



18 March 2021

The Show Must Go On

Cystic Fibrosis Australia (CFA) hosted the inaugural Australasian Cystic Fibrosis Conference (ACFC) in Sydney in 1994 and every event since has been a major hit. We had a plan to hold the 14th ACFC in Hobart, Tasmania, in 2021 – but alas, COVID-19 has turned the world on its head.

Despite our seeming vulnerabilities, the CF Community has weathered the pandemic. CFA is keen to maintain the well-being of our people and eliminate any unnecessary risks even after a vaccine is available.

So here is the situation in a nutshell:

1. Coronavirus has not been eradicated
2. The vaccine rollout will not be complete by August 2021
3. Ad hoc border closures, travel restrictions and quarantine make planning difficult
4. Our survey showed general uncertainty and a reticence to travel by the CF communities.

But our Conference, much like the proverbial 'Show', MUST GO ON!

The New Plan for the Conference is very exciting. We have an outstanding array of speakers confirmed and all sessions will be available for viewing on Consumer Connect. Both the Lay and Medical Conferences will be held concurrently on 7th and 8th August 2021. The two conferences will come together virtually on Sunday 8th August for three hours of outstanding Plenary presentations.

The Medical Conference will be live streamed and uploaded on Consumer Connect. However, there will also be a smaller 'COVID-19 Safe' face to face Conference and Industry Expo in Sydney for those wishing to network and catch up with colleagues.

Registration for the online Medical Conference is \$175 and people can view both Lay & Medical Conferences online for \$250. All Medical and Lay sessions will be FOC in November 2021.

For those attending the Medical Conference in person, the following costs apply. This includes morning and afternoon tea, lunch, one breakfast, the Sunday Night Drinks Party and digital access.

1. \$280 (PhDs & Masters)
2. \$400 (researchers, nurses and allied health)
3. \$550 (medical and industry)

Over the next few weeks CFA will share more Conference details and we will announce the opening of Conference Registrations shortly. This reconfiguration of the ACFC has been a massive juggling act however we are confident that the integrity of the Conference and the safety of the CF Community have been maintained. CFA looks forward to seeing you online or in situ in August 2021. Come along, get excited and be a part of CFA's New Conference Plan.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nettie Burke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nettie Burke
CEO, Cystic Fibrosis Australia