

## 2019 BIEN Conference - Australia

### *Universal Basic Income: Road to Economic Security and Alternative Social Futures?*

#### **Description**

There is a critical reason why holding a BIEN congress in Australia makes sense! Australia is at a pivotal point in time for progressing to the implementation of a universal basic income (UBI). If successful, this would be the first time BIEN Congress will be held in Australia. There is growing interest in UBI in Australia and having international experts in Australia will help advance the political discussion and debate. Progressing UBI in our region is contingent upon holding such large-scale events and attracting media and political coverage. Our 2019 congress would further ideas on transitioning to a basic income scheme and co-create a vision for economic and social security and building sustainable prosperity. This is a joint proposal by BIEN Australia (BIGA) and The University of Queensland and The Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Qld, Australia.

#### **Description of Event**

The congress event would comprise: Congress sessions (invited keynotes plenary sessions; parallel sessions, series of parallel workshops (basic income transitions, strategies and activism), and on the final day the BIEN General Assembly. Delegates can also experience organised local visits to sites of interest, film screenings documentary and debate and basic income events. The congress will be pre-ceded by a pre-congress UBI day to inspire momentum and visioning toward the congress.

#### **Venue**

The congress will be held in Brisbane at the University of Queensland (UQ), St Lucia, and the dinner at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT, Gardens Point, City Campus). UQ has confirmed its commitment to supplying the Congress with lecture rooms of varying sizes including larger rooms with a capacity up to 300 people and other relevant facilities. The venue is close to public transport, accommodation, and cafes and restaurants. UQ is one of Australia's oldest leading research and teaching institutions. UQ is located in St Lucia, approximately 10 minutes from the city centre. QUT is a major Australian university with a global outlook and a real-world focus. QUT is located in the heart of Brisbane city and directly opposite Southbank. Both universities offer state-of-the-art campuses with rooms housing digital technology and space to accommodate conference delegates. Brisbane has an international and domestic airport and is a relatively affordable conference destination.

#### **Proposed dates:**

- Option 1: July 15-07-19 to 17-07-2019 (mid-year break, coincides summer break European universities, Winter in Australia) *or*
- Option 2: September 24-09-19 to 27-09-19 (mid semester break, Spring in Australia).

**Funding arrangements:** Queensland University of Technology has confirmed its co-partnership role with the University of Queensland in delivering a quality Congress. The University of Queensland has agreed to provide rooms for the conference and to contribute \$10000 to support the conference. Other funding from key partners will be sought.

**Committees:** The lead organisers will form an executive organising committee and sub-committees (academic committee, partner committees) to oversee event management and the smooth running of the congress. Likely partners include Futures Foundation, RSA, The Catalyst Network, and The Greens Institute. Other partners and sponsors will be sought.

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