

OVERSEAS AND NORTHERN OUTREACH NEWSLETTER March 2017

Dear Friends in Anglican Mothers Union Australia,

Thank you so much for your patience in waiting for news of our Northern Outreach and Training Fund for Indigenous Women grants. I am delighted to share with you the outcome of the deliberations of myself, the Northern Outreach Committee, and the Diocesan Presidents.



Once again it has been real privilege to receive and assess, with the help of the ONO Committee, the requests from the Bishops of North Queensland, the Northern Territory and North-West Australia for grants from Mothers Union Funds to assist in the work of their Dioceses. It is exciting to read of the different ways in which they and their people are seeking to encourage and strengthen families living in the very remote areas of our nation.

This year the projects mentioned are:

From the Northern Outreach Fund. (Amount in Fund: \$38,000.00)

North Queensland

Contribution towards travel costs of Executive members from remote areas to meetings and training days, including planned visits to Cape York and other remote locations by Executive members for the training and encouragement of Mothers Union members **\$12,000.00**

Northern Territory

Domestic Violence Training for clergy **\$2,200.00**

Ongoing "Safe Ministry" Training **\$10,000.00**

North West Australia



Support for 2017 "Fellow Workers" Conference Wives & Families **\$40,000.00**

Support for the Bishop's wife to travel to remote areas to visit clergy wives

\$4,000.00

TOTAL

\$68,200.00

From the Training Fund for Indigenous Women. Amount available: \$14,000.00

North Queensland

Provision of workbooks, Bibles and reference books for students graduating from Wontulp-bi-Buya College **\$2,000.00 plus an extra \$5,000 for NQ (see below *)**

\$7,000.00

Northern Territory

Pastoral support for indigenous leaders (mostly women) in remote communities around the N.T. and bursaries for them and their families to attend a Family Camp

\$5,000.00



Provision of bursaries for recent graduates of Nungalinga College to continue their studies or attend ministry training conferences

\$1,500.00

TOTAL

\$13,500.00

* You will notice that requests for grants from the TFIW total \$5,500.00 **less** than the amount available. Therefore, we have offered North Queensland an additional amount of \$5000.00 because the amount requested by them is actually only about half of the actual expected costs.

As you can also see, the requests for money from the Northern Outreach Fund totalled more than we have in that Fund. Since all the requests are for very worthwhile projects, and we do know that every diocese tries hard to self-fund their activities, the Overseas and Northern Outreach Committee suggested that we meet the requests as made and I was absolutely delighted that the Diocesan Presidents agreed to this suggestion. In order to do this we will draw on some of the undesignated accumulated monies held by AMUA, amounting roughly to 10% of this money—a good Biblical figure, I think!

However, since we cannot simply whittle away at our reserves unthinkingly, I want to encourage our members to make up this difference by **personal financial commitment**. During Australia Council I called for members to put aside just \$1 per week in addition to any fund-raising activities they might engage in and also by publicising our commitment to ministry to families in our far north in their parishes and beyond, and by remembering Mothers Union in their wills.

I believe that it is imperative that, as an organisation which has as its Mission Statement “Sharing Christ’s love by encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life”, we encourage a culture of generosity when it comes to the use of our personal wealth and the accumulated wealth of Mothers Union Australia. We have Jesus’ own example (see 2 Cor.8:9) before us, and we will be the losers if we are niggardly or have a “small change” attitude to our giving. We have Jesus’ assurance that “God loves a cheerful giver” and a generous spirit enhances all of our life—in other words, it’s good for us!

I trust that God will guide us all so that our money is used to his glory. I am happy to explain any of these projects in greater detail if that would be helpful.

Yours in Christ,

Christine

