



Australian Association for
Infant Mental Health

WAIMH 2020 Congress, AAIMH AGM Report

20 November 2018

Provided by Elisabeth Hoehn, Chair of the WAIMH 2020 Local Organizing Committee.

This report presents the progress that has occurred over the last twelve months toward the organization of the WAIMH 2020 Congress in Brisbane.

- A Local Organizing Committee (LOC) was established. The LOC has representation from both national and Queensland AAIMH members. There have been some changes to membership over the last twelve months and will most likely continue to occur as the demands in people's lives change, but the balance of representation across Australia has remained the same. The LOC has to date conducted business by email only.

The current LOC is:

- Elisabeth Hoehn (QLD) Chair
 - Libby Morton (QLD)
 - Susan Wilson (QLD)
 - Neil Alcorn (QLD)
 - Janet Rhind (QLD)
 - Joe Coyne (QLD)
 - Helen Baker (QLD)
 - Deborah Henry (QLD)
 - Suzie Lewis (QLD)
 - Anita Nepean-Hutchison (QLD)
 - Kerry-Ann Grant (NSW)
 - Nick Kowalenko (NSW)
 - Helen Willetts (ACT)
 - Campbell Paul (VIC)
 - Michelle Meehan (VIC)
 - Sally Watson (SA)
 - Raylene Lewis (WA)
- A tender was conducted to choose a Professional Conference Organizer (PCO) for the Congress. Eight companies were invited to tender and three responses were received. These three companies were interviewed by Campbell Paul (WAIMH Board representative), Libby Morton (National AAIMHI President) and Elisabeth Hoehn (Chair of LOC). A summary of the tender process and interview outcomes with a recommendation for a preferred PCO was provided to the WAIMH Executive Office for consideration. After considerable review of both this document and proposed congress budgets, ICMSA were chosen as the successful PCO applicant and a contract has been signed with them.

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- The Venue for the congress was finalized as the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC) and dates for the congress were finalized with the WAIMH board. The WAIMH 2020 Congress will be held in Brisbane at the BCEC from 7-11 June, 2020.
- The LOC had considerable discussion about a possible theme for the congress, that would reflect that which is unique about Australia, our culture and country, and that would also reflect key aspects of infant mental health practice. An initial theme of *Holding the infant: creating stories of regeneration, recovery and innovation together* was proposed and accepted by the WAIMH office for promoting at the WAIMH 2018 Congress in Rome in May.
- The choice of PCO was not finalized before the WAIMH 2018 congress, and so national AAIMHI supported the LOC to promote the WAIMH 2020 Congress in Rome. A marketing booth was purchased, posters and postcards were designed and printed and Brisbane Marketing supplied 800 clip-on koalas to assist with marketing. This promotion was very successful, with considerable interest in attending expressed. A presentation and video were shown at the WAIMH 2018 Closing Ceremony, welcoming delegates to attend the Congress in Brisbane in 2020. WAIMH 2020 was similarly promoted at the international 2018 Marce Conference in Bangalore, India, where a further 200 koalas and promotional cards were distributed. Again, there was significant interest in attending.
- The WAIMH 2020 Program Committee has been formed, and has met on two occasions. The committee, in collaboration with the LOC, are currently identifying keynote speakers to invite to the congress. Denise Guy, President of NZAIMH, has been invited to provide NZ input to the LOC and the process of identifying speakers and program content. Keynote speakers will be finalized and invited over the next few months, with the plan for a Call for Abstracts to commence in February 2019. Panels to review abstracts are also being identified by the Program Committee.

The current Program Committee is:

- David Oppenheim (Chair, Israel)
 - Reija Latva (Finland)
 - Kaija Puura (Finland)
 - Miri Keren (Israel)
 - Giampaolo Nicolais (Italy)
 - Campbell Paul (Australia)
 - Elisabeth Hoehn (Liaison between LOC and Program Committee, Australia)
- The Program Committee has reworked the initial theme to: *Creating stories in infant mental health: research, recovery and regeneration*, thus still reflecting the initial concepts that the LOC wished to deliver, while strengthening the emphasis on infant mental health specifically and highlighting research more clearly.
 - The LOC will now begin to work closely with PCO and the Program Committee to progress the congress organization, including the call for abstracts, congress branding and the program.