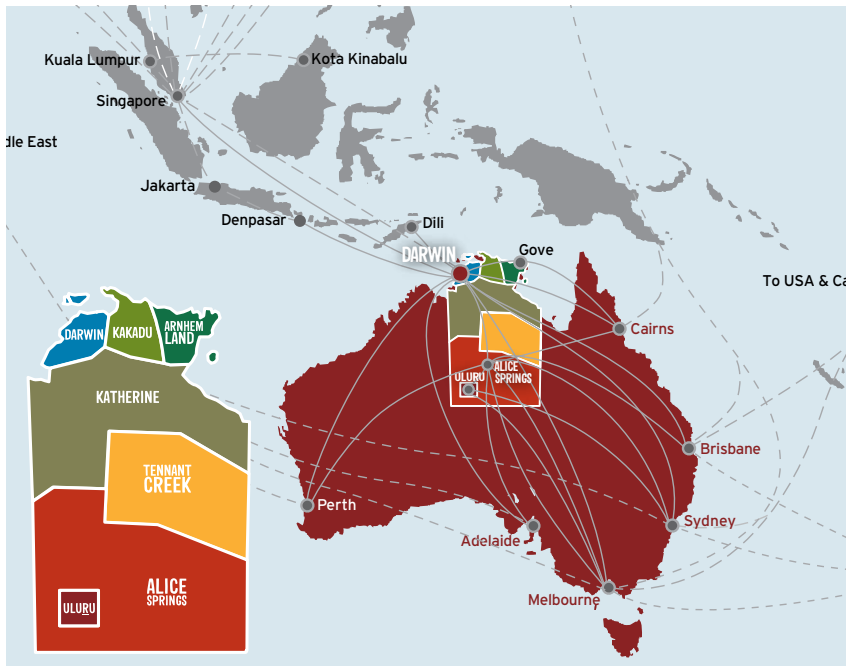
"Our event went off without a hitch - Alice Springs proved to be an excellent place to hold our meeting. Venue staff were engaging, helpful and efficient and off-site accommodation was also readily accessible. The cultural extras including the Welcome to Country and dinner in The Quarry were highlights. I would recommend Alice Springs as a conference destination and the venue without hesitation."

Professor Don Campbell
Monash Health, Melbourne
Immediate Past President
IMSANZ

WHY MEET IN THE NT?

Australia's Northern Territory has a proven track record at boosting delegate attendance due to its strong destination appeal, as well as its direct relevance to the health sector. The destination provides a depth of local expertise from individuals and community organisations who can enhance an NT event with potential guest speakers, delegates, sponsors and exhibitors. NT not-for-profit organisations can also benefit reciprocally from socially responsible or legacy activities that Business Events can generate. There is further opportunity to facilitate connections with local experts and organisations through technical tours and off-site visits to local facilities to meet with like-minded industry colleagues.

The Northern Territory is just two hours flying time from its nearest Asian neighbour. It is accessible from all major airports throughout Australia, as well as intra-Territory flights between the key business event destinations of Darwin, Alice Springs and Uluru.



EXTRAORDINARY REGIONS

The NT has seven regions, each with distinct climates and amazingly different terrain and attractions, as well as an ancient and rich Indigenous culture. The lush and tropical "Top End" region at the northernmost tip of Australia includes the cosmopolitan harbour-front city of Darwin, plus the World Heritage-listed Kakadu, Australia's largest national park. With a natural harbour, river estuaries and a coastline more than 5,000 kilometres long, the Top End is a fishing, sailing and cruising paradise. Further south, lies the stunning desert landscape of the "Red Centre", which is home to icons such as Uluru (Ayers Rock), Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) and Alice Springs, the quintessential Australian outback town. Iconic activities include camel rides across the desert, dot-painting workshops and magical outback dinners under the stars.



NORTHERN TERRITORY CONVENTION BUREAU (NTCB)

The NTCB is the business events division of Tourism NT, which sits within the NT Government's Department of Tourism and Culture. The bureau's role is to market and promote the Northern Territory as a distinctive and effective business events destination. With strong local knowledge, experience and extensive links to business and government networks, the bureau provides free expert advice and assistance to business event planners. The NTCB team can assist with bid preparation, destination information and supplier liaison to deliver an inspiring and memorable NT event.

FIND OUT MORE

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