The Lighthouse Hospital Project's second National Forum

The Lighthouse Hospital Project's second National Forum was held on 1-2 May 2019 at the Richmond Football Club, Melbourne. The event was attended by over 90 delegates from across Australia, including Lighthouse team members from hospital sites, external stakeholders, community members and Heart Foundation staff. The main themes of the forum were sustainability and a celebration of achievements.

Hospital funding for Phase 3 Lighthouse Hospital Project ceases on 30 June 2019. Commencing in 2012, the project is a joint initiative of the Heart Foundation and the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA) and funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health through the Indigenous Australians' Health Program.

Its aim is to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples experiencing acute coronary syndrome (ACS).

A wide range of speakers presented over the two days on varying topics such as clinical yarning, traditional healing and workforce resilience.

Professor Dawn Bessarab from UWA discussed the benefits of clinical yarning presenting practical tools for delegates to implement into their clinical practice. Dr. Francesca Panzironi, CEO of the Anangu Ngangkari Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (ANTAC), the first organisation of Aboriginal traditional healers in Australia, discussed the use of traditional healers alongside mainstream health services. The Lighthouse Project Officer from Tamworth, Reakeeta Smallwood and her colleague Katie Brett discussed the development of their 'Empower and Unite' workshops to build resilience and provide support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses working in their local health district.

Delegates were also able to participate in a session of Wayapa Wuurrkk, a form of Aboriginal wellness, using movements connected to the Earth. Keynote addresses were given by Dr. Mark Bin Baker and Justin Mohamed and there was plenty of opportunity for networking and collaboration through interactive workshops including 'speed dating a hospital site' where hospitals learnt about the project's achievements nationally, and the 'world café' where sustainability models were discussed.

To complement these sessions there was a full social program which included a very entertaining performance by Mary G at the forum dinner on Wednesday night. The social program also included walks led by both the Heart Foundation walking team and Wurrundjeri Elder Bill Nicholson, who was able to provide some cultural insights into the land around the Richmond Football Club.

Heart Foundation Lighthouse team members (L to R): Takysha Brennan; Penny Newland; Grace Daley; Reitai Minogue; Karen Uhlmann and Phil Flanagan

Delegates at the National Forum in the Maurice Rioli room at the Richmond Football Club in Melbourne

Dr. Francesca Panzironi presenting on Aboriginal Traditional Healers

Heart Foundation CEO John Kelly welcoming delegates to the second Lighthouse Hospital Project National Forum