

MEDIA RELEASE

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Adelaide Convention Centre wins two national awards

The Adelaide Convention Centre has won two more prestigious national awards at the Meetings and Events Industry Awards held in Adelaide last night.

Receiving awards for *Corporate Social Responsibility* and best *Meeting Venue - more than 500 delegates* categories in front of more than 500 guests, the Adelaide Convention Centre beat tough competition from around Australia.

It caps off an award-winning two months for the Centre which took home top honours at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards for Meetings and Business Tourism.

Adelaide Convention Centre Chief Executive Alec Gilbert said the national wins were fantastic achievements for the Centre's board, senior management and staff and reinforced Adelaide's reputation as Australia's convention city.

"The Adelaide Convention Centre strives to be the best conference and event venue in Australia and has hosted events of all sizes for more than 21 years now," said Mr Gilbert.

"The Centre has generated more than \$711 million in economic benefits for South Australia and its service and standards have long been a benchmark for convention centres around the world.

"Winning the Corporate Social Responsibility award is proof that we are putting into practice our *Gold Service. Green Attitude* philosophy. We are committed to reducing our carbon footprint left on the environment and have introduced numerous innovative environment initiatives including carbon offsetting, low mileage food, composting, recycling, and a native tree growing program to reduce our impact on the ecology of the planet.

"We also regularly donate unused food to Foodbank SA, the State's largest hunger-relief organisation and donate old uniforms to charity organisations.

"To win these awards in front of our industry colleagues is an honour. We are fortunate to have hosted the 22nd Meetings and Events Australia (MEA) National Conference for the past three days providing us with the opportunity to showcase Adelaide and show our industry colleagues that we are deserved winners of these prestigious awards."

Mr Gilbert also congratulated the other South Australian awards winners: Adelaide Expo Hire for Meetings and Events Support Services and YMEA Future Leader of the Year Brylee McFarlane from Event Planners SA. He said that the Convention Centre had always promoted a "Team Adelaide" approach and their achievements reinforced just how strong this team is.

The gala awards dinner was the final event of the 22nd Meetings and Events Australia (MEA) National Conference held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 5-7 April. The event attracted more than 450 delegates including some of the country's leading event and meeting planners.

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