



AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST UNIVERSAL DESIGN CONFERENCE OPENS

Monday 29 August 2016

Australia's largest Universal Design Conference opens its doors on Tuesday 30 August 2016. Hosted by Council on the Ageing NSW (COTA NSW), the two-day conference features exceptional speakers.

"Universal design has come a long way in recent years," says Dr Jane Bringolf from COTA NSW, principal organiser of the conference and a well-known proponent of universal design. "The built environment is still a major focus of the conference, but we're also exploring how universal design can lead to new outcomes in fields as diverse as communication, clothing design and design education."

Dr Bringolf believes the value of universal design is increasingly well understood. "We're delighted by the support we received for this year's conference." The City of Sydney is the major sponsor for the conference, with sponsorship also coming from the NSW Government.

The Hon. John Ajaka, Minister for Ageing, will open the second day of the conference and notes the Government's support for the creation of inclusive, accessible communities.

"The NSW Government is committed to bringing to life real solutions for better inclusion," Mr Ajaka said. "As an example of that commitment, I was recently pleased to announce the Liveable Communities Grant, which empowers people to create projects that build stronger, safer, and more accessible communities for older people."

"Whether designing a building, website, product, or service, I encourage local business and the community to work together to create inclusive environments that are accessible for everyone, wherever possible."

Goh Siam Imm, Technical Director of Universal Design Department in Singapore; Gerard Goggin, Professor of Media and Communications at the University of Sydney; Simon Darcy, Professor, Management Discipline Group at the University of Technology Sydney, and The Honourable Kelly Vincent, Leader of Dignity for Disability in the South Australian Legislative Council will each offer a keynote presentation.

This year's conference will provide valuable insights for people working in urban planning, architecture, building, design, technology, and manufacturing, as well as communications, policy and interdisciplinary ventures.

Registration for the conference is still open. To register, go to www.universaldesignconference.com.au

Details: Date: Tuesday 30 August 2016: 8.15am for 9am start until 5pm; Wednesday 31 August 2016: 8.45am until 5pm. Venue: Lower Town Hall, 483 George St, Sydney NSW 2000 Price: 2 Day Conference \$650.00 (inc. GST), or \$350.00 (inc. GST) for Tuesday or Wednesday only.



MEDIA CONTACT

For comment on the conference, call Dr Jane Bringolf, COTA NSW, on 0417 231 349.

The conference was organised by Interpoint. The City of Sydney is the conference's major sponsor, with the NSW State Government also providing sponsorship. The conference organisers also gratefully acknowledge support from: Local Government NSW; the Australian Network for Universal Housing Design; the Association of Consultants in Access Australia and North Coast Community Housing.

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