

## UAICC Financial Report

National Congress has in the last three years fared fairly well financially. It has had a slight surplus in each year, brought about by four factors:

- \* The National Assembly has maintained its level of support for Congress during a time when its own income dropped. Investment income is lower than a few years ago, but has been fairly stable the last couple of years.
- \* Murray Muirhead moved to a 0.75 position two years ago, and so there have been lower staff costs.
- \* The Regional Committees have contributed to meeting costs.
- \* The Hunter Presbytery has provided free office space for the Interim National Coordinator, including access to phone and internet lines, and photocopying (this has been a significant saving for Congress).

The 2017-2018 budget and those for the next couple of years will be deficit budgets to enable a change of staff numbers. Projected costs for 2017-18 are \$467,685, with a deficit of \$21,685. For the next three years the proposal is (i) full-time National President, (ii) full-time Administrator/ Resource Person, (iii) part-time training coordinator (0.4), and part time youth coordinator (0.6). This is a short term strategy to build the leadership and work of National Congress. Major decisions will need to be made about staffing to bring the 2020-21 budget back into balance.

The National Executive carried out a review of the designated and specific funds (i.e. funds whose use was determined either by the donor, or had been set by the Executive). It moved the funds into fewer groups, set clear purposes for each fund, and established rules for the way people could access the funds. A brochure explaining the funds and how people can apply to use them will be provided in 2018.

At present Congress does not own a house for the use Ministers in placement. A fund has been established to enable the purchase of a house if this is necessary. Funds have also been set aside each year to pay for Conference costs (close to \$60,000), and for support of candidates and continuing education.

Congress received two grants for continuing education (Vic-Tas Synod), and the theology forum (a private fund). It also received a significant bequest which is to be used for the training of Indigenous nurses/ health workers. This fund will be managed by UnitingCare QLD as part of their training scholarship program.

National Congress was in the interesting situation of being able to provide a guarantee to the auditors that Frontier Services could meet all its debts at the time of two annual audits.

At present I manage funds on a day-to-day basis, authorise payments, and provide reports to the National Executive on expenditure. No-one checks whether I am spending money appropriately. Should there be a Treasurer whose job it is to check expenditure and authorise payments?

**Chris Budden**  
**Interim National Coordinator**