



CIEVENTS COVID PROTOCOLS

FLIGHT Centre's cievents has detailed comprehensive new COVID-Safe guidelines, with the protocols and checklists unveiled during the EVOLVE conference hosted by Meetings & Events Australia (**BEN** 28 Jul).

The company is making the guidelines freely available, in the form of a white paper which also incorporates full details of current Australian Government Department of Health regulations, relevant Safe Work Australia principles and state government food safety resources.

Cievents Director of Operations Tai Lennon highlighted the new risks that need to be taken into consideration for event management in the COVID-19 era, saying "as we continue to face uncertainty there has never been a more important time for risk mitigation".

"Prevention and response planning, operational assurance and business continuity, crisis management and



communication will all need to be managed," Lennon added, noting the key consideration of commercial risk and the understanding that this should be shared by all event stakeholders.

As part of development of the guidelines, cievents has been working closely with suppliers to ensure pandemic cancellation and attrition clauses are included in all contracts, and that all suppliers

have current COVID-19 safety procedures in place.

These processes include strict adherence to physical distancing measures, increased cleaning and hygiene practices, food service safety and additional delegate communications including recommending the use of the Government's COVIDSafe app to facilitate contact tracing if required after any outbreak.

Contactless registration will be implemented at all events going forward via QR codes, self-registration or interactive online forms accessible via delegates' personal devices, and any staff working on each event will be required to undertake COVID-Safe training.

Cievents is supporting the guidelines with a simple pre, during and post-event checklist which is mandatory for all events that it produces.

The new guidelines are available for download by registering via the Cievents website at cievents.com.

PM on recovery

A VISIT last month by Prime Minister Scott Morrison to the Sydney offices of Creative Hire and DisplayWise saw the business events sector clearly highlight the impact of COVID-19.

The event was the result of an invitation by DisplayWise owners Dylan Retif and Jason Cachia, with other guests including EEAA CEO Claudia Sagripanti, ICC Sydney chief Geoff Donaghy & MEA CEO Robyn Johnson.

Morrison noted the huge hit to the business events sector, saying it was clear after the discussions that "this is a sector that can get back on its feet...we can get business events running".

"They can be done safely, they can be done economically and viably," he added, commending DisplayWise for its Bare Hygiene initiative (**BEN** 30 Jun) to keep people working.

Alice Springs set to light up

NEXT month AGB Events will operate Parrtjima, a Festival in Light over ten days in Alice Springs to help proudly showcase the oldest continuous culture on earth.

The free festival, themed "Lifting our Spirits" will feature live music, films, workshops, light installations and talks by Stan Grant and Tracy Holmes - **CLICK HERE**.

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CORONAVIRUS has impacted many events across the globe, but life as we know it continued unperturbed in central Illinois, USA over the weekend, where hundreds of people gathered for the 10th annual White Trash Bash.

The party on the banks of the Illinois River saw 200 boats packed with attendees turn up for an all-day session of “drinking, socialising and partying as a large group,” according to participants.

Local police said they were concerned about the spread of coronavirus, but were realistic about what they could do about it.

“We encourage them to practice social distancing,” said one officer, adding “I don’t know how likely that’s going to be in this environment”.

Although it’s not an officially sanctioned event, law enforcement started monitoring activities at the White Trash Bash about five years ago “because we will get lots of fights on the beach,” the officer added.

“It’s the perfect situation for a problem, you’ve got beautiful weather, a lot of alcohol and anywhere from 600 to 1,000 people.”

Although COVID-19 is a concern, “at the end of the day the goal is to get through this event and get everyone home safe,” he said.

Perth bid success

BUSINESS Events Perth has been successful in its bid to host the 25th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals to the WA capital in Dec 2023.

Described as “a major win for Western Australia”, the event will welcome thousands of marine experts from across the globe and inject an estimated \$10m into the local economy.

It’s the largest conference of its kind, with over 2,000 delegates expected to visit the state over eight days including pre- and post-touring to the regions of WA.

The bid was conducted with the support of Tourism Australia’s Business Events Bid Fund Program.

IBTM TechWatch

BUSINESS events technology providers will be able to pitch their products live on site at the upcoming IBTM World conference taking place in Barcelona in early Dec.

The event will feature a new format TechWatch Live session in which five finalists will take to the stage and pitch their product or service to the judging panel and a live audience of event professionals.

All five finalist companies will receive flights and accommodation to attend IBTM World for the showcase - entries due by 30 Sep by **CLICKING HERE**.

Confessions of a compulsive conference-goer

Andrew Klein, professional MC and presentation skills speaker and director of SPIKE Presentations, presents his front line observations on conferences in a regular feature in **BEN**.

Our Odd “Uncle Online”

WOW. Virtually in the space of five months, everything in our industry seems to have gone virtual. Sure, some small live events and training have managed to happen face to face, but as of August it seems like the whole conference industry is moving online.

As a conference MC/Speaker, I, like so many others, have been on a very steep learning curve, exploring, learning and refining my virtual skills. It’s been (and remains) a wild, scary and exciting ride.

I know that some speakers and MCs (as well as some platform providers, studios, PCOs, AV companies and tech types) have been embracing online for years, but it always seemed to me that those people were a little like that that odd uncle.

You know the one I am referring to? That eccentric relative who was often at family functions, babbling on about something we needed to pay attention to, that we never paid much attention to. But today I liken this uncle to the “onliners” – the often marginalised, but super-wise people in our industry who, it turns out, were years ahead of us.

They’ve been trying to entice us to embrace online events for ages, but most

of us didn’t pay them the attention they deserved. We paid them lip-service, a conference app here, a webinar there, a small live-stream into our live event here, a Zoom call meeting there. Back in 2019, we may have live-streamed our Convention Centre conference to 27 people over in WA and NZ, but the event was really aimed at the 500 people live in the room. The onliners were never the main game. Until now.

In fact, until March, the onliners were the outliers, detached from the main face to face conference. They were the odd uncle. And now they are our favourite family member, the fun, cool and wise uncle who we never gave enough attention to. Here they now stand, centre stage and we can’t live or work without them. We certainly can’t hold a conference without them. We are all now learning about them - and learning from them.

So thanks for your wisdom Odd Uncle Online. Sorry we ignored you. Looks like you are now the life and soul of the party, for.....well who knows how long? But in one form or another, you have a permanent invite to every party.

If you are looking for an MC for your next conference or a speaker/trainer on presentation skills or pitching skills, email andrew@lunch.com.au or visit his website at www.andrewklein.com.au.

