



"Meye" by Amunda Gorey

Best start to life: a national gathering

Utilising the RISE Framework to
implement Birthing Services for
First Nations Families

10 – 12 October 2022
Mparntwe, Alice Springs
Northern Territory



AN INVITATION FROM THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The Molly Wardaguga Research Centre (MWRC) and Central Australian Aboriginal Congress are proud to co-host the Best start to life: a national gathering - Utilising the RISE Framework to implement Birthing Services for First Nations Families, from the 10th- 12th October 2022 in Mparntwe, Alice Springs.

You are cordially invited to join First Nations community representatives, researchers, health service providers, policy advisors and clinicians for this national gathering where we showcase examples of health services that have been designed to make a profound impact on Closing the Gap Target 2: First Nations children are born healthy and strong.

An evening of cultural events and screening of the documentary Djakamirr: Caretakers of Pregnancy and Birth on 10th October will be followed by a two-day conference at the Alice Springs Convention Centre, 11th and 12th October 2022.

The conference provides an opportunity for delegates from across Australia to showcase exemplary models of care, to share new research and ideas, and to network and invest in a shared vision to address inequities in maternal and infant health services and outcomes for First Nations mothers and babies. The first national Birthing on Country conference was held in Mparntwe, Alice Springs, a decade ago. We will explore the progress that has been made against the recommendations of establishing and evaluating exemplar Birthing on Country services in urban, rural, remote and very remote areas. Leading First Nations Community Controlled health services and researchers will be sharing their knowledge and expertise with practical advice on the design and delivery of services that provide the best start to life for First Nations families, in culturally and geographically diverse communities across Australia.

The conference format will incorporate inspiring presentations underpinned by the RISE Framework:

- R** Redesign Birthing Services to meet the needs of First Nations women and their families;
- I** Invest in the First Nation workforce and prepare non-Indigenous colleagues to work in this space;
- S** Strengthen First Nations families; and
- E** Embed Community Engagement, Governance and Control.

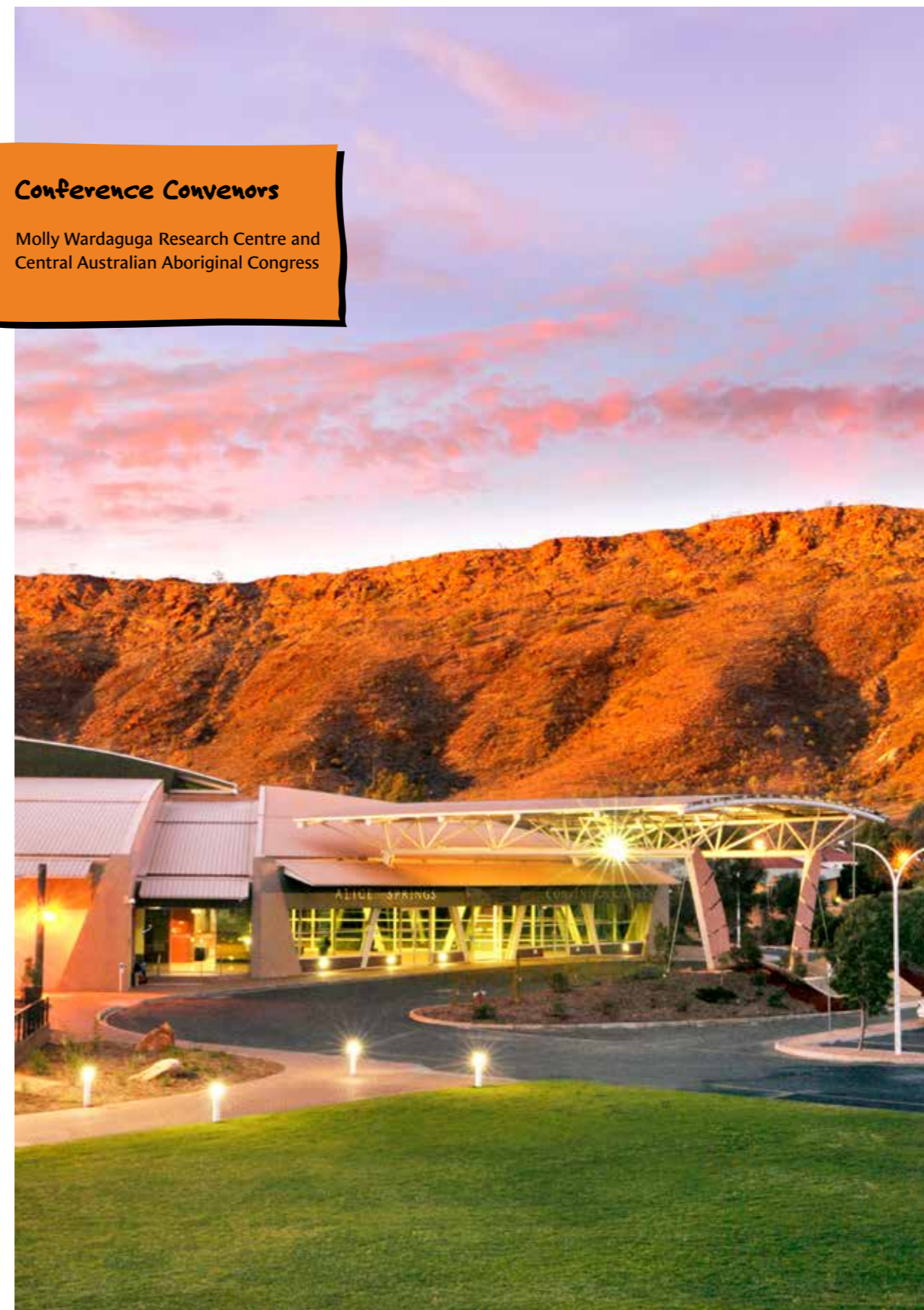
Underpinning the RISE Framework are First Nations concepts of relationality and connection to Country, dreaming and law/lore, holistic understandings of health. Women and culture are at the centre of care that is clinically and culturally safe, and feels safe.

On behalf of the Organising Committee, thank you for your consideration – we look forward to welcoming you to Mparntwe, Alice Springs in October 2022.

- Professor Yvette Roe, Dr Donna Ah Chee and Professor Sue Kildea

Conference Convenors

Molly Wardaguga Research Centre and Central Australian Aboriginal Congress



ABOUT THE HOSTS



Molly Wardaguga Research Centre



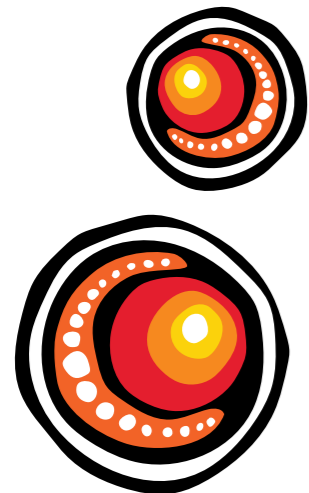
The Molly Wardaguga Research Centre, in the College of Nursing and Midwifery at Charles Darwin University, was established in 2019 in honour of Burarra Elder and midwife Molly Wardaguga. Molly worked extensively to improve health outcomes, with a vision of returning birthing services to First Nations communities and First Nations control. Centre co-directors, Professor Yvette Roe and Professor Sue Kildea are internationally recognised as leaders in health services research in midwifery, culturally responsive models of care and maternity service redesign.

The vision of the Centre is to be internationally recognised leaders in innovative and transformative research, evaluation, education, and support for the best start in life across the first 2,000 days (conception to age 5). Our translational research agenda in Australia aims to make a significant impact on Closing the Gap between First Nations and other Australians maternal and child, health and education outcomes, in particular: Target 2: First Nations children are born healthy and strong. Working side-by-side with communities, we undertake joint funding applications, lobbying and membership on committees to drive innovation and reform. Local employment, training and education are all key goals for program implementation and conducting research.

To respond to our First Nations industry partners' aspirations, we have assembled a multidisciplinary team of experts from across Australia to showcase best practice in health service delivery across the first 2,000 days (pregnancy to age five).

CDU's Molly Wardaguga Research Centre is part of an international social justice movement to redress the negative impact of colonisation and return childbirth services to First Nations communities and First Nations control; often referred to as 'Birthing on Country'. Our intention is to facilitate urgent and immediate change to address systemic racism and catalyse generational change for First Nations people.

- Co-directors, Professor Sue Kildea and Professor Yvette Roe



Central Australian Aboriginal Congress

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (Congress) is a large Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service (ACCHS) based in Alice Springs. We are one of the most experienced organisations in the country in Aboriginal health, a national leader in primary health care, and a strong advocate for the health of our people.

Congress delivers services to more than 17,000 Aboriginal people living in Alice Springs and remote communities across Central Australia including Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa), Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Wallace Rockhole, Utju (Areyonga), Mutitjulu and Amoonguna.

Congress' Alukura Women's Health Service was established in 1987 following a comprehensive consultation with several hundred Aboriginal women on their ancestral lands across 60 Aboriginal communities and 11 language groups in Central Australia. Consultations discussed traditional grandmother's law and birthing practices as well as the western birthing and medicine approach with Aboriginal women opting for their own birthing service.

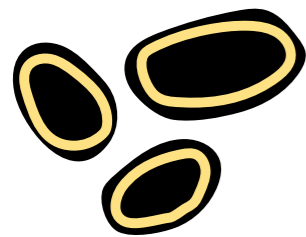
Alukura women's health services continue to be guided predominately by traditional Aboriginal grandmothers. Congress Alukura aims to preserve and recognise Aboriginal identity, culture, law and languages as they relate to birthing, pregnancy, childbirth and the care of Aboriginal women and our babies, while ensuring access to high quality comprehensive primary health care for the best start to life for First Nations families.

- CEO Dr Donna Ah Chee



BACKGROUND TO THE EVENT

“Birthing on Country recognises that when women give birth in Australia (in hospitals, birth centres, communities or at home), they are doing so on the sovereign lands of the First Peoples of Australia who have never ceded ownership of their land, seas and sky.”



Best start to life for First Nations families: a national gathering is an initiative of the Molly Wardaguga Research Centre and the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress. It follows on from the Birthing on Country meeting, held in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) 10 years ago, where the Australian Maternity Services Inter-jurisdictional Committee, in collaboration with the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, held the first national Birthing on Country Workshop to progress Australian Government commitment to establishing Birthing on Country services to improve birth outcomes for First Nations women and babies.

Birthing on Country is a metaphor for the best start in life for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies and their families, an appropriate transition to motherhood and parenting for women and an integrated, holistic and culturally appropriate model of care for all.

Birthing on Country Services are maternity services designed and delivered for First Nations women that encompass some or all of the following elements:

- Are community based and governed
- Allow for incorporation of traditional practice
- Involve a connection with land and country
- Incorporate a holistic definition of health
- Value Indigenous and non-Indigenous ways of knowing and learning; risk assessment and service delivery
- Are culturally competent and
- Are developed by, or with, Indigenous people.

The 2022 *Best start to life: a national gathering - Utilising the RISE Framework to implement Birthing Services* will again bring together representatives from First Nations communities, Aboriginal controlled-health services, research institutes, universities, and health services from across Australia, to discuss best practice in birthing services and determine the next steps to ensure the best start to life for First Nations families.

REACH OF EXPOSURE

This conference will expose your organisation to over 180 individuals and numerous agencies focused on delivering positive health outcomes for First Nations women and their families.

The gathering will kick off at the Charles Darwin University Mparntwe, Alice Springs Campus on the afternoon of Monday 10th October, with welcome events followed by a screening of the documentary Djakamirr: Caretaker of pregnancy and birth.

This will be followed by two days (11th and 12th October) of plenary sessions and workshops that will bring the voices of First Nations leaders and community representatives, researchers and clinicians together to set the agenda for the next ten years.

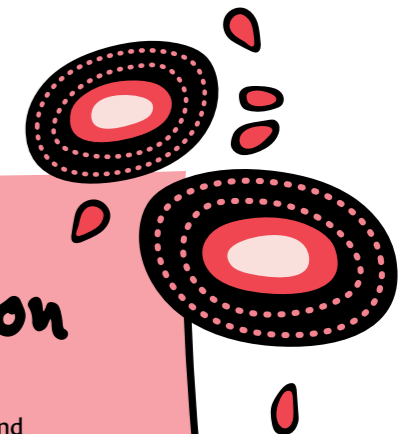
Our Host Destination

Mparntwe's (Alice Springs') wide open spaces and clear skies give you the freedom to think bigger than ever before. The region inspires feelings of unlimited potential.

Located at the foot of the iconic MacDonnell Ranges, the Alice Springs Convention Centre provides an authentic outback experience coupled with high quality business events infrastructure.

Catering for conferences and business events, Mparntwe (Alice Springs) offers a range of accommodation and a diverse selection of off-site venues against a backdrop of iconic landscapes.

Mparntwe (Alice Springs) allows conference delegates to develop a much deeper understanding of Central Australian Aboriginal culture, through award-winning tours and workshops showcasing local art, stories and traditional practices.



SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

The conference, with approximately 180 focused delegates, will provide you with an unmatched opportunity to:

- Align your organisation to an environment where delegates are keen to absorb new information and learn more about issues that impact maternity service for First Nations mothers and babies
- Maintain a high profile within the conference's specialist audience both prior to and during the conference
- Network with past, present and future researchers, allied health professionals and government delegates in an invigorating and inspirational environment
- Heighten your organisation's profile and commitment to First Nations health and wellbeing, particularly birthing services

The organising committee has determined that sponsorship of the conference is an appropriate method of raising funds, not for commercial benefit, but for the purposes of:

- Keeping registration costs to a minimum to attract maximum attendance
- Enhancing the conference program
- Enabling attendees from remote parts of Australia to attend the conference without financial impediments



Major Sponsor \$20,000 and over + GST

Our Major Sponsors are partners in the successful outcomes of the conference and we will work alongside you to maximise the benefits to your organisation.

As a Major Sponsor, you will receive:

- Recognition as a Major Sponsor with the inclusion of your logo and a 50-word description of your organisation on the conference website and in the conference information booklet
- Acknowledgement as a Platinum Sponsor at each plenary session and social event of the conference
- The opportunity to be welcomed to the stage to speak to delegates at the conference dinner
- The opportunity to meet one to one with delegates from community sites undertaking major reform of services.
- Prominent display of your logo on the opening screen at all sessions throughout the conference
- A link to your organisation's website on the conference website
- A site at the conference centre where you may establish a 3mx3m display
- The opportunity to place your organisation's banner in a prominent space at the conference
- The opportunity to provide materials for inclusion in the delegate satchels
- Two conference delegate registrations inclusive of all social functions including the welcome event and conference dinner
- Editorial provided by the conference organisers that your organisation can use for its own internal or external communications

Platinum Sponsor \$15,000 + GST

Platinum sponsors are making a key investment into the conference and its goals. Sponsors in this category will be recognised for their significant support throughout the conference.

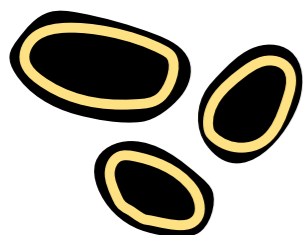
As a Platinum Sponsor, you will receive:

- Recognition as a Platinum Sponsor with the inclusion of your logo and a 50-word description of your organisation on the conference website and in the conference information booklet
- Acknowledgement as a Platinum Sponsor at each plenary session and social event of the conference
- Prominent display of your logo on the opening screen at all sessions throughout the conference
- A link to your organisation's website on the conference website
- A site at the conference centre where you may establish a 3mx3m display
- The opportunity to place your organisation's banner in a prominent space at the conference
- The opportunity to provide materials for inclusion in the delegate satchels
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- Editorial provided by the conference organisers that your organisation can use for its own internal or external communications

Gold Sponsor

\$10,000 + GST

Gold sponsorship allows you to value-add to your conference exhibition with a range of branding and promotional benefits.



As a Gold Sponsor you will receive:

- Recognition as a Gold Sponsor with the inclusion of your logo and a 30-word description of your organisation on the conference website and in the conference information booklet
- Acknowledgement as a Gold Sponsor at each plenary session and social event of the conference
- Prominent display of your logo on the opening screen at all sessions throughout the conference
- A site at the conference centre where you may establish a 3m x 3m display
- The opportunity to place your organisation's banner in a prominent space at the conference
- The opportunity to provide materials for inclusion in the delegate satchels
- Two delegate registrations for the welcome event and the conference dinner
- Editorial provided by the conference organisers that your organisation can use for its own internal or external communications

Silver Sponsor

\$5,000 + GST

Silver sponsorship allows your organisation to engage and network with delegates over the duration of the conference.

As a Silver Sponsor you will receive:

- Recognition as a Silver Sponsor with the inclusion of your logo on the conference website and in the conference information booklet
- Prominent display of your logo on the opening screen at all sessions throughout the conference
- A site at the conference centre where you may establish a 3m x 3m display
- The opportunity to place your organisation's banner in a prominent space at the conference
- The opportunity to provide materials for inclusion in the delegate satchels
- Two delegate registrations for the conference dinner
- Editorial provided by the conference organisers that your organisation can use for its own internal or external communications

SOCIAL & CULTURAL EVENT PARTNERSHIPS



Conference Dinner Partner

\$10,000 + GST

Becoming a Social Function Sponsor (Welcome Function or Conference Dinner) provides your organisation the opportunity to value-add to our conference by subsidising the cost for delegates to attend functions, while providing you recognition and exposure prior to and during the conference

As the Conference Dinner Partner, you'll receive:

- Recognition as the Conference Dinner Partner, with the inclusion of your logo and a 50-word description of your organisation on the conference website and in the conference information booklet
- The opportunity to be welcomed to the stage to speak to delegates at the conference dinner
- Prominent display of your logo on the opening screen at all sessions throughout the conference and at the conference dinner
- A link to your organisation's website on the conference website
- A site at the conference centre where you may establish a 3m x 3m display
- The opportunity to place your organisation's banner in a prominent space at the conference
- The opportunity to provide materials for inclusion in the delegate satchels
- Two conference delegate registrations inclusive of all social functions including the welcome event and conference dinner
- Editorial provided by the conference organisers that your organisation can use for its own internal or external communications

Welcome Event Partner

\$5,000 + GST

A prestigious branding opportunity for your organisation to be associated with a leader in your field of work with a session and/or keynote relevant to your organisation.



As the Welcome Event Partner you will receive:

- Recognition as an Event Partner with the inclusion of your logo on the conference website and in the conference information booklet
- Prominent display of your logo on the opening screen at all sessions throughout the conference
- A site at the conference centre where you may establish a 3mx3m display
- The opportunity to place your organisation's banner in a prominent space at the conference
- The opportunity to provide materials for inclusion in the delegate satchels
- Two delegate registrations for the welcome event and conference dinner
- Editorial provided by the conference organisers that your organisation can use for its own internal or external communications

Delegate Attendance Partner

\$3,000 + GST

We look forward to welcoming conference delegates from some of the most remote places of Australia. It is critical that delegates from these places are able to engage in and contribute to the shaping of the Birthing on Country agenda for the future. We welcome sponsorship that will provide for travel and accommodation for individuals who otherwise might be unable to attend the conference.

As a Delegate Attendance Partner you will receive:

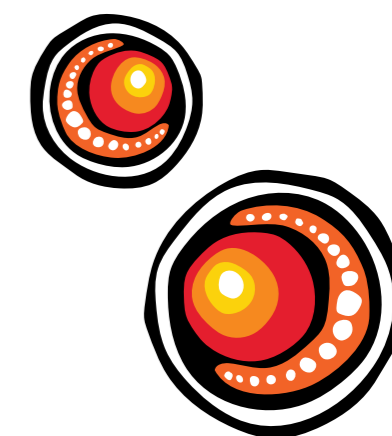
- Recognition as a Delegate Attendance Partner with the inclusion of your logo on the conference website and in the conference information booklet
- Prominent display of your logo on the opening screen at all sessions throughout the conference
- A site at the conference centre where you may establish a 3mx3m display
- The opportunity to place your organisation's banner in a prominent space at the conference
- The opportunity to provide materials for inclusion in the delegate satchels
- Two delegate registrations for the welcome event or conference dinner
- Editorial provided by the conference organisers that your organisation can use for its own internal or external communications

Speaker Attendance Support Partner

\$3,000 + GST

There are some excellent speakers presenting at the conference. As a Speaker Attendance Support Partner you will receive:

- Recognition as a Business Breakfast Partner with the inclusion of your logo on the conference website and in the conference information booklet
- Prominent display of your logo on the opening screen at all sessions throughout the conference
- A site at the conference centre where you may establish a 3mx3m display
- The opportunity to place your organisation's banner in a prominent space at the conference
- The opportunity to provide materials for inclusion in the delegate satchels
- Two delegate registrations for the business breakfast and welcome event
- Editorial provided by the conference organisers that your organisation can use for its own internal or external communications



Sponsorship Form

Please complete this form and retain a copy for your records. Once completed, please scan and email this form to: contact@beststarttolifeconference.com

ORGANISATION INFORMATION

Title: Name:

Position: Company/Organisation:

Business Phone: Mobile Phone:

Email:

PARTNERSHIP OPTIONS

Item	Quantity	Value	Sponsorship Value
Major Sponsor	<input type="text"/>	\$20,000 or more	<input type="text"/>
Platinum Sponsor	<input type="text"/>	\$15,000	<input type="text"/>
Gold Sponsor	<input type="text"/>	\$10,000	<input type="text"/>
Silver Sponsor	<input type="text"/>	\$5,000	<input type="text"/>
Conference Dinner	<input type="text"/>	\$10,000	<input type="text"/>
Welcome Event	<input type="text"/>	\$5,000	<input type="text"/>
Speaker Attendance	<input type="text"/>	\$3,000	<input type="text"/>
Delegate Attendance	<input type="text"/>	\$3,000	<input type="text"/>
Other Contribution	<input type="text"/>		

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ALL potential sponsors and exhibitors are asked to take into consideration Congress and the Molly Wardaguga Research Centre's Philosophy. *Please feel free to donate a smaller amount. Acknowledgement of your generous contribution to the conference will be made in the Program and Conference report

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

Cancellations must be submitted in writing to the Conference Secretariat via email at contact@beststarttolifeconference.com. Cancellations made before 9/9/2022 will be refunded 100% of the fee paid. Cancellations made on or before 30/9/2022 will receive a 50% refund of fee paid. Cancellations made after the 30/9/2022 will not receive a refund of fees paid.

Please direct any enquiries to contact@beststarttolifeconference.com



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