

# Conference Reflections

## WHAT DID THE DELEGATES SAY?

*'My second conference after Melbourne and the quality has been outstanding, probably the best one yet.'*

*'All sessions well planned, informative and thought-provoking.'*

*'Great topics, well-presented and informative for both professionals and patients. Loved the musculoskeletal as so relevant to all. And the speakers explained so well.'*

*'It is making me feel more connected to people with bleeding disorders. It has also helped me build on my confidence to advocate for my son.'*

*'Dr Happy made me think about developing a "happy goal".'*

*'The titles of the sessions need to be more enticing. On paper it appeared quite boring, in reality the sessions were great.'*

*'As a health care professional, I found hearing the patient stories very motivating but also inspiring that we still need to do better. Opportunity to network is always invaluable professionally.'*

*'Was a fantastic three days, especially learning and meeting the new faces. Highly recommend to anyone thinking about coming to future conferences.'*



## HAEMOPHILIA HEALTH PROFESSIONALS REFLECTED ON THEIR EXPERIENCE AT THE CONFERENCE:

### Conference

I was very lucky to have been able to attend the 19th Australian Conference on haemophilia, VWD and rare bleeding disorders in Sydney. As the Bleeding Disorders Nurse from the Northern Territory, I have always loved attending the HFA conferences, not only to update my knowledge of what is happening in the realm of bleeding disorders, but also to network with other health care professionals, patients and their families alike. The haemophilia conferences are the only medical conferences that I have attended that also invite patients and their families to join in. I think this is what makes the haemophilia community so unique and as a health professional, I find it incredibly inspirational to listen to the stories of patients and their family members.

*Susan Dalkie, Bleeding Disorders Nurse – NT Royal Darwin Hospital*



### Remembrance service

This part of the conference program always moves me. We know that there are many people in our community who have been affected by loss due to a bleeding disorder. This service gives those people a chance to remember and acknowledge the loss of family and friends in our community.

I was touched by the readings, and the reflective space that the service created for all different members of the community to come together and remember. It is a way that we as a community can honour those who have died and those who have lost a significant other.

The bleeding disorders community has lived through a difficult time, and there are many friends and family members who are dearly remembered. As time passes those who remember can feel that others have forgotten. I felt the positive impact of sharing the memory of these people who have passed on.

*Jane Portnoy, Social Worker – Haemophilia The Alfred hospital, Melbourne*