

## **Event Report for AMSA Global Health Conference 2017**

The AMSA Global Health conference was a really good opportunity to engage in contemporary global health issues with like-minded students across Australia. The conference was 4 days long, however, I only attended the weekend (2 day) package. In this time, I felt empowered by the inspirational speakers, learnt how to be a better advocate and strengthened my position and opinion on current health issues.

In particular, I was moved by the presentation on “Partner violence in migrant and refugee populations” by Mr Arman Abrahamzadeh. It made me realise that there are more health-related problems in the refugee and asylum seeker community than what we are led to believe (i.e. the health concerns do not end once we have managed to move people out of detention centres and into communities). Moreover, the personal story of Professor Munjed Al Muderis was also an inspiring moment, whereby I realised how fortunate we are to live in a country with vast opportunities, but yet how naïve we are to the way our country treats some of our most vulnerable members of society. I felt most empowered by Kon Karapanagiotidis from the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. His presentation was an excellent example of how our passion needs to drive our advocacy in order to influence the people around us.

Politics plays an influential role in driving AMSA’s policy focus. It was really engaging to have Senator Richard Di Natale present because he provided a snapshot of the capacity we have as a nation to contribute to foreign aid as well as equip me with political knowledge which helped shape my opinions regarding current global health issues.

Overall, I found this conference to be well organised, with good opportunities for networking with fellow students and members of different associations. The speakers were very inspiring and prompted me to act and advocate for change.

Francesca Sasanelli