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 2020 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 preceded 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 form 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: June 29-06-2020 to 17-07-2020 (mid-year break, coincides summer break
  European universities, Winter in Australia) or
• Option 2: September 24-09-2020 to 2-10-2020 (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
$10-$20k 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, The Catalyst
Network, and The Greens Institute. Other partners and sponsors will be sought.

Contact details: Greg Marston, Coordinator BIEN Australia, Co-Coordinator of BIGA
(Basic Income Guarantee Australia), Professor of Social Policy, The University of
Queensland, g.marston@uq.edu.au; and Dr Jennifer Mays, Senior Lecturer, School of Public
Health and Social Work, QUT, Co-Coordinator BIGA. j.mays@qut.edu.au