



## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

### Reminder: discontinuation of cheques as a method of payment

In November 2021 we sent out a communication informing UFS Cheque Facility holders that cheques would be discontinued as a method of payment.

The use of cheques is now in universal decline as individuals, businesses and organisations move to alternative digitised forms of payment.

To minimise any disruption to your organisation, UFS would like to remind Cheque Facility holders of some key dates and actions.

#### Key dates to note

- UFS is no longer establishing any new cheque facilities.
- From **30 April 2022** UFS will no longer issue any replacement books for lost or depleted cheque books.
- From **30 June 2022**, cheques will no longer be a valid method of payment from UFS accounts, and no further cheques should be drawn. You will also not be able to cash cheque at the Westpac branch where you have an authority established as these services will be cancelled by Westpac.
- From **1 August 2022** any cheques presented to UFS will be returned to the presenter as being an invalid payment type.
- You will still be able to deposit any cheques given to you as payment, to your UFS account, through Australia Post.

#### How to prepare

- Ensure that you have an alternative method of payment in place for all regular creditors. Speak to them about other payment options.
- Begin using Uniting Online or alternative payment options as soon as possible so you become familiar with them.
- Carry out regular cheque reconciliations to ensure all cheques issued have been presented to your account. Contact payees and ask them to present cheques as soon as possible. This aspect will be particularly crucial as we move closer to the exit date.
- Securely destroy all unused cheques.



## Alternative payment methods

- **Uniting Online** - Most of our Church organisations have already made use of Uniting Online, UFS's online payments platform. You can make payments to people and organisations either via direct transfer or BPay payments.
- **Payment by Credit Card** - UFS can provide a dual branded UFS/ANZ Visa Card to any individual authorised by your Church organisation, to enable them to make payments via credit card. No interest is payable as your account is automatically cleared to a nominated operating account each month. There are no other charges on the card.

## We are here to help

If you have any questions about this change, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions document on the Important Announcements section of our website.

We are also running information sessions via Zoom on the following dates:

### Wednesday 16 February 2022 @ 7pm

Zoom link: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/98417250674?pwd=SGk5c2VWWFFUTE1RNnZZMDJDQkJQQT09>

### Thursday 24 February 2022 @ 5.30pm

Zoom link: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/94352264408?pwd=a3dFV3E5dJxNjJOVi91MFM1QVFPdz09>

If you require further assistance with this transition do not hesitate to contact the Partner Solutions and Support team on 1300 133 673 or via email on [contactus@unitingfinancial.com.au](mailto:contactus@unitingfinancial.com.au)

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