

Thank-you note

Michal Morris, Conference Convenor

As three momentous days come to a conclusion I would like to take an opportunity to thank many people. As you could imagine we could not have pulled this together without a bit of help.

First thanks goes to Centre for Culture, Ethnicity & Health – and North Richmond Community Health. The backing of your board and your colleagues is critical in ensuring that you have the faith to bring an event like this through. I would like here to make special mention of the CEO of North Richmond and the Director of CEH – Demos Krouskos in this.

Next I must thank my colleagues at CEH – we took this on as a team and you guys have been truly amazing both in the lead up and all week. I would like to make special mention of Zayne D'Crus and Viv Fox. Zayne's enthusiasm, commitment, creativity have been truly extraordinary. Zayne has been responsible for many of the innovative elements of the conference from the Feedback Wall to the look and feel of the whole conference.

And Viv, I think every delegate here now has a personal relationship with Viv. Her energy, enthusiasm and commitment has shined through in all her work over the past few months, and the last three days.

Next the Advisory Group – thank you for your support and commitment at the conference. Diversity in Health – is a huge concept (one that we could barely contain into three days) – they have helped guide and structure the ideas behind what we have all experienced over the last three days. And many have been actively involved in programming specific sessions – as well as presenting in them.

To curate the program we went big – and that means a lot of people had much to say and do. We had eight sub-committees curating the different streams – and so I would like to take this opportunity to thank the chair's of the streams for their very hard and creative work – Pamela Rodriguez, Sue Casey, Padmini Sebastian, Georgia Zogalis, Ljubica Petrov, Naomi Ngo, Mary Gavranic and Maria Dimopoulos. Here I would also like to mention Andrew Jakubovicz and the Institute of Cultural Diversity who we worked so closely with on today's very important program.

I do think that the depth of program – that I have heard so many people comment on – is because of the work of these chairs and their committees.



In all over 80 people were actively involved in developing the conference program.

It is important to acknowledge and thank all our sponsors, much has been said about the lack of federal government funding but I must mention the one exception – Australia Council. Their support has provided much of the entertainment over the three days and paid for a number of community development workers from across Australia to participate.

We have received generous support from all our sponsors – from state governments to the corporate and the not-for profit sectors. This support has been vital in the success of the conference. Without money we could not have done the last three days. So, thank you.

I would also like to thank Anni and Tony and everyone else from Kojo. Many times I have been complimented on the smoothness of the operation of the conference, as well as the support that delegates have received. This compliment should really sit with Anni and Tony who are a core part of the team that brought you this conference. And finally a big thanks to the delegates and speakers. We haven't flouted the numbers but everyone is commenting on the mammoth size of the conference program. Well – around **270 speakers** including 6 international speakers, 50 invited Australian speakers, **17 plenary sessions, 64 breakout sessions.**

Thank you!