



In Far North Queensland

NARSA

National Association for Rural Student Accommodation Inc

presents its

16th National Conference and Training Forum

in conjunction with

IBISS

Indigenous Boarding in Secondary Schools

Tuesday 6th – Friday 9th July 2010

Conference Venue:

The Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort
122 Lake Street
Cairns QLD 4870

www.novotelcairnsresort.com.au



Invitation to attend the NARSA / IBISS Joint National Conference 2010

Following on the highly successful conference in Hobart in 2009, this year NARSA will be venturing for the very first time into Far North Queensland. The venue chosen for Conference 2010 is the beautiful and popular tourist city of Cairns, where our accommodation has been booked at the Novotel Oasis Resort.

NARSA and IBISS both support hostels and residential colleges that provide for students from rural and remote areas who board away from home to attend schools that cater for their educational needs.

The focus of NARSA is the provision of training and support. This training is provided in the workplace, at the regional level and at national conferences. The support includes the sharing of policies and practice, and working in close liaison with other organisations (e.g. Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations [DEEWR]; Aboriginal Hostels Ltd [AHL]; the Isolated Children's Parents' Association [ICPA]; the Country Women's Association [CWA]).

Since 2000 Aboriginal Hostels Limited has been generous in its sponsorship of NARSA conferences and we thank them for their contributions.

Each year we endeavour to engage new presenters who will add their distinctive approach to the issues that constantly face all those dedicated staff members who attend Conferences such as this one. Presentations by this year's speakers are guaranteed to provide the usual first-class information, ideas, support and hope to staff who are striving to offer "best practice" to the students in their care.

Who will be on the Agenda?

- The NARSA Executive has engaged Ken Warren to be the Conference keynote speaker on Thursday 8th July. Ken is Australia's leading speaker on dealing with demanding, aggressive and unmotivated people. His background includes 24 years experience counselling students with extreme behaviour problems, people with alcohol and drug-related problems, and aggressive and violent individuals. He also understands the challenges of managing teams, having done so in the health, welfare and business sectors.

Ken says if you do challenging work, then you need to be taking excellent care of yourself. Two of the ways we do so, he says, is by having positive and supportive relationships with our co-workers, and our individual responses to workplace challenges. Ken will explore both of these areas in his two presentations, 'Grow Your Team - Working with Strengths' and 'Staying Sane in Challenging Workplaces'.

- The extremely relevant topic of drugs and alcohol will be addressed on Tuesday 6th July in two sessions presented by Mr Paul Dillon. Paul has been working in the area of drug education for the past 25 years. For the past 16 years he has worked at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Sydney, where his key role was to disseminate research findings to policy makers, drug and alcohol workers and the general public. Through his own business, Drug and Alcohol Research and Training Australia (DARTA) Paul has been contracted by many agencies and organisations across the country to give regular updates on current drug trends within the community. He has also worked with many school communities to ensure that they have access to good quality information and best practice drug education.

As an ex-school teacher, Paul has an interest in working with young people, and regularly provides drug information sessions and workshops to students across the country. He has also just completed a book, *Teenagers, Alcohol and Drugs* which was released nationally in February 2009.



Conference Venue

Accommodation has been reserved at special rates at the Conference venue,
The Novotel Cairns Oasis, 122 Lake Street, Cairns, QLD, 4870

www.novotelcairnsresort.com.au

The special rates can only be accessed by booking through the NARSA Office.

There are two different classes of registration: (1) Day Delegate; (2) Accommodation package.

1. **Day Delegate:** This includes entry to all Conference sessions, morning teas, lunches, afternoon teas; Tuesday evening buffet meal (not including drinks) in the Aqua Bar at the Novotel Oasis; and the Conference dinner, including drinks and entertainment, on Thursday evening at the Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park.
2. **Accommodation Package:** This includes 4 nights' accommodation with full breakfast; morning teas, lunches and afternoon teas; Tuesday evening buffet meal (not including drinks) in the Aqua Bar at the Novotel Oasis; Thursday evening Conference dinner, including drinks and entertainment, at the Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park. **Does not include Monday and Wednesday evening meals.**

- Also on Tuesday we will hear from Ms Jane Taylor, the *MindMatters* QLD State Project Officer. Jane trained as a health and physical education teacher and has worked in schools in a variety of positions including head of department, sports coordinator and health and physical education coordinator. Jane thoroughly enjoys integrating and implementing the *MindMatters* resources, principles and processes across Queensland school communities and empowering people to make a difference.
MindMatters is a national mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention initiative funded by the Department of Health and Ageing. It is a universal approach and aims to build the capacity of secondary schools to enhance the social and emotional wellbeing of students and staff.
- Once again NARSA has endeavoured to present a balanced program combining quality professional speakers with NARSA members who will share some of their 'best practice' methods. At our conference in Hobart last year the practical sessions presented by these members were widely acclaimed by delegates and as a consequence will continue to form part of future conferences.
 - On Tuesday, Mr Don Dixon will host a session on "Workforce Development". Prior to taking up his current position as the Workforce Development Manager with Country High School Hostels Authority in Perth, Don was Manager of Narrogin Residential College for an impressive 24 years. He will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with delegates.
 - Mr Trevor Schubert, NARSA Executive member and Head of Boarding at Swanleigh Residential College in WA, will address delegates on Wednesday morning with his topic "Fine Tuning Boarding". In this session Trevor will talk about making student boarding a better place for all involved by use of the four Cs – Commitment, Communication, Consistency and Competition among students.
 - NARSA Executive member Dr Steve Florisson, Schools' Co-ordinator CAPS, WA, will provide an information session regarding the proposed Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Youth Worker Training Course currently being written by NARSA. This course is being developed specifically for staff employed in student boarding facilities and will be recognised Australia-wide.
 - Another feature of NARSA conferences for some years now has been the visit to a local boarding facility. This year delegates will be bussed to Wangetti TAVEC, an Indigenous Training and Vocational Education College where NARSA Executive member Mr Dan Niemerg is Head of Campus. Located at beautiful Clifton Beach, approx 40 km north of Cairns, and catering for Yrs 8-12 in VET programs, this unique facility is a must to visit.

For those who have not previously been to Cairns, the NARSA Conference provides a perfect opportunity to visit this lovely part of Australia. Come along and see for yourself!





Please complete the official Registration Form included with this brochure. This form is also available on the NARSA website and may be photocopied if necessary. Forward the completed form — **together with the appropriate payment** — to the NARSA Office. Cheques should be made payable to 'NARSA'.

EFT / DIRECT DEBIT to NARSA Inc: (Please quote your Tax Invoice number where applicable)
Bank of South Australia, Crystal Brook. BSB number: 105-046. Account number: 025607940.

Registration Only Day Delegates (4 days)

Includes:

- ◇ Entry to all Conference sessions over the 4 days
- ◇ Lunches and tea breaks during the Conference
- ◇ Delegate information envelope
- ◇ Tuesday evening dinner (not including drinks) at the Novotel Oasis Resort.
- ◇ Wednesday bus trip to Wangetti TAVEC.
- ◇ Conference Dinner and drinks, Thursday, 8th July at the Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park.

Early Bird — Register prior to 30th April: **\$460**

Standard — Register after 30th April: **\$550**

Early Bird Registration may only be claimed if the appropriate amount is received together with the registration form by 30th April.

Delegates who may require entry to the 4 day sessions only and do not wish to attend the two evening dinners can do so at a cost of \$340.

Extra tickets for partners or friends for the Dinner (including drinks and entertainment) on Thursday, 8th July will be available at a cost of \$130.

Contact:

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Registration plus Accommodation at the Novotel Oasis Resort

Includes:

- ◇ 4 nights accommodation with full breakfast
- ◇ Entry to all Conference sessions over the 4 days
- ◇ Lunches and tea breaks during the Conference
- ◇ Delegate information envelope
- ◇ Tuesday evening dinner (not including drinks) at the Novotel Oasis Resort
- ◇ Wednesday bus trip to a local boarding facility
- ◇ Conference Dinner and drinks, Thursday, 8th July at the Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park.

Early Bird — Register prior to 30th April 2010:

Single accommodation **\$1,110** per person

Double share room **\$790** per person

Twin share room **\$790** per person

Standard — Register after 30th April:

Single accommodation **\$1,200** per person

Double share room **\$870** per person

Twin share room **\$870** per person

Registration cancellations made prior to 30th May 2010 will receive a full refund less \$70 to cover administration costs.

Registration cancellations received after 30th May and prior to 15th June 2010 will receive a 50% refund.

Refunds of registration fees will not be made after this date.

Cancellation of accommodation will be at the discretion of The Novotel Oasis Resort.