



Information for Applicants - 2015

About FACE 2015 is a *Faith And Cultural Exchange* for anyone over 18 years of age, and will take place from 5th – 18th January, 2015. 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; attending the UAICC National Conference; 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. It is a program run in partnership with UAICC.

About FACE 2015 Phases

Phase one – Application and interview process

Applications open on Monday 14th July and close on Friday 26th September, 2015. Congregations and Presbyteries across Australia are encouraged to both promote the program but also 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 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 in January. Congregations will be encouraged to arrange a Commissioning Service prior to departure to the About Face 2015 program, and participants may meet with other participants from their Synod in late 2014.

Phase three – Briefing and Placement

Participants from around Australia will gather together for a time of briefing led by the About FACE 2015 team. Participants will travel with their small placement group (4-6 people) to a UAICC Aboriginal host community. These communities will be identified by UAICC and participants will be made aware of these in December 2014.

Phase four – Congress National Conference

All participants in the About FACE 2015 program will spend time at the UAICC/Congress National Conference which is being held in Poatina in Tasmania in January 2015. Participants will travel to the National Conference with members of their host community.

Phase five – Debriefing

Participants will formally gather together in Tasmania 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 six – Next Steps

All participants will be encouraged to identify a next step as a follow-on from the About FACE 2015 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 travel to/from briefing and debriefing; food and accommodation; briefing & debriefing resources; insurance; travel to attend the Congress National Conference; and all administration costs. Cost does not include personal spending money or any medical costs (eg personal medication or any treatment costs).

- **Early bird** registration if applying by Friday 29th August - \$1,900 total (deposit \$950.00)
- **Full registration** if applying by Friday 26th September - \$2,100 total (deposit \$1,050.00)

A payment of at least 50% of the full cost is to be paid by **Friday 31st October 2014**. To take advantage of cheaper costs, flight bookings for confirmed participants will be made on receipt of this payment. 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 2014 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 July 2014. The final payment for the program will be due by **Friday 5th December 2014**.

Participants are encouraged to discuss their interest in the About FACE 2015 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 contacts.

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 2015?

About FACE is a National activity of the Uniting Church in Australia. In 2015 it is hosted by the Synod of Victoria & Tasmania, in partnership with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress.

About FACE 2012 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 National Assembly Formation, Education and Discipleship Working Group (FEDWG)

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