

## University Mission Worker

**The Armidale Uniting Church** is seeking to appoint a person to work with students and staff studying and working at the University of New England, Armidale, NSW. A flexible role will be negotiated to fit the needs, capacity and availability of the appointee, and the needs of the Church.

In its broadest form the role is to provide support, encouragement and teaching to students and staff; to allow opportunities for anyone, regardless of background, to explore and engage with Christian beliefs, including opportunities for respectful debate and dialogue between faiths and with respect to academic disciplines; and, to be available to the UNE community for counselling and support of people from any background in times of stress or crisis.

The Armidale Uniting Church also runs a residence for up to six post-secondary students. The appointee would seek to integrate these students into their work. The appointee may choose, if they wish, to be housed in this residence.

The opportunity exists to develop a remuneration package that is valued, on average, up to \$340/week.

This position would suit a student of UNE, but it may also be suitable for a person who is not an enrolled student.

To explore this opportunity further please visit <http://armidaleunitingchurch.org.au/index.html> or phone Graham MacKay on 0413 312 351.

## Background

The University of New England has been operating in Armidale for over 60 years. The Armidale Uniting Church (AUC) and its predecessors has had close ties with the University since its inception, including full-time Chaplaincy appointments. This relationship continues with students and current and former UNE staff worshipping with us. Our Church wishes to maintain and strengthen this relationship through the appointment of a mission worker.

UNE has an on-campus student population of over 4,000 students. In addition, it has approx. 18,000 students who study online, many of whom visit the University to attend residential schools. UNE has a relatively small percentage of overseas students studying in Armidale. However, the service of their personal and faith needs is very important.

Since 2010, the AUC has run a student residence for post-secondary students. Up to six students are housed in the old manse located in town, next to the Uniting Church. 31 students have called St Andrews House home in the past eight years, with some staying for over two years.

St Andrews was established with the encouragement of a group of Christian students worshipping at our Church. It was created as an intentional Christian community in which Christians and non-Christians can live in a community accepting Christian principles and, to different degrees, seek to understand and grow a Christian faith. Initially the community was largely Anglo undergraduate students, but in recent years has transitioned to mostly include overseas, postgraduate students.

St Andrews students live largely as a self-managed, independent community with support from a committee of congregational members and, more generally, support of the congregation. The Church is keen to grow its connection with the students and to provide faith and social support. The role of the Mission Worker is an important element for strengthening this work.

## **Role of the Mission Worker**

The Mission Worker will be supported by Church groups and the Rev. Joanne Smalbil, our full-time minister appointed at the end of 2017. The role of the Mission Worker and the support team is to:

- *provide support and encouragement of staff and students*
- *allow opportunities for anyone, regardless of background, to explore and engage with Christian beliefs, including opportunities for respectful debate and dialogue between faiths and with respect to academic disciplines*
- *be available to the UNE community for counselling and support of people from any background in times of stress or crisis.*

Our Church wishes to approach this appointment with an open mind regarding the nature and extent of the role. The opportunity to tailor the role to the experience, circumstances and capacity of the selected applicant is important. While the appointee may be a student, this is not an absolute requirement.

While mindful of the flexibility of the role, as a priority it is likely that the appointee would:

- create opportunities to meet students and staff and to build relationships with them that facilitate and encourages exploration and engagement with Christian beliefs and practice (a room on campus will be available to support this work);
- leadership in the planning and conduct of activities for students and staff that support their faith journey and connect them with the AUC congregation;
- provide specific support for students of St Andrews House through direct engagement and via collaboration with the St Andrews House Committee and its initiatives;

A small budget will be available to support the conduct of activities and programs. Additional resources may be added to support specific proposals requiring more extensive support.

The successful candidate will:

- a. Have a mature faith that reflects values and theology of the Uniting Church
- b. Be able to communicate with a wide range of students and staff
- c. Be able to share the Gospel with those she/he meets and befriends
- d. Be able to work effectively in University structures and services
- e. Have good organisational skills in keeping track of students and in planning activities
- f. Be willing to contact other universities to gain ideas and fellowship with other ministry workers

## Remuneration Details/Package

In keeping with the proposed flexibility of the role, remuneration would be aligned with the agreed role, experience of the appointee and hours to be worked.

**Two elements of a package are available – wages and subsidised accommodation.**

**Wages** – the appointee will be paid an hourly wage in the range of \$25-30/hour, depending on experience and the agreed role. Currently, it is anticipated that payment would be limited to a maximum of 12 hours per week.

**Subsidised accommodation** – an appointee will be given every encouragement to consider residing in St Andrews House. In return, for taking an informal leadership role within the House and meeting with the St Andrews Committee from time to time (up to an average of approx. 3 hours per week), a rent subsidy of \$70 would be provided. Should the appointee not take up the residence offer, additional wages may be paid in lieu.

## Application

Applicants are invited to submit their CV and details of their interest in the position, what they might bring to the job, and details of their expected situation in Armidale. Phone contact is also encouraged to share information and ideas about this exciting role.

Phone:           Graham MacKay – 0413 312 351

                      Russel Glover – 0409 477 583

Email:           [admin@armidaleunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:admin@armidaleunitingchurch.org.au)

## Illustrative Position Description

### POSITION PURPOSE:

To support the Armidale Uniting Church's (AUC) outreach to post-secondary students and staff attending and working at the University of New England, and residents of the Church's student accommodation (maximum of six students). In partnership with the AUC Council and support teams provide leadership and develop activities and programs that support the needs of the students and staff and support their Christian faith journey.

### SPECIFIC ACCOUNTABILITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. In partnership with the Church Council, the Chaplaincy team and the St Andrews House Committee provide leadership that supports the needs of UNE students and staff and support their Christian faith journey.
2. Develop activities and programs that promote the growth of students' and staff Christian understanding and faith.
3. Promote the growth of engagement and inclusion of students and staff in the Church's life.

4. Assist to build a strong student residential community through participation in social and pastoral care activities provided by the congregation to the St Andrew's House residents.
5. Monitor activities and programs and report progress to the Church Council on a regular basis.

#### **CORE COMPETENCIES**

1. Have a mature faith that reflects values and theology of the Uniting Church.
2. Be able to communicate with a wide range of students.
3. Be able to share the Gospel with those she/he meets and befriends.
4. Be able to work effectively in University structures and services.
5. Have good organisational skills in keeping track of students and in planning activities.
6. Ability to keep a number of activities on track concurrently. Excellent personal time management.
7. Personal maturity to work as an effective member of the ministry team.
8. Be willing to contact other universities to gain ideas and fellowship with other ministry workers.

#### **SELECTION CRITERIA:**

##### **Essential**

1. Progress towards/enrolment in/completion of a post-secondary qualification or work and life experience that enhances leadership, relationship-building and organizational skills.
2. Demonstrated ability to exercise independence, initiative and judgment.
3. Demonstrated strong organizational skills.
4. Demonstrated high level of interpersonal and communication skills.
5. Proven ability to work independently and within a team environment.
6. Ability to prioritise work and meet deadlines.
7. Demonstrated ability to maintain strict confidentiality.

##### **Desirable**

8. Familiarity with and understanding of the Uniting Church organizational culture.

