



Information for Applicants - 2018

About FACE 2018 is a *Faith and Cultural Exchange* for anyone over 18 years of age, and will take place from 3rd to 20th January, 2018. The About FACE program involves six distinct phases (which are outlined below in more detail) which include briefing; spending time living in a Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) community; participating in the UAICC National Conference; and debriefing.

The About FACE 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 the individuals participating, but is also a shared experience with congregations, communities, friends and families. It is a program run in partnership with the National Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC/Congress).

The About FACE program celebrates the **Covenant relationship** between the Uniting Church in Australia and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, and encourages participants and those supporting them to be actively involved in Covenanting and working together for reconciliation in our Uniting Church and in their wider communities.

About FACE 2018 Phases

Phase one – Application and interview process

Applications open on Monday 24th July and close on Friday 13th October, 2017. Synods, Presbyteries and Congregations across Australia are encouraged to both promote the program and encourage people to apply; and to also consider ways to actively support successful applicants prayerfully, pastorally and financially. All applicants will be interviewed by a selection panel coordinated within their home 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 satisfactorily completed a National Police Check and Working with Children's Check / Prohibited Persons Check (or State equivalent) and completed all the pre-program tasks.

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, and participants will be asked to complete some pre-program tasks prior to officially starting the program. Congregations will be encouraged to arrange a Commissioning Service prior to departure to the About Face 2018 program.

Phase three – Briefing and Placement

Participants from around Australia will gather together for a time of briefing led by the About FACE 2018 team. Participants will then travel with their small placement group (4-6 people) to a UAICC host community. These communities will be identified by UAICC and participants will be made aware of these in late 2017.

Phase four – Congress National Conference

All participants in the About FACE 2018 program will spend time at the UAICC/Congress National Conference which is being held in Geelong, Victoria in January. Participants will travel to the National Conference with members of their UAICC host community.

Phase five – Debriefing

Participants will formally gather together with the About FACE team to share their experiences, and prepare for returning to their home congregations and communities. On their return, participants may have an opportunity to gather with others in their Synod for mutual support and encouragement, and further debriefing if needed.

Phase six – Next Steps

All participants will be encouraged to identify a next step as follow-on from the About FACE 2018 experience (e.g. connect with an organisation or community). They will also be encouraged to stay in touch with fellow participants and the About FACE team for mutual support and encouragement. 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, which may include raising

awareness of specific issues for the host community to the wider community in Australia. Participants will also be encouraged to form links with UAICC in their own home State upon their return.

Costs of About FACE Program

All program costs indicated below include travel to/from home State to briefing and debriefing; briefing and debriefing resources; food and accommodation; travel costs to/from placements; UAICC National Conference registration fees; insurance; and all program administration costs. Cost does not include personal spending money or any medical costs (e.g. personal medication or any medical treatment costs).

- **Early bird** registration if applying by Friday 8th September - \$2,100 total (deposit \$1,050.00)
- **Full registration** if applying by Friday 13th October - \$2,300 total (deposit \$1,150.00)

Once participants are formally accepted into the program, a payment of at least 50% of the full cost is to be paid by **Friday 3rd November, 2017**. To take advantage of cheaper costs, flight bookings for confirmed participants will be made on receipt of this initial payment, and will only be made when this payment has been cleared. Should a participant's payment be made late, the participant will be personally responsible for any additional costs incurred in making these bookings. All flights will be subject to availability and the About FACE team reserves the right to increase the costs of the program if airfares and taxes increase markedly in the second half of 2017 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 mid-2017. The final payment for the program will be due by **Friday 1st December, 2017**. Participants will each be invoiced for both the first and final payment.

Participants are encouraged to discuss their interest in the About FACE 2017 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 need assistance in raising the program registration fees, please talk to your local Congregation, Presbytery or Synod contacts in the first instance. A small amount of financial assistance is also available through the About FACE Office.

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 2018?

About FACE is an activity of the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly. In 2018 it will be coordinated by the UCA Synod of Victoria & Tasmania in partnership with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC), on behalf of the Assembly.

About FACE 2018 Office

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

- Commission for Mission, UCA Synod of Victoria & Tasmania
- Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC)
- UCA Assembly Formation, Education and Discipleship Working Group (FEDWG)

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