

Course Funding Assistance - CRQ

Canberra and Region Quaker Meeting (CRQ) encourages people to participate in opportunities for spiritual development and connection with other Quakers. Where financial costs are a barrier to this, CRQ has some funding available to support engagement in these activities.

Pastoral Care and Oversight Committee (PC&O) acts as a receiver for course support applications. The following explains how applications are considered and the details Friends need to provide to PC&O to apply for such support.

Funding assistance available:

- CRQ provides assistance for CRQ members and attenders to courses such as those provided by Silver Wattle Quaker Centre, Woodbrooke, AVP, or towards costs for attendance at AYM Yearly Meetings.
- To be both affordable for the CRQ Meeting, and fair to all those applying, the amount of assistance available is capped per person and capped per financial year. Currently up to \$250 is available per person from a budget allocation of \$1,500.
- The names of those requesting assistance are not disclosed to the Business Meeting.
- Please note that other sources of assistance are available including course subsidies from Silver Wattle to attend their courses, and the *Australian Yearly Meeting Thanksgiving Fund*.

How can you apply for funding assistance?

- Write a simple note or email to the PC&O Committee Convenor, Christine Larkin, (christine.ashdance@gmail.com) providing:
 - **Your name and contact details**
 - **The course name and dates / course provider / full cost of course / and the amount of assistance you are requesting.**
- To help PC&O decide on funding, provide a few sentences on:
 - **How you see the course contributing to your spiritual development and wellbeing**
 - **Whether you have recently received other support**
 - **How you see your attendance contributing to the wider Quaker fellowship.**
- For privacy, your reasons for asking for assistance remain confidential to PC&O.
- It is important information is *in writing*, to avoid any confusion over spoken requests or the sum being requested.
- A member of PC&O will contact you in good time after you send your application.

Short turnaround on applications

PC&O recognises it may be hard to ask for assistance. It is also understood that most requests require fast turnarounds to secure course placements and/or cheaper fares or accommodation. So requests will be dealt with as speedily and in as low-key a manner as possible. For this to happen, the person asking assistance needs to approach PC&O *well in advance of the course*, not at the last minute.

If you would like to talk to a member of PC&O about this process ahead of applying, members of the Committee are Christine Larkin christine.ashdance@gmail.com, 0431 830 457, Vidya 0415 931 213, Judy Angus jpangus@inet.net.au, Jenny Stokes jennystokes116@gmail.com, or Jonathan Benyei 0412 624 774.