

## Testimonials from World Burn Congress 2016 attendees:

LOUISE AND JORJA SHARP:

The entire experience was incredible and we are extremely grateful to have been selected to attend.

When we arrived at WBC it was as if we had come home to family. Everyone was friendly and inviting and included us instantly in what was going on. The event is well organised but if you had any questions there were lots of volunteers to help you out or give directions. There were also a lot of attendees who were more than happy to assist.

We selected which sessions to attend in line with our experiences and interests. They were informative and interesting. Some of the stories we listened to were heartbreaking, but also inspirational. The sessions brought back a lot of memories, which wasn't traumatic for me but might have been for others. There are so many people that attend - finding a connection with others is easy.

I was drawn to other parents who shared similar experiences to my own. Even though it is the World Burns Congress it is very much focused on America and how the hospital and insurance processes are there. It was eye opening for sure. We have it good here in New Zealand!

Leaving was bittersweet. The friendliness and instant connection you make with other attendees means you miss them a lot, however it was good to be home with our family again.

I do highly recommend applying for WBC as it was the experience of a lifetime. Watching Jorja interacting with other kids the exact same as her and seeing her learn and grow made me very proud of what she has been through and the amazing person she has become.

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PAUL AND JACK DRAGICEVICH

Attending the World Burns Congress this year has been a life changing experience for me and an opportunity that I will cherish forever. The people I met, the stories I heard, the love I felt, the friendships I made, the things I learned and the fun we had made for a very memorable experience that has benefited my life for the better. This should be regarded as a bucket list experience for anyone in the burn community

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TRACEY-MAREE HOUISA

Where does one start when one has to put into words the single most "Life Changing" event one has ever experienced, I guess, from the start!!

World Burns Congress 2016 "Completed Me". I have been searching for 53 years for something I can finally be "Me" at and I found it, there amongst those brave and inspirational souls who were all like "me", Survivors! The unity and the positive "vibe" was so uplifting. Hearing everyone stories of their survival journey was empowering to say the least.

The Congress was an amazing platform for "Networking" and meeting others in the same mind set as mine, being to "Raise Awareness for Burns Survivors, Raise awareness for Burns Prevention and Fundraise for those in need of treatment etc".

I have come home, without doubt, a different person. I feel inspired beyond belief and want to further my desire to do all I can here in NZ and Overseas for those affected by Burns Accidents etc in the form of counselling, supporting, raising much need funds for treatment and expenses and so much more.

I cannot thank the Burn Support Charity Trust for believing in me enough to send me to World Burns Congress, for ensuring every aspect was well cared for in my accommodation etc, for allowing me to be a NZ representative who stood proudly on a huge stage and not only told my story, but, sung for our Country but above all, for changing my life for the better.

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MICHELE HENRY

It was the opportunity of a lifetime, the most humbling, joyful, emotional and spirit lifting experience of which I shall never forget. Five days that have changed my perspective on life for my future!

Beautiful people who through all ordeals know how to appreciate each and every day. Phoenix World Congress is there to inspire, teach and confirm the best attitude to have is POSITIVE!!