

## LivingWorks showcased on global suicide prevention stage

News item - September 21st

LivingWorks' programs will be showcased on the global stage during the 31st International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) World Congress this week (September 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>).

Our LivingWorks Australia CEO, Shayne Connell, will speak at the opening ceremony which includes among others the Prime Minister Scott Morrison, IASP President Prof Rory O'Conner, Beyond Blue Chair Julia Gillard, and National Mental Health Commission CEO and Special Suicide Prevention Advisor to the Prime Minister Christine Morgan.

The Congress is being held virtually for the first time, with the lived experience of suicide, COVID-19, loneliness and disconnectedness and youth suicide, all being highlighted as key focal points for delegates.

The Congress couldn't be timelier with it being a critical time internationally as we continue to tackle COVID-19. The event aims to further solutions that ensure suicide prevention plays a vital role in the global recovery from pandemic and increasing support for those who are most vulnerable.

"It's fitting then, that as Major Sponsors, we chose to support the Keynote panel presentation on COVID-19 (Thursday 6pm), which will see Professor David Gunnell, who has represented IASP with the WHO Covid19 response team, outline the global research priorities for the next 12 to 18 months," said Shayne

LivingWorks is also proud to support to support 10 Indigenous Bursaries, he added.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

**We have been able to award over 190 bursaries for people to attend the IASP 31st World Congress**

Indigenous LGBTQI Veterans Youth Indigenous Carer

Early Career Researcher Student CALD Mature Remote/Regional

Australian Government National Mental Health Commission Beyond Blue ory gen gold coast convention and exhibition centre LIVINGWORKS Griffith UNIVERSITY Queensland Australia

For the opening ceremony, Shayne will say: "We're so proud to be a major sponsor of IASP World Congress and to be surrounded by people who are working towards a common goal – saving lives through preventing suicide.

"There's no denying, the past year and a half has been incredibly difficult. Across the globe the Coronavirus Pandemic has impacted social connectedness, financial security, relationships, work,



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school, and parenting – all of which create meaning and purpose in people’s lives and protect them from suicidal thoughts and behaviours.

“The increase in psychological distress and self-harm is significant, particularly among young people, and in many countries emergency departments and helplines are being stretched.

“It’s clear, there is both an immediate and long term need to train more people in our communities with the skills to identify when someone is thinking of suicide and respond to keep them safe and connect them to care,” he said.

LivingWorks program activities, include:

### Tuesday:

- **IASP Opening Ceremony** (3pm) Shayne Connell.

### Wednesday:

- **Symposium** (11am): workplaces and male suicide – Shayne Connell: Fortem Aus./Mates/Open Arms.
- **Oral Presentation** Livingworks Faith (11am) Tegan Jones and Glen Bloomstrom.
- Prof Maree Toombs will be chairing an Indigenous session A (11am).
- **Oral Presentation** (1.30pm) LivingWorks Start #SkillsSaveLives Covid19 Marc Bryant.

### Thursday:

- Prof Maree Toombs chairing an Indigenous session B (9am).
- **Workshop – safeTALK** (9am) Jorgen Gullestrup, Renee Tsatsis, Belinda Connell, Lorna Hirsch, Robyn Lawrence, Glenn Holmes.
- **Oral Presentation** (3.30pm) LivingWorks Schools Lindy Macgregor.
- **Keynote** (6pm): Loneliness & Disconnectedness - Prof Marie Toombs I-ASIST.
- **Keynote** (6pm): COVID-19 Prof David Gunnell (*Sponsored by LivingWorks*).

### Friday:

- **Oral Presentation** (11am) NSW Towards Zero Suicide Marc Bryant.
- **Oral Presentation** (1.30pm) Veteran suicide Shayne Connell.
- **IASP MC** (whole day) Marc Bryant.

### Throughout the Congress:

- **Posters: LivingWorks LGBTBIQ** co-design and **LivingWorks Start** an introduction.
- **LivingWorks Virtual Booth** - all the Australia team.
- **IASP Communications and Media Booth** Niff Howard.

“I hope you get the most out of next few days of the IASP World Congress. I’m personally looking forward to engaging with old colleagues across the sector and meeting new ones and learning more



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about how together with can reduce the prevalence and incidents of suicide across the globe. Enjoy the conference and thank you.”

For more information

- visit: <https://www.iasp.info/goldcoast2021/>
- For the full detailed program: <https://www.iasp.info/goldcoast2021/programme/>

The following website provides details of Crisis Centres around the globe: [https://www.iasp.info/resources/Crisis\\_Centres/](https://www.iasp.info/resources/Crisis_Centres/)

- [Aus. Lifeline 13 11 14](#)
- [Beyond Blue 1300 224 636](#)
- Kids Helpline 1800 551 80

