



## Information for Applicants - About FACE 2012

About FACE 2012 is a *Faith And Cultural Exchange* for anyone over 18 years of age, and will take place from 7<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2012. The About FACE program involves briefing, two weeks living in a Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress community, and debriefing.

The program aims to create an 'about face' in the attitudes and lifestyles of participants, and to build relationships and bridges of understanding. About FACE is not simply an event for an individual, but is a shared experience with congregations and communities.

### **About FACE 2012 Process**

#### **Phase one – Application and interview process**

*Applications open on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June and close on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2011.* Congregations and Presbyteries are encouraged to promote the program and encourage people to apply, and to consider ways to actively support successful applicants prayerfully, pastorally and financially. All applicants will be interviewed by a selection panel coordinated within their Synod. Applicants will then be notified about the outcome of their application by the interview panel, and confirmation of inclusion in the program will be made by the About FACE Office. Acceptance into the About FACE program will remain conditional until the application has completed a National Police Check and Working with Children's Check / Prohibited Persons Check (or State equivalent).

#### **Phase two – Preparation**

Participants will be encouraged to establish a Support Group and begin meeting with them. Program information will be sent to both the participant and the support group convener. Congregations will be encouraged to arrange a Commissioning Service prior to departure to the About Face 2012 program. Participants may meet with other participants from their Synod.

#### **Phase three – Briefing and Placement**

Participants from around Australia will gather together in Victoria for a time of briefing led by the About FACE 2012 team. Participants will travel with their small placement group (4-6 people) to spend two weeks being hosted by a Congress Aboriginal community.

#### **Phase four – Debriefing**

Participants will re-gather together in Victoria to share their experiences, and prepare for returning to their home congregations and community. On their return, participants will have an opportunity to gather with others in their Synod for mutual support and encouragement, and further debriefing if needed.

#### **Phase five – Next Step**

All participants will be encouraged to identify a next step as a follow-on from the About FACE 2012 experience (eg. connect with an organisation or community). They will also be encouraged to stay in touch with other participants for mutual support and encouragement, and to identify and develop common projects and initiatives. All participants will be encouraged to share their stories, experiences and insights with the local and wider church and in the community. All participants will be encouraged to remain in friendship and solidarity with their host community, including advocacy, supporting projects, and raising awareness of specific issues for the host community to the wider community in Australia.

## **Costs of About FACE Program**

All program costs indicated below include food, accommodation, briefing & debriefing resources, insurance, and all administration costs. Cost does not include travel to/from Melbourne (arrangements for this need to be made by delegates themselves), personal spending money, or any medical costs (eg personal medication).

- **Early bird** registration if applying by Friday 12 August - \$1,900 total (deposit \$950.00)
- **Full registration** if applying by Friday 30 September - \$2,100 total (deposit \$1,050.00)

A payment of at least 50% of the full cost is to be paid by **Friday 28 October 2011**. To take advantage of cheaper costs, flight bookings will be made on receipt of this payment. All flights will be subject to availability and the About FACE team reserve the right to increase the costs of the program if airfares and taxes increase markedly in 2011 prior to making flight bookings. Should this be deemed necessary, this will be discussed with each participant, and every endeavor will be made to work within the cost structure based on information available in June 2011.

The final payment for the program will be due by **Friday 9 December 2011**.

Participants are encouraged to discuss their interest in the About FACE 2012 program with their home congregations, Presbyteries, Synod About FACE contacts and other church and/or community networks. All participants will be provided with fundraising ideas to help meet the program costs. If you are having trouble raising the program costs, please talk to your Synod About FACE contact.

## **Refund Policy**

The initial payment includes a non-refundable deposit of \$250 for all applicants. If you withdraw from the program you will need to discuss the refund of any additional amounts paid (in excess of the \$250 non-refundable deposit) directly with the About FACE office. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, as some costs incurred on your behalf for your participation in the program may not be fully recoverable.

## **Who's organising About FACE 2012?**

About FACE is a National project of the Uniting Church in Australia. In 2012 it is hosted by the Synod of Victoria & Tasmania, in partnership with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress.

### **About FACE 2012 Office**

Justice and International Mission  
Synod of Victoria & Tasmania  
130 Little Collins Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

(03) 9251 5266 or 9251 5271

[info@aboutface.org.au](mailto:info@aboutface.org.au)  
<http://www.aboutface.org.au>

The partners in this project come from across the life of the Uniting Church in Australia and include:

- Justice and International Mission Unit, Commission for Mission, UCA Synod of Victoria & Tasmania
- Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC)
- UCA National Assembly
- UCA National Youth Activities Reference Committee (NYARC)

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