

Artist Expressions of Interest for the national ear health conference to be held in Perth, 2020.

Background: We are organising the 6th national Otitis Media Australia (OMOZ) conference, which will be held in Perth in October 2020. The main focus of this meeting is to bring the people together who are working to improve ear health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Ear infections are a major cause of hearing loss in young children. The rates of ear infections and associated hearing loss in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are unacceptably high. In most cases this can be prevented through early detection and treatment. The OMOZ meeting brings together approximately 150 people, from all over Australia including community Elders, parents, doctors, nurses, researchers, and teachers. Our main mission is to give every Australian child the right to hear.

This video gives a good background to why we are working together to prevent ear infections:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPMMINDiQzI>

Information on the artwork used by the Ear Health team in the Northern Territory for a previous OMOZ conference can be found here: <https://www.earandhearinghealth.org.au/about>. Their logo incorporates the dragonfly that is traditionally used to test whether a baby can hear the vibrating wings.

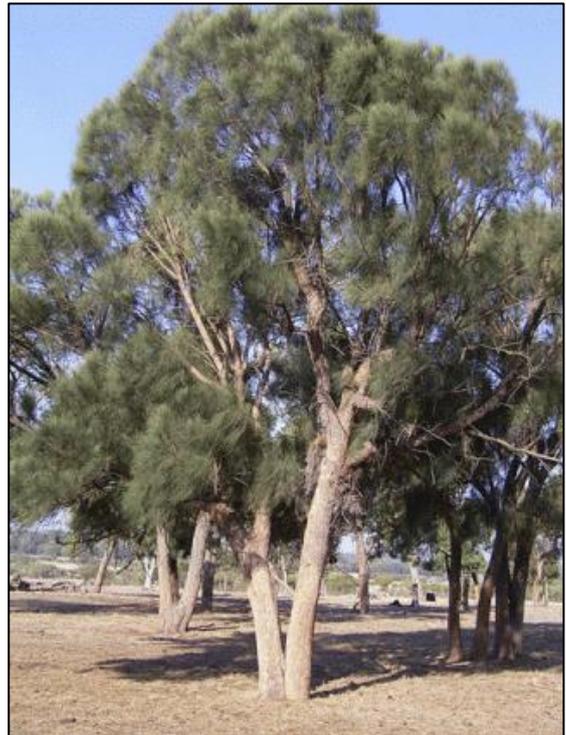
The brief: We are seeking artwork from a Noongar artist that incorporates the themes of hearing/listening. The artwork will be used for a digital letterhead/website banner and logo that can be used on the conference website as well as in print on materials throughout the conference such as notepads and the conference program. In addition, the artwork will continue to be used after the conference in the future by our WA Ear Health team that is based at the Telethon Kids Institute and Cockburn Integrated Health & Community Centre. Ideally the artwork will need to be digital or an image that can be easily digitised for the above uses.

The proposed theme for the OMOZ 2020 conference will be around working together, listening, hearing and talking. The artwork for the conference should reflect and incorporate these ideas.

The centrepiece of the logo will be the Western Australian sheoak tree. Noongar people have traditionally listened to the rustling of the leaves of this tree. The sheoak tree will be incorporated with additional background artwork. This must display Noongar art techniques and imagery. A suggestion for this is the use of flowing lines/rivers to represent breastmilk, which has traditionally been used by Noongar people to treat infected ears of children.

The completed artwork will be required by the end of 2019 so that the conference information can be published in early 2020.

Expression of interest requirements: Please submit a detailed written description and/or sketch of your proposed artwork via e-mail for consideration by the committee.



*WA Sheoak tree
(scientific name Allocasuarina fraseriana)*

Closing date: Monday 18th November 2019

Contact: E-mail omoz2020@telethonkids.org.au or phone Kathryn Jajko on (08) 6319 1010.

Selection process: The local organising committee will review the submissions on 21st November 2019 and advise the selected artist shortly thereafter.

Remuneration: The successful artist will receive \$1000 for the completion of their work. The artist will also be invited to attend the conference to talk about the artwork.