

2024 Parks and Leisure Australia CITIES AT PLAY

Brisbane Conference Statement

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognises the right of all to enjoy leisure and to freely participate in community culture. Play is an essential part of leisure and our goal is to support all those who want to play.

The 2024 PLA Brisbane Conference explored where leisure and recreation meet innovation as the parks and leisure industry collaborate to envision and construct the future of our communities. The Conference theme was Cities at Play and we have expanded that concept to include all communities' capacity for leisure and to play.

The Brisbane Conference Statement builds on the foundation from the 2023 International Congress Adelaide Statement. The Brisbane Statement continues to pursue the six Pledges formulated and endorsed in the Adelaide Statement:

Foster Collaboration

by embracing kindred organisations and community groups to seek partnerships across disciplines, cultures, and sectors to achieve more positive leisure outcomes.

Promote Sustainability

by advocating for the fundamental need to deliver park and leisure experiences that are ecologically sound.

Advocate for Equity

by actively seeking information and training about experiences other people have that are different to our own experiences, so we achieve outcomes that are fair for all.

Embrace Innovation

by breathing life into our places and spaces, infusing them with purpose.

Champion Health and Wellbeing

by integrating health and wellbeing considerations into park and leisure programs, planning and design.

Community Engagement

ensures that communities are able to provide input, share concerns and contribute to decisions about the delivery of parks and leisure experiences.

The diverse streams offered at this year's conference were crucial to advancing our industry and meeting the evolving needs of our communities. Each stream—whether focused on sports and physical activity, facilities and future planning, horticulture and open spaces, innovation and sustainability, or leadership and development—provided invaluable insights and strategies that are essential for shaping the future of parks, recreation, and community spaces. By engaging with these streams, participants not only gained cutting-edge knowledge but also contributed to the broader dialogue on how we can continue to foster health, well-being, and sustainable growth in our industry. This collective effort will ensure that we remain at the forefront of creating vibrant, resilient, and inclusive environments for all.

PLA recognises its important place within the wider industry, as being the peak body that sets the tone and pace as we move forward in addressing the issues that are challenging us, including the impacts of climate change and the changing trends of physical activity.

Delegates are committed to drawing on the Brisbane Statement to guide and reinforce our strategic park, recreation and leisure initiatives. We recognise the importance of the learnings from this Conference. We will share these learnings by using the Brisbane Statement to inform our colleagues, our organisations, and our political representatives about the importance of parks and leisure experience delivery.