



## UNIVERSAL DESIGN SHOWCASED AT COTA NSW CONFERENCE

Thursday 25 August 2016

Sydney will host Australia's largest Universal Design Conference from 30 – 31 August 2016. Hosted by Council on the Ageing NSW (COTA NSW), the conference gives Australians an opportunity to hear from some of the world's leading exponents of universal design.

Coming on the back of the highly successful universal design conference hosted by COTA NSW in 2014, this year's conference promises to broaden delegates' thinking about how it can be applied.

Dr Jane Bringolf – principal organiser of the conference and a well-known proponent of universal design – says “while the built environment remains a focus of the conference, we've added a greater range of topics to our agenda. For the first time, we're exploring how universal design can help lead to new outcomes in fields as diverse as communication, clothing design and design education.”

“Universal design puts a person's experience at the centre of the design process. This is why universal design principles can be applied across so many fields. At its heart, universal design strives to ensure that things can be used, accessed or experienced by everybody, equally.”

The breadth of this year's conference is illustrated by the diversity of the four keynote speakers. 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.

Once again, the conference will be held in Sydney's recently upgraded Town Hall. “We are deeply grateful to the City of Sydney for serving as the major sponsor for this event” says Dr Bringolf. “Likewise, we appreciate the sponsorship we have received from the NSW State Government as well as the support we've had from a number of key players in government, housing and access sectors.”

This year's conference will benefit people from a wide range of disciplines. It 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](http://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.

**End**

