



Think you could be up on the FCA conference stage giving a SPOT talk? This year's theme is 'The Power. The Passion.'

**We're calling for pitches.**

### **What is a SPOT talk?**

A FCA SPOT talk is typically a 7-9 minute talk on our conference stage, under the spotlight. Up to eight lucky and brave speakers are professionally mentored to deliver their talks, without notes to a packed conference audience. We film and edit the talks, and you can share your talk afterwards to amplify your stage.

### **What does the theme mean? (some ideas from our quick brainstorm but but you'll have your own too. We love diversity)**

What is power? Is it a force for good? What power do we have and how do we use it? How is power used or abused? What else comes to mind? Asymmetry of power. Being disempowered. Collective power. The responsibility of power. Or power as in electricity, gas and a means to make our mobile phones work.

What is passion? Passion is what we believe and value, how we work and how we seek change. There are crimes of passion and abuse of passion. Does passion stand up to the language of economics? What about com-passion? Keeping passion alive, and passion as the force behind some decisions. Passion for your work. And times when passion forsakes us.

What happens when power and passion collide? How do we make everyday choices to do the right thing? What about

when the law says one thing, but our passion or ethics raises other issues? What happens when people see issues but do nothing? What about fairness?

### **The passion behind this theme**

This topic came from a recent NT experience visiting Kakadu in the rainy season. I took a scenic flight over Kakadu's floodplains with its cascading waterfalls. It was stunning and I was awestruck by the vastness, the remoteness and sheer beauty of the floodplains. Towards the end of the flight we went over the Ranger uranium mine, which is the total opposite. Gigantic, ugly, and a desecration of the land.

I thought about Midnight Oil, and the songs that raised the consciousness of a generation about uranium mining, the protests, land rights and more. In the 80's and 90's some of us sang *"Oh, oh the power and the passion, oh the temper of the time, Oh the power and the passion, Sometimes you've got to take the hardest line ... ending with 'It's better to die on your feet than to live on your knees'.*

Hope you feel inspired to put in a SPOT talk pitch. But if you're selected, you won't die on your feet. Those final speakers are mentored by our talented speaker mentor. You'll put in the hard work, learn a lot, and practice until you're confident to deliver your SPOT talk on our fake grass round carpet with power and passion (and glory).

## Your stories can be about anything you're passionate about.

The best SPOT talks come from a place of deep passion. So what are you passionate about? Write down your passion(s), link it to the theme, and read the instructions on the form to submit a great pitch application. If you have multiple ideas, you can submit a couple of pitches, one per form.

## Three little tests before you submit

1. Tell someone about your 'idea worth sharing'. Try saying it in 30 seconds to distil your ideas to a really strong, single idea. If your idea can go in a dozen directions, work out what is most important, and focus on that.
2. Is it relevant to financial counsellors? We're an audience of financial counsellors and our work centres on people in financial hardship, so the talks most likely to be selected will be those relevant to our world (our passion for our kids' talents or gardening probably won't cut it!).
3. Is it a SPOT talk? We follow the TED format, which is different from a lecture or a rant. The best way to get the hang of it, is to [watch some TED talks](#). They're entertaining.

## What is the selection process?

[You submit 'your pitch' on our online form](#). Our speaker mentor might come back and offer suggestions for you to explore and resubmit, before he decides which people to take to the next stage. So please respond thoughtfully and promptly, if you are keen to do a talk.

If you're selected to go on, you'll write dot points, then drafts. Over the weeks, you will be challenged to refine your ideas and words, multiple times. By the end you'll know each word intimately, and be able to tell your story without notes. (Yes, you'll have to practice)

The point is that it's a mentored process so you won't be alone.

## Important details

1. Note that FCA covers the cost of speaker mentoring and filming/editing. You will need to cover all your own costs to get to the Darwin conference.
2. You will need to be at the conference on day 2, Thursday 21st May, 9 am to 10.30 am (and on Tuesday for a rehearsal)
3. If selected you need to be committed, as you're taking a space that was denied to someone else. You need to put in at least 20 hours work over the 4 months.

## Deadline

Deadline for your pitch application is 9 January.

## To apply

[Here is the online pitch form](#).

Questions: [events@financialcounsellingaustralia.org.au](mailto:events@financialcounsellingaustralia.org.au)

## Some SPOT talks

- [Sue Fraser](#), Turning Vulnerability into a strength
- [Jo Watson](#), Challenging assumptions about people with profound cognitive disabilities
- [Lynda Edwards](#), Beyond humbugging
- [Andrew Gason](#), Out of jail to changing lives
- [Anthony Robinson](#), I bet you have a problem
- [Sandra Blake](#), A town's solution for refugees
- [Sayema](#), Why I need my voice as a victim and survivor of family violence