

Media Release

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Global Nephrology Congress to give Melbourne's Knowledge Economy a Boost

Minister for Tourism and Major Events John Eren today announced that Melbourne has been chosen to host the prestigious World Congress of Nephrology in 2019 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC).

Minister Eren said the Congress is the most significant conference in the world for global kidney health and a significant victory for Melbourne and Victoria.

"Melbourne is always high on the list of locations for the big conferences worldwide, because we do them so well.

"This doesn't just put us on the world stage, it contributes to our economy too. Conference delegates spend up to six times as much as holidaymakers, so these events are extremely important," Mr Eren said.

Karen Bolinger, Chief Executive Officer of the Melbourne Convention Bureau, which facilitated the bid process, said Melbourne's winning bid was a demonstration of the MCB's 'Team Melbourne' philosophy.

"Unique to our bid process is the collaboration and unified approach between the Bureau, government, associations and industry partners.

"As a result of this collaboration we were able to deliver a bid proposition which aligned to the International Society of Nephrology's global objectives.

"The City of Melbourne with support from Kidney Health Australia will see an active kidney health public screening and awareness campaign across the city centre during the congress, ensuring a health outcome with a lasting legacy for our local community. The conference will also have a focus on educating neighbouring developing nations."

Ms Bolinger said that securing the bid would not have been possible without support from Melbourne's medical sector, including world leaders from Monash Health and St Vincent's Hospital with support from all major Nephrology units across Australia and New Zealand.

Lord Mayor, Robert Doyle, said Melbourne has the deserved reputation as the knowledge capital with a global reputation for innovation in medical and research facilities.

"As the world's most liveable city for five years running, Melbourne is the ideal location for international conferences of this calibre," Cr Doyle said.

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Luca Segantini, Executive Director of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN), said he and his colleagues from the global Nephrology sector were looking forward to holding the congress in Melbourne.

“Melbourne is a great city for conferences because it’s an exciting city for delegates, it provides an ideal environment for networking and scientifically it has a great hub of medical facilities, research and innovation - everything our delegates need to have a productive experience at the World Congress of Nephrology.”

Peter King, MCEC’s Chief Executive said “We look forward to welcoming the world’s knowledge leaders in Nephrology. MCEC’s track record in delivering major international medical conferences is second to none. We pride ourselves on providing the best platform for delegates to share knowledge and create lasting legacies.”

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