



The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, Thyssen Bequest Scholarship - Guidelines

This document outlines the scholarship's purpose, principles and rules, and will be used by the Muth arrak Scholarships and Fundraising Committee (SFC) in their processes of discernment and decision making.

Scholarship Name: UAICC, Thyssen Bequest Scholarship

Scholarship Purpose: The scholarship aligns with the directions of the Margriet Anne Thyssen bequest, which is to support further education, and formation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for works / service within the fields of nursing, allied health, mental health and wellbeing, theology and ministry.

Refer to the clause IV of the last Will and Testament of the late Margriet Anne Thyssen.

IV. To pay the balance then remaining **UNTO** the **UNITING ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHRISTIAN CONGRESS** of the **UNITING CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA** of 190 Herveys Range Road Townsville Queensland to be used for the purpose of scholarships to be given to indigenous students for education as aboriginal health care workers, and otherwise in accordance with any written directions which I may have provided during my lifetime.

Scholarship Fund Committee (SFC): The SFC will be established as a sub-committee of Muth arrak Regional Committee Qld (Muth arrak RCQ), and shall be comprised of two standing members; being the Executive Officer UAICC & Covenanting and a nominated representative from the UAICC National Executive. A further three or five persons shall be appointed by Muth arrak RCQ; with preference going to persons who are active members of a UAICC congregation or faith community, or First Nations leaders working within Uniting Church institutions.

The committee shall consist of no more than seven members.

Advisory Council: Muth arrak RCQ or those nominated by the Muth arrak RCQ, will act as the advisory committee to the SFC, and will provide advice to the SFC regarding all matters concerning the application of monies from the scholarship fund to the scholarship recipients including:

- a) The suitability of relevant secondary or tertiary courses within Australia and overseas, which directly relate to equipping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander for work with nursing, allied health, mental health and wellbeing, theology and ministry.
- b) The scholarship selection criteria for applicants, in secondary or tertiary courses and or student related accommodation to support relating to such course study.
- c) Support financial or other for scholars during their studies.
- d) The sharing of story regarding the Scholarship and alumni.

The recommendations of the Advisory Committee shall be respectfully considered, however, the Scholarship Committee Qld holds delegated authority by Muth arrak RCQ, in relation to the approval of primary applications and recommended scholarship fund dispersal.

Applications and Approvals: The SFC and Muth arrak RCQ shall work in relationship with the Uniting Church Qld Synod. The Executive Director Finance, Property and Enterprises in their capacity as Property Officer, shall provide the final approval to enable the dispersal of funds to successful applicants.

- a) The scholarship application will be developed or amended by the Executive Officer UAICC & Covenanting and approved by Muth arrak RCQ, though the SFC.
- b) Applications for each scholarship round shall open each year on 13 September. Details of the applications process will be hosted on the ucaqld.com.au website and shall remain open for 30 days.
- c) Received applications will be assessed through the SFC, and the Advisory Committee and successful applications, which include decision making criteria, will be tabled for endorsement at the November or December meeting of Muth arrak RCQ.
- d) A list of successful applicants with their accompanying applications will be forwarded to the Executive Director Finance, Property and Enterprises for their final approval.
- e) Dispersal of the UAICC, Thyssen Bequest Scholarship funds shall take place in January each year, and shall be made, as per the approved recommendations outlined within each application.

Accounts: The funds received from the Thyssen Bequest Scholarship Fund shall remain in the Uniting Church Foundation (UCF) account named UAICC - Qld Congress UCFO066.

- a) Proper accounts shall be kept by the Property Trust of the sums of money received and expended by the Scholarship Fund.
- b) Each financial year, a report must show the money received and expended by the Scholarship Fund.
- c) Interest earned during the four-year period of the scholarship will be dispersed amongst final year cohort to support study materials and travel.
- d) Accounts of the Scholarship Fund shall be audited or reviewed (as required) at the same time as the accounts of the Synod Office.
- e) No portion of the income and property of the fund shall be paid or distributed directly or indirectly to the members or officers of the Scholarship Fund Committee, Advisory Committee or Muth arrak RCQ.

Dissolution:

The UAICC Thyssen Bequest Scholarship has been established from a single bequest of \$288,262, which was transferred from the National UAICC Assembly account on 6 March 2026. This scholarship will be dissolved, at such time as available bequest funds (excluding accrued interest) have been fully dispersed.

Projected Scholarship Offers:

The below scholarships will be offered for students entering undergraduate or postgraduate studies in the fields of Nursing, Allied Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Theology or Ministry.

Year 1, 2027, Year 2, 2028, Year 3, 2029

\$10,000 – Undergraduate Diploma or Degree Nursing

\$15,000 – Postgraduate Masters or PhD Nursing

\$15,000 – Postgraduate Masters or PhD Allied Health

\$10,000 – Postgraduate Masters or PhD Mental Health and Wellbeing related qualifications

\$10,000 – Undergraduate Certificate IV, Diploma or Degree Christian Formation - Theology

\$10,000 – Undergraduate Certificate IV, Diploma or Degree Christian Formation – Ministry

\$15,000 – Post Graduate Masters or PhD Christian Formation – Theology or Ministry

Total value of scholarships per annum for years 1, 2 and 3 will be up to \$85,000.00

Each scholarship value offer will be determined on an individual basis and the total shall not be greater than outlined above.

Year 4, 2030

\$11,000 – Postgraduate Masters or PhD Nursing

\$11,000 – Postgraduate Masters or PhD Allied Health

\$11,000 – Post Graduate Masters or PhD Christian Formation – Theology or Ministry

Total value of scholarships for year 4 will be up to \$33,000.00

Total scholarships to be dispersed \$288,000.00 – plus interest, please refer to Accounts c.

Each scholarship value offer will be determined on an individual basis and the total shall not be greater than outlined above.



Proposed by Kym Korbe,
Executive Officer UAICC & Covenanting

20 July 2026

Date

Thea Madigan

Approved by Thea Madigan,
Executive Director Finance, Property and Enterprises

10-Aug-2026

Date



Approved by Rev Roberta Stanley,
Chairperson, Muth arrak Regional Committee Qld

August 2026

Date

Signature: 

Email: thea.madigan@ucaqlld.com.au