Down Syndrome Australia to Host the World Down Syndrome Congress in Brisbane in 2022.

We are pleased to announce that after a competitive bidding process, Down Syndrome Australia has been selected by Down Syndrome International to host the 2022 World Down Syndrome Congress in Brisbane.

This international conference brings together people with Down syndrome, family members, researchers and service providers to showcase the latest research and best practice as well as the lived experience of Down syndrome from around the world. The Congress will continue to support the ongoing agenda of Down Syndrome International to improve quality of life for people with Down syndrome worldwide and promote their inherent right to be accepted and included as valued and equal members of their communities.

Angus Graham OAM, Chair of DSA said: “We are honoured that Down Syndrome International has selected Down Syndrome Australia to host the 2022 World Down Syndrome Congress in Brisbane. Hosting the Congress in Brisbane will create opportunities for inclusiveness, learning and community on a scale rarely seen by people with Down syndrome in the Southern Hemisphere.”

Down Syndrome International noted “We received an outstanding bid from Down Syndrome Australia and it was agreed that it will be of substantial benefit for the WDSC to visit Australia in 2022.”

Minister for Social Services, Christian Porter said “It is a privilege for Australia to be hosting this important conference and contributing to the global discussion on how people with Down syndrome can be empowered and supported to reach their full potential. I congratulate Down Syndrome Australia for their success in developing a competitive bid for the conference.”

Queensland Disability Services Minister Coralee O’Rourke said, “By 2022, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will be fully operational in Queensland, and will see the birth of new initiatives, technologies and services that will better support people with Down syndrome.

“The 2022 World Down Syndrome Congress will be crucial in bringing together family members, researchers and service providers to discuss the opportunities created in this new landscape. This will be an exciting time for Queenslanders with Down syndrome, their families and carers, as we join together to pave the way for a brighter future.”

Queensland Minister for Tourism and Major Events Kate Jones said the 2022 World Down Syndrome Congress was a great opportunity to bring visitors from around the world to Brisbane to engage in meaningful discussion around Down Syndrome.

“We are proud to host this important congress which provides a voice for people with Down Syndrome and provide support through Tourism and Events Queensland,” Ms Jones said.

“Business events such as this showcase our state and are an important drawcard for domestic and international visitors, who contribute significantly to our tourism economy.”

Down Syndrome Australia would like to thank our supporters and partners in the bid for the Congress including the Queensland Government, the Brisbane Convention Centre, Qantas, and the University of Queensland Centre for Intellectual Development and Disability.

The World Down Syndrome Congress takes place once every 2 years. WDSC 2018 will be held in Glasgow Scotland, followed by WDSC 2020 in Dubai, United Emirates, and WDSC 2022 in Brisbane.

Further WDSC 2022 announcements will be made in due course. For further information about the World Down Syndrome Congress, please visit www.ds-int.org/world-down-syndrome-congress. For more information on Down’s Syndrome Australia visit www.downsyndrome.org.au.