

***Uniting Aboriginal & Islander
Christian Congress***

**Yalga-binbi Institute
for Community Development**
National Provider No. 31116

**National
Leadership
Training
Program**

**Certificate IV in
Christian Ministry**
30268QLD

Course Handbook

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YALGA-BINBI INSTITUTE

Yalga-binbi Institute for Community Development is an Indigenous organisation that promotes and encourages self determination and community development in Australian Indigenous communities.

The Institute also makes its services and resources available to the wider community.

The Institute is based in Townsville, north Queensland. It is a not-for-profit organisation, established in 1989. It has served many Indigenous communities since that time, providing resources for community development in areas such as community development planning, employment of community development workers, promoting the arts and cultural development, initiating development projects such as the community justice group program in Queensland, and adult education and training.

The Institute is an agency of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress of the Uniting Church in Australia. The Congress is a national body controlled and managed by Indigenous people. It has responsibility for the church's ministry and community development work with Indigenous people throughout Australia.

Through its own vision and commitment, the Congress has initiated projects such as the Shalom Christian College in Townsville and Narana Creations in Geelong. It is a forward-moving, dynamic Indigenous organisation, promoting reconciliation, self determination, self-reliance, social justice and authentic expressions of Indigenous Christian spirituality.



Yalga-binbi Institute is a Registered Training Organisation under Queensland and Commonwealth legislation for the delivery of the Diploma of Community Development and the Certificate IV in Christian Ministry.

This means that the qualification gained by students who successfully complete either of these courses is nationally recognised.

THE VISION OF THE COURSE

The National Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress has identified an urgent need for leadership, both within the life of the church and also in the wider Indigenous community.

The Certificate IV and Diploma in Christian Ministry is the core formal learning for the development of Christian Indigenous leaders. There are places where the Congress would like to place ministry agents, like ministers or church development workers, but there is no one with the appropriate knowledge, skills, and gifts available. This course is targeting that need.

To adequately equip people for this task the course will involve participants in ministry practice in local communities. They will practice a wide range of tasks according to the identified needs of the local ministry area or congregation. They will repeat these tasks until they feel confident and have mastered all the skills involved. So the course is strongly practical in its approach. These periods of practice will fall between the residential workshops (see Course details below).

Each Intern will have a local Mentor. They will meet regularly with the Mentor to discuss their study and ministry practice. The Mentor will be their guide, tutor and assessor. Mentors will report to Yalga-binbi.

In line with the Congress approach to holistic evangelism the formal training will include Community Development principles and practice. These are built into the Christian Ministry course. Other studies will include Biblical, Theological, Spiritual Formation and Society and Community.

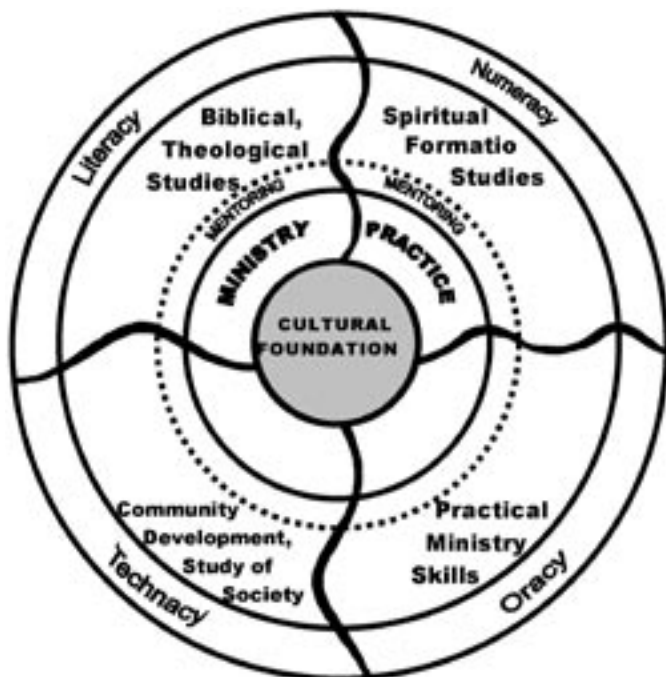
Congress is working within the guidelines of the UCA Ministerial Education Commission so that the course is recognised as suitable formation for the specified ministries of the Uniting Church:

- Minister of the Word
- Deacon
- Youth Worker
- Lay Pastor
- Community Minister

A graduate may also exercise a ministry as a church development worker in a lay capacity.



A picture of the vision



Look at this picture of the study program. At the core of the program are cultural foundations. The course is designed for Interns to express their faith and practise their ministry skills from their cultural context.

Close to the core is Ministry Practice, showing that we learn by doing. Interns will be actively engaged in ministry practice as a significant part of their learning. This is supported by the Mentor, who will also guide their other study.

The four areas of learning overlap. This is indicated by the wavy lines that mark the four areas of study. Together they represent the holistic learning approach of the entire program.

The outer ring shows study skills for successful learning. Support for these skill areas will be provided by Yalga-binbi Insitute.

COURSE DETAILS

Yalga-binbi Institute offers the Certificate IV in Christian Ministry on a part-time basis only through a mixed mode of delivery. It is designed to be completed over a two year period.

Residential workshops are held in Townsville, or other suitable locations, four times a year. Each workshop runs for a two week period, although the first workshop on entry to the course may be up to three weeks long. Students then return to their community where they will work through assignments and reading materials, undertake work placements and field work, and prepare reports.

This kind of course delivery allows students to continue to live and work in their communities and undertake practical projects and private study related to their community involvements.

Assessment will be based on the successful completion of all Units of the course.

Mentors will support the Leadership Intern in their community. Leadership Interns will meet weekly with their Mentors to report on and discuss their study and practical ministry activities. Mentors will offer guidance and tutoring. They will also participate in the assessment of students' assignments. All Mentors will take special training to perform this task.

In the first workshop the Intern will prepare a *Learning and Serving Covenant*. This is a signed commitment to undertake the study, practical tasks and personal formation for ministry. To track progress each Intern will maintain a *Journal* recording their learnings, their difficulties and new insights in their journey of formation. This record will be the basis for meetings with the Mentor.

The course is competency-based. That is to say, assessment will be based on how well students meet the performance criteria for each Unit that they study. This makes the course a practical one, and field work projects will be an important part of the course.



COURSE PROGRAM

Certificate IV in Christian Ministry 30268QLD — Learning Program Unit sequence

Yalga-binbi is offering the Units of competency for the Certificate IV in Christian Ministry as listed below.

Unit Code	Unit Title
CM7	Interprets and compares Christian traditions in the light of current thinking
CM8	Interprets theological data
CM9	Interprets and investigates data within a theological theme or issue
CM10	Discusses and compares new theological insights
CM11	Explores theological theory and the Christian way of life
CM12	Articulates theology in some depth using ordinary, everyday language
BSBCM402A	Develop work priorities
CHCCOM3C	Utilise specialist communication skills to build strong relationships
CHCCD1B	Support Community Participation
CHCCD9B	Support Community Leadership
CHCGROUP3C	Plan and conduct group activities
Total	11 Units

Note: Dates may be subject to change. All participants will be informed of any change in good time.



Residential Workshop Schedule

Year 1 Leadership Interns

Subject/ Unit		
	Develop work priorities BSBCM402A	Understanding the Bible
	People, places and times in New Testament	Kingdom of God
	Indigenous Theology	Pastoral Care
	Utilise specialist communication skills to build strong relationships CHCCOM3C	

Year 2 Leadership Interns

Subject/ Unit		
	Exodus	Plan & Conduct Group Activities
	Gospel of Luke	Christ the Centre
	Personal Discipleship	Support Community Participation CHCD1B
	Devotional Life	Issues in ethics

Year 3 Leadership Interns

Subject/ Unit		
	Exodus	Plan & Conduct Group Activities GROUP 3C
	Tailored	Support Community Leadership CHCCD9B
	Tailored	Tailored
	if required	

COURSE HOURS

How much time do I need to give to study?

This will depend to a certain extent on the personal skills and needs of each student. However, it is intended that throughout the academic year, a student will spend a minimum of one hour a day studying at home as well as doing practical projects in their workplace or local congregation. This may need to be supplemented with other learning such as literacy and numeracy skills for those who require it. Interns will spend other time pursuing the practical ministry skills as recorded in the *Learning and Serving Covenant*.

The residential workshops will give each student the basic knowledge and some of the skills for each Unit. It is compulsory to attend all of the workshops. However, assessment will also be based on performance of practical tasks in the workplace or community setting and on assignments in the student workbook.



WHO IS THE COURSE FOR?

The Certificate IV in Christian Ministry (30268QLD) is the first stage of the UAICC's National Leadership Training Program. It is specially designed for members of the UAICC who share the UAICC vision for local mission and ministry. This includes the importance of Australian Indigenous cultural foundations expressed through faith and action, and a holistic approach to faith and ministry. Participants will have a lively, active Christian faith, and be involved in some local form of Christian ministry. They will also be keen learners who would like to accept more responsibility.

Congregations or Faith Communities and Congress regions will nominate the people to participate in this course. They will be known as "Leadership Interns" (Refer to page 16 *How to apply...*).

Later Yalga-binbi will offer the second stage of the Leadership Training program. This will lead to the Diploma in Christian Ministry (30269QLD).

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS & SUBJECTS

UNIT BSBCMN402A

Develop work priorities

Interns will explore individual and group planning and develop local ministry plans as well as their own learning program. They will look at ways to monitor their own work performance against accepted standards and see how others evaluate their performance too. Finally Interns will discover and implement ways to co-ordinate their own professional development.

UNIT CHCOM3C

Utilise specialist communication skills to build strong relationships

In this unit Interns will identify the best communication strategies to meet the needs of clients and colleagues and build strong relationships. They will help develop effective communication strategies and apply some of them to resolve conflicts. Finally Interns will use a range of ways to facilitate group discussions.

UNIT CHCCD1B

Support Community Participation

This unit will give Interns a structured process to work with people in communities to promote participation in identifying community issues, planning the provision of services as well as maintaining support for existing activities.

UNIT CHCGROUP3C

Plan and Conduct Group Activities

There are four elements to this unit. As Interns complete them they will address resource needs for group activities, coordinate a group planning process and manage group processes. One part of this will include appropriate responses to conflict. Finally, Interns will engage in evaluating group activities.

UNIT CHCCD9B

Support community leadership

By completing this unit Interns will explore ways to develop and maintain support mechanisms for community leadership and to promote it. They will also introduce community members to the experience of leadership and acknowledge the contributions of the community to its leadership.

THE UNITS CM7 - CM12

Elements from these units are distributed through the eleven subjects of the certificate. Brief descriptions of the subjects are as follows:

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

This subject will explore the diverse contexts and genre within Biblical literature and the way the Bible came to us. It will provide a framework for Biblical interpretation and demonstrate ways culture and historical perspective shape Biblical interpretation.

Interns will critique, in a preliminary manner, Biblical interpretations from an Indigenous perspective and identify approaches to the Bible within different denominations.

PASTORAL CARE

Interns will investigate Biblical models for pastoral care for Indigenous contexts and practise high level communication skills. They will relate theological issues to pastoral care situations and discuss cultural influences on pastoral care processes from an Australian Indigenous perspective. Time will be given to exercise pastoral care skills.

PEOPLE, PLACES AND TIMES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

In this subject Interns will acquire foundational information about the New Testament. They will explore the religious context of first century Palestine and they will relate some aspects of it to a contemporary Australian Indigenous context.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Interns will study the theological material relating to the Kingdom of God as God's activity in the world. They will explore references in Hebrew Scripture to God as King and interpret theological material that expresses the Kingdom of God in Jesus' ministry. Interns will discuss the personal and corporate implications of the Kingdom of God as present and future in the light of Australian Indigenous concerns for justice.

INDIGENOUS THEOLOGY

Interns will consider the historical influences on Indigenous Christians and express their social and theological implications. They will explore Indigenous theological writings explaining their critique of the dominant culture. Interns will present a theological reflection around one or more Indigenous concerns. This subject will also provide a theological foundation for doing Australian Indigenous theology.

EXODUS

Interns will discuss the context of the book of Exodus and exegete selected texts. They will explore major themes in Exodus from an Australian Indigenous perspective and present their own viewpoints on them. Themes will include God as liberator, covenant, law and leadership.

ISSUES IN ETHICS

This subject will explore in some depth the sources of Christian ethics. Interns will identify the place of Indigenous law amongst them and express a variety of view points on contemporary ethical issues. They will develop and articulate a reasoned personal position on one chosen issue.

GOSPEL OF LUKE

In this subject Interns will acquire relevant information concerning the background of Luke and discuss in some depth particular texts that express the nature and purpose of Jesus' ministry. They will also engage in exegesis of selected texts that reflect special concerns of the writer. Other exercises will relate texts from Luke to Indigenous issues for both a critique of contemporary situations and a basis for transformation.

PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Here assignments will include explaining, in some depth, the nature of Christian discipleship and describing the personal implications of discipleship in the Intern's own context. Interns will also discuss critically the characteristics of holistic discipleship and its challenges. Finally, they will present a holistic, integrated Christian lifestyle in Indigenous communities

DEVOTIONAL LIFE

This subject will support Interns to exercise a sustainable, integrated devotional life. It will discuss practices in prayer and encourage use of Bible readings as a personal devotional practice. Interns will express different theological approaches to Christian spiritual disciplines and support further development of Christian disciplines among church and community members.

CHRIST THE CENTRE: THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST

In this subject Interns will demonstrate knowledge of the person and work of Christ in the context of the church's history. They will explore the relevance of names for Jesus in the Christian Scripture with diverse audiences. Finally, they will express clearly other traditions' approach to Christ and articulate a personal Christology in theological language.

ACCESS AND EQUITY

The Institute is committed to the principles of access and equity in its provision of education and training opportunities and in its employment policies and practices.

Yalga-binbi Institute will not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, religion, disability, age, ethnic origin, gender, marital status, pregnancy, or family responsibilities, in accordance with the provisions of Commonwealth and Queensland legislation.

However, it recognises the need for special priority to be given to Indigenous Australians in order to overcome the effects of discriminatory practices of the past. The Institute actively encourages Indigenous people to participate in all of its courses and training programs, and will adapt these to suit the identified needs of Indigenous people.

All courses provided by Yalga-binbi Institute are professionally developed with the co-operation of the relevant industry and conform with the standards required by the Australian Quality Training Framework.

All courses are provided by qualified and professional staff competent in the relevant vocational areas.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The rights and responsibilities of students are written in the 'Student Code of Conduct.' This is printed in the Student Handbook. It sets down what students and the Institute and its staff can expect from each other.

This code of conduct has been designed to ensure a productive learning environment and pleasant atmosphere for all students and staff, both in and out of the formal class situation.

Institute staff are responsible for ensuring that there is a productive, safe, and secure learning environment for the delivery of its courses. This may mean the formulation of classroom and campus rules and regulations to ensure that this Code of Conduct is enforced. Staff have the authority to ensure that students' rights are protected and that students carry out their responsibilities.

One important responsibility of all students is to refrain from bringing any alcohol or prohibited drugs on to Institute premises. Intoxicated students are not allowed on the campus.

TEACHING STAFF

The main lecturers in the Christian Ministry Course are Richard Wallace and John Adams. There will be other lecturers and guest speakers throughout the course. Both Richard and John are ministers of the Uniting Church. Richard has had long pastoral ministry experience in South Australia, Fiji and California. He was a Theology teacher at Nungalinya College, Darwin for three years, and worked for the Northern Region Council of Congress as a ministry support worker.

John has had extensive experience as a community development worker in Indigenous communities, particularly in northern Queensland. He helped establish an office for Yalga-binbi Institute in Cairns from 1990 to 1998. He has undertaken pioneering work in the establishment of community justice groups and adult education programs



RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING & MUTUAL RECOGNITION

The Institute recognises the qualifications and Statements of Attainment gained in other Registered Training Organisations and TAFE colleges, and as far as possible, will cross-credit qualifications or units of training when enrolling students in its courses.

The Institute will also make provision for recognition of prior learning (RPL) from other institutions and experiences, and arrange assessment strategies by which students may gain formal recognition for this learning towards their qualifications in Yalga-binbi Institute.

An information brochure on RPL and application forms are available.

ACCESS TO RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

The Certificate IV in Christian Ministry incorporates a strong emphasis on learning through practical involvement in the local church congregation or ministry area or life of the community.

Therefore, admission to the course is subject to a clear understanding between the congregation, the Intern and Yalga-binbi of the role the Intern will exercise in the life of the local congregation. This agreement will include all the practical ministry and other field work to meet the course requirements.

SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Special support will be organised wherever possible to assist students in their academic achievement and in their general welfare as students of Yalga-binbi Institute.

Professional counselling and student support are available.

Where students have needs in numeracy and literacy, the Institute will organise to provide appropriate support by way of tutoring or organising access to special courses.



COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

Yalga-binbi Institute has policies and procedures for lodging complaints and grievances. Complaints and grievances may range from academic matters to issues concerning teaching and assessment, harassment and discrimination, and other matters concerning student welfare.

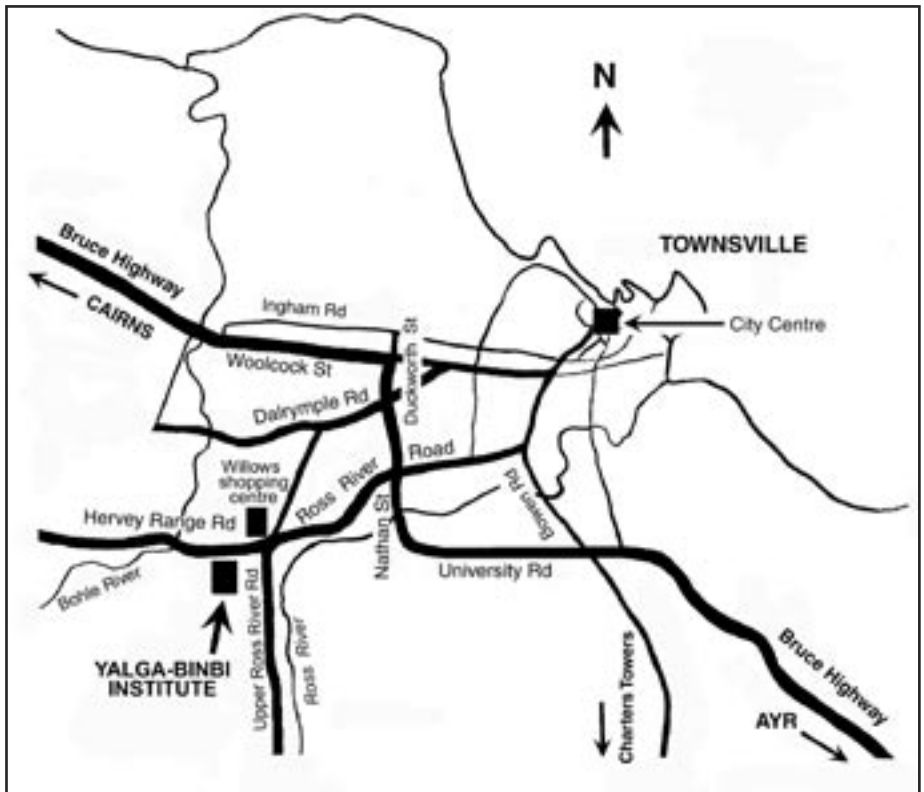
On acceptance into a course, students will be informed of the policies and procedures for dealing with such matters.

FEES AND CHARGES

The UAICC will work with Interns to ensure that they are free to pursue their studies without undue concern for the support of their family. The costs of tuition will be largely met by partnership between National Congress, Congress Regions, Synods and local congregations. Interns will be asked to contribute a portion of their Incidental Allowance to cover Study Guides and Workbooks and other minor costs.

LOCATION OF THE INSTITUTE

The Institute is located in the Townsville suburb of Condon, at 190 Hervey Range Road. It is situated on the campus of the Shalom Christian College.



HOW TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION AND ENROLMENT

Congress members interested in the program should contact their local minister or Region Resource officer to explore their sense of call. When the local congregation, the Congress Region and the Congress MEB (in the case of application for a specified ministry) affirm a personal sense of call through their respective processes, the person may make an application for admission.

Admission and enrolment application forms can be obtained from the Course Co-ordinator.

Contact:

Rev Dr Richard Wallace
Course Co-ordinator, Leadership Training
Yalga-binbi Institute for Community Development
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Queensland 4817
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UAICC Leadership Training

- holistic ministry
worker formation
using mentors

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for Community Development**



**NATIONALLY RECOGNISED
TRAINING**

