

Conference Report for TCSS Grant

Conference attended: Adelaide Global Health Conference 2017

I attended the Adelaide Global Health Conference in August 2017 with the primary goal of nurturing and substantiating my newly discovered passion for public and global health. Like the other delegates, I was awe inspired by the high calibre of guest speakers who not only delivered their respective talks with unrivalled enthusiasm and conviction but also communicated their hopes for change and posed this challenge to us, the next generation of young and zealous doctors.

A broad range of issues pertaining to global health, from difficult social and political issues to the know-hows of working in the global health field, were broached. Keynote speakers included human rights activist and Associate Professor Munjed al Muderis, ASRC's CEO Mr Kon Karapangiotidis, Professor Mick Dodson, feminist and writer Clementine Ford, anthropologist Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Associate Professor Anthony Langlois, Father Rod Bower the Rector of Gosford, MSF President Dr Stewart Condon, Greens Party leader Senator Richard Di Natale, Former Justice High Court of Australia Honourable Michael Kirby, Professor Nick Anstey of the London Hygiene School of Tropical Medicine, Tobacco control NHMRC researcher Dr Becky Freeman, Australian Health Policy Collaboration director Professor Rosemary Calder, Exit International Dr Philip Nitschke, Sight for All Dr James Muecke and Professor Fran Baum.

Whilst I was moved by all the keynote speakers, I was particularly inspired by Ms Khadija Gbla the executive director of No Female Genital Mutilation Australia. Her talk was extremely funny and entertaining despite FGM being an outdated and misogynistic cultural practice that violates human rights with serious physical health consequences, in Australia and worldwide. She really advocated for victims of FGM and gave us useful advice and practical tips on how to care for women with FGM. "Check your language, educational and race privilege. Do not make assumptions. Do not go on a feminist rant. Be respectful and treat the human being, taking in all the disadvantages. Check your body language, it is not a freak show, it is something traumatic and we need to keep our responses in check."

The 2017 Adelaide Global Health Conference aimed to inspire, empower and create change in their delegates and I dare say they did a spectacular job. I came to be inspired, to gain more knowledge on global issues and to learn how to be a voice of change and I definitely left the conference with all that and even better, a vision.