

2020 Australasian Aid Conference

Session tickets: an explainer

In past years at the Australasian Aid Conference, we have had a 'shared registration' system, which has allowed organisations to purchase one full conference registration to share between up to four staff members. This system was designed to allow broad-based access to the conference by development and policy practitioners, particularly for more junior staff members who may not be able to access funding for the purchase of a full conference registration.

However, several constraints were identified by users of the shared registrations. These included:

- The rule of only having one person at the conference at a time per shared registration. This created issues when multiple team members wanted to attend the same session (not uncommon if a team had purchased a registration but was working on a similar topic, i.e. humanitarian aid)
- The need to provide names ahead of time to the conference organisers. This reduced flexibility for changes among participating staff based on workload and other commitments.
- Confusion in larger organisations about who had spaces available on their shared registrations.

For the 2020 conference, and following feedback from shared registration users, we have decided to revisit this approach and trial a new system for allowing broader access to those who are not able to attend the full conference, or who would like to share attendance among colleagues.

Introducing session tickets

Inspired by film and writer's festivals, session tickets allow access to ONE SESSION of the 2020 Australasian Aid Conference for ONE INDIVIDUAL. Tickets will be provided by Eventbrite, and presented to event staff/volunteers when attending the chosen session. Purchasers do not have to elect the session or individual attending ahead of time.

Terms and conditions

- A session is defined as one keynote or plenary session OR one parallel session
- Session ticket holders can attend the conference opening and closing receptions without presentation of a ticket, as well as any pre-conference events that are open to the public.
- Session ticket holders will not receive a conference lanyard, but will have access to the conference app/program.
- Session ticket holders can attend one of the conference meal breaks on one side of the session they attend, however cannot request special meals (vegetarian/vegan and gluten free options will be provided for in general catering).
- Session tickets do not provide access to the conference dinner – a separate dinner ticket can be purchased for those that would like to attend.
- Session tickets are fully transferable within the purchasing organisation.
- Seating within a session is on a first-come, first-served basis, for both those with session tickets and full conference registrations. While the conference organisers do their best, sometimes due to unpredicted demand for a session and the constraints of our venue, sessions are standing room only. This does not entitle a session ticket holder to a refund.
- A session ticket can be purchased in the name of an organisation, rather than an individual, but each session ticket is for one individual to attend one session only.

- After Monday 10 February 2020 (a week prior to the commencement of the conference), session tickets are no longer eligible for refunds.

Session tickets can be bulk-purchased (with a discount) to enable sharing among organisations/divisions.

The session tickets provide the same benefits of the shared registration system of the past, but with greater flexibility for organisations to arrange their attendance, and a lower coordination burden.

As always, the best value and best experience for those wishing to attend most sessions of the conference, and to make the most of all of the conference networking opportunities, is a full conference registration.

Examples

Situation: A team has five members, and they are all interested in going to different sessions at the conference. Their boss decides they can go to one session each.

Solution: The team administrator purchases five session tickets, and gives one to each staff member. The staff members can then independently pick which session to go to, without needing to negotiate with each other as they would have needed to do on a shared registration. In the past, shared registrations also only allowed four people per registration, so in this case all five can now attend.

Situation: Three members of the humanitarian team wish to attend the same parallel session at the conference, which is highly relevant for their work.

Solution: The team purchases three session tickets, and they can attend the session together. On a single shared registration, only one person would have been able to attend the same parallel session.

Situation: Jane really wanted to attend three conference sessions, and had bought session tickets. But work has gotten super busy and she can no longer come.

Solution: Jane can give the tickets to her colleagues. The conference organisers no longer need to be notified on attendee name changes for session tickets, unlike on shared registrations in the past.

Situation: An individual consultant really wants to go to one parallel session at the conference that is relevant to an upcoming project, but they are unable to make it to other sessions due to their commitments.

Solution: The consultant can buy a single session ticket. In the past, they would have needed to buy a full registration, or a full day registration, to attend. The new session tickets also help those who are outside of large organisations to attend the conference.

If you have any questions about session tickets, or any other aspect of the 2020 Australasian Aid Conference, contact us at devpolicy@anu.edu.au.