



104th Orientation Course

July 3–11, 2021

In 1961, Palms Australia held its first ever Pre-Departure Orientation Course for participants in Palms assignments abroad about to head into their overseas placements. Since then Palms Australia's expert-led training has become nationally renowned as an essential element of effective development assignments.

Palms Australia's close partnerships with overseas communities allow us to respond to their unique requests. We work closely with our partners to connect them with qualified and experienced Australians who commit to share their knowledge and skills while living in the communities they serve. Over the last 59 years, this has proven an effective model for achieving sustainable, community-owned development.

As importantly:

"A priceless gift a stranger can bring to a needy community is the moral gift of solidarity. Today many communities feel abandoned by the wider world or victims of terrible violence within their own country. They suffer physical, moral, and spiritual deprivation. A stranger may be an agent of incalculable good. To convince such people that the stranger would not want to be anywhere else, or with anyone else, is to begin to rehabilitate those with crushed self-esteem or verging on despair. When the stranger becomes recognizable as a friend and the host is able to embrace and be embraced, stranger and host have been transformed into a community of friends."

Anthony Gittins, from 'Ministry at the Margins'

Before you, over 1530 Australians, at 103 Orientation Courses, have been prepared to engage in these challenging cross-cultural relationships to build understanding, acceptance and care, and provide the assistance requested, across 41 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific.



Scenario workshop at Palms 98th Orientation Course, January 2017



How are you best prepared?

Every person has their own unique learning style. In order to cater for all preferences, Palms Australia's Orientation Course involves a variety of activities to suit a variety of learning styles. Various presenters will host workshops based on their area of expertise. Sessions are generally interactive and include small group activities and discussion. Simulations, field trips and meditations help participants to put concepts into action.

What is covered?

Sessions at the Orientation Course will cover various areas crucial to effectively completing an assignment, including:

- 🌐 Interpersonal, mental & physical health
- 🌐 Cultural competency
- 🌐 Language development
- 🌐 Indigenous issues
- 🌐 Development dilemmas
- 🌐 Mentoring and skill exchange
- 🌐 Cross-cultural & developmental scenarios
- 🌐 Experience from the field

**“Palms’ preparation
is its genius.”**

In addition, Palms Australia's qualified and experienced Placement Coordinator builds on learning at the course with individual guidance that will assist you to manage personal, development and cross-cultural challenges throughout your placement.

Booking your place

To secure your place at our next Orientation Course, please complete and return the registration form or follow the links on the final page to register online as soon as possible.

Travel

Those coming interstate **by plane** can be collected from the airport. We usually have volunteers offering this service, **so talk to us before booking any flights** and we will inform you of the best time to arrive to enable your pick-up.

For those who will be **driving**, there is parking available in the grounds. Transportation can be arranged from Sydney for those unable to drive.

If you need further assistance or would like to discuss your travel arrangements, please give us a call before returning the booking slip.

If you're considering working, volunteering, studying, living, or simply travelling cross-culturally, attending Palms Australia's Orientation Course will ensure your experience reaches its full potential for both yourself and your host community.



The Location

Preparation for your assignment demands a space free from the stresses of our western world; a space where you can give appropriate time to discerning how best to make your cross-cultural experience meaningful and useful for you, as well as for the community that will host you overseas. The Mount Carmel Centre is situated in a peaceful semirural setting in Varroville near Minto in Sydney's South Western fringes; a convenient 60 minute drive from the heart of Sydney.

Surrounded with interesting bird life it will provide a tranquil, peaceful escape from the busyness of life while you prepare to serve the world. In your breaks between sessions you can take the opportunity to sit, relax, reflect and marvel in a world of your own.



Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Rd, Varroville, NSW

We'd call it a holiday retreat if it weren't for everything you will learn, reflect upon and experience. The mix of learning activities developed over many years by our innovative educators and presented by experienced practitioners and experts, will allow you to meet that challenge ahead of you. The cross-fertilisation of ideas among participants is also an extremely valuable component of the course.

You still have some time each afternoon before dinner to walk around the property, take in the views, engage in a fun team sport, find a quiet corner for reflection and reading or talk to our experienced staff.



Registration Form: Palms Australia's 104th Orientation, July 3-11, 2021

Palms Australia's preparation includes all meals, accommodation, staff time, facilitator costs and materials provided at the Orientation Course, as well as the provision of correspondence units, reflective material, and consultation with our placement coordinator, before and after the course.

The course is costed at \$3,655 per head; however we do not ask participants to cover this cost.

- Palms applicants who have made a donation of at least \$300 in the 12 months prior to the course commencing and intend to take on an overseas placement will not be charged.
- Non-applicants such as friends, family members and other supporters of course participants who have made a donation of \$1,100 in the previous 12 months will also attend the course free of charge.

This is possible because a number of organisations and individual donors are willing to support Palms preparation for those undertaking a Palms assignment.

Anyone not in one of the above categories who wishes to attend the course should contact the Palms office on 02 9560 5333 to discuss available fee options.

[Donate by Direct Deposit](#) and confirm attendance via the form below, or [here online](#), at least two weeks prior to the course so that we can finalise numbers and arrangements with the venue. If you feel that you are not in a financial position to make a donation before that time, please contact us to discuss your options.



NAME

ADDRESS.....

PHONE NO. (H) (W)

MOBILE: EMAIL:

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT PALMS?

- I have special dietary requirements (Please specify)
- I will be driving to the venue.
- I will be dropped off at the venue.
- I will require a lift to the venue.
- I will be flying to/from Sydney.*

* We will endeavour to collect you at the airport. To facilitate your timely pick up and return to the airport, **please call us before booking your flight to discuss best arrival and departure times.**

As a participant in Palms programs I agree that my name, image and the skills I bring to a possible assignment can be used in Palms communications to assist build support for the program.

Signature..... Date...../...../.....