

FAQs

AAIDD Delegation to Australia



What are the dates of the delegation?

The dates of the program in Australia are August 7-14, 2016. Delegates should plan to arrive in Brisbane the morning of Sunday, August 7, which for most delegates from North America will mean beginning their travel on Friday, August 5. The delegation will end in time for the opening reception of the IASSIDD World Congress on August 14. Delegates should plan on departing from Melbourne to their home city following their own plans at the Congress.

What is included in the program fee?

The program fee of \$2,695 single/\$2,095 double occupancy includes all arrangements for professional visits, in-program travel (busses, water ferries, airport transfers, and flights within Australia), lodging at 3-star hotels, local guides and admission to cultural attractions on the itinerary, most meals, and tips.

What is not included in the program fee?

Air travel to Brisbane (arriving August 7) and from Melbourne (departing following the Congress); in-country excess baggage fees; and lodging, meals, registration fees for the Congress are not included. The program fee includes pick up at the airport in Brisbane and transport to Congress-related lodging in Melbourne. Two dinners during the program and pocket money are at delegates' discretion.

When should I plan to arrive in Brisbane?

Delegates should plan to arrive in Brisbane the morning of August 7. Please provide your air travel information to AAIDD so that airport pick up can be arranged.

How do I register and find lodging for the IASSIDD World Congress?

Delegates who plan to attend the Congress must register and make their own lodging arrangements for the Congress. The last hotel night included in the delegation program is August 13; on August 14, transportation to Congress-related lodging in Melbourne will be provided. Information on the Congress is available at <https://www.iassidd.org/conference>

When should I plan to depart from Melbourne?

Delegates should plan their departures around their attendance plans at the IASSIDD World Congress.

Can I bring a guest on this delegation?

The delegation is designed to be a **professional exchange** in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. **All delegates are expected to attend and participate in the program:** no non-participating "traveling companion" (other than personal support staff) will be included. **While delegates may bring a guest, all guests must be at least 18 years old and must fully participate in the program.**

Is a Visa required for this trip?

An **Electronic Travel Authority (ETA; a "tourist visa")** is required for US and Canadian citizens traveling to Australia for this delegation. An ETA is an electronically-stored authority equivalent to a visa and good for 12 months from date of issue. The ETA is electronically linked to your passport number; no stamp or label is placed in your passport. The ETA should be applied for online at least two weeks prior to scheduled travel. All delegates must have a valid passport. If you do not have a passport or your passport is set to expire, you should address the issue prior to departure. The application fee for the ETA is approximately \$10 USD; for more information and to apply for the ETA, visit <https://www.eta.immi.gov.au/ETAS3>.

How strenuous will the trip be?

Each day of the delegation has been structured to provide a full day of group activities. Delegates are informed that public accommodations, historic sites, and walking tours outside the US are typically not optimally accessible to those who have mobility impairments.

The delegation will be based in three cities with travel each day to various destinations, which will necessitate (a) entering/exiting airports, airplanes, water ferries, and motor coaches, and

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(b) traversing uneven ground and sidewalks without curb cuts. **Delegates should expect to climb up to 3 flights of stairs and walk up to 2 miles each day.** Participants should expect self-propelled (“walking”) tours of historic areas will cover uneven ground, cobblestones, and stairs.

How will my health information be treated?

Delegates are asked to disclose health information (conditions, medications, etc.) that the tour leader will have access to for the purpose of assisting medical professionals in the event that you require emergency health care. This information is treated confidentially prior to and during the trip and will be destroyed after.

How should I pack for this trip?

Participants are encouraged to dress “business casual” and wear comfortable walking shoes.

The delegation will span three different climates. In August, the weather is typically warm in Brisbane (70-80s F), moderate in Sydney (60-70s F), and cool in Melbourne (40-50s F). To assure maximum comfort, delegates are encouraged to pack clothing that could be layered in lower temperatures, a jacket, a sun hat, and an umbrella. Laundry services will be available during the delegation.

Delegates are encouraged to bring a voltage converter. While wifi will be complimentary at the delegation’s hotels, delegates are encouraged to check with their cell provider about international calling/data plans.

Delegates can expect to check **one** bag at no additional cost for the domestic flights in Australia and are encouraged to check the baggage policies for their own international flight to determine the cost of any additional bags.

Are scholarships or discounts available to participate?

AAIDD delegations are offered “at cost”; no discounts are available. AAIDD does not offer scholarship for its delegations.

Will AAIDD provide supports for people with disabilities to participate?

AAIDD encourages people with disabilities to apply. AAIDD requires that all applicants disclose any condition or need that may require reasonable accommodations no later than the date the final program payment is due. Should a delegate require personal support staff to fully participate in the program, AAIDD requires delegates to provide such supports (including salary, travel, and program costs) at their own expense.

Failure to disclose any condition or need that would require reasonable accommodation by this date may result in the inability of AAIDD and its representatives and agents to provide accommodations, and further, delegates are informed that should they fail to disclose such information, they may be returned home at their sole expense and without a refund.

When is the final program payment due?

A deposit is required at the time of application and the final payment is due to AAIDD by July 1, 2016. AAIDD accepts all major credit cards. No refunds will be made on or after July 1, 2016.

Who should I contact for more information?

For more information on the AAIDD Delegation, contact Corinne Carpenter at 202-387-1968 x 201 or ccarpenter@aaidd.org.

