Indigenous yarning circle to be front and centre at the Australian Public Health Conference

After the success of the yarning circle at the 2017 World Congress on Public Health, this year’s Australian Public Health Conference will also feature an Indigenous yarning circle.

The yarning circle is a place for Indigenous and non-Indigenous allies to come and listen, network and yarn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

While there are no formal presentations, Elders will be invited to share their knowledge. Additionally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander presenters will have been encouraged to continue conversations at lunchtime. At other times, people are welcome to sit and connect.

Ms Summer May Finlay, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Vice President of the PHAA, along with Dr Michael Doyle and Dr Yvonne Luxford, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Special Interest Co-Conveners believe the yarning circle is an essential aspect of the conference.

“The yarning circle ensures that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as the First Peoples of Australia, are taking their rightful place at the conference,” said Ms Finlay.

Dr Doyle will be at the Conference, and at lunch time will be the host of the yarning circle on behalf of the PHAA.

“As Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people we do say ‘WE’ and not ‘I’ as we learn through sharing our stories with each other. We can support one another and draw on our collective strengths. We look forward to meeting you in the yarning circle,” said Dr Doyle.

A yarning circle is a place which privileges Indigenous voices. Non-Indigenous people are asked to listen and reflect.

The conference will be held in Adelaide at the Hilton from Tuesday the 17th to Thursday the 19th of September. This year is the 50th anniversary of the Public Health Association of Australia which hosts the conference. The anniversary is a significant time for Public Health. There have been many gains over the last 50 years; however, more needs to be done, specifically for and by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Early bird registrations close on Sunday the 14th of July so get in quick! For more information about the conference, head to the conference website https://www.austph2019.com.

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