



# Anglican Church of Australia

General Synod

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## SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD 3 – 8 SEPTEMBER 2017

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### BUSINESS PAPER FOR THE FIRST BUSINESS DAY MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2017

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The Seventeenth Session of the General Synod will commence with a celebration of Holy Communion at Matthew Flinders Anglican College, Buderim at 6.00 pm on Sunday 3 September 2017.

The business of the Synod will commence at 8.30 am on Monday 4 September 2017 in the Wandiny Room (Synod Hall), Novotel Twin Waters Resort, Maroochydore.

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### ORDER OF BUSINESS

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#### 1 SYNOD ASSEMBLES

Synod will assemble in the Wandiny Room (Synod Hall) at 8.30 am on 4 September 2017.  
[SO 1]

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#### 2 PRAYERS

Prayers will be led by the President's Chaplain. [SO 3]

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#### 3 ROLLS

The Rolls of Bishops, Clerical and Lay Representatives summoned to the Synod will be called. [SO 7(a)]

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#### 4 QUORUM

There will be a determination whether or not the requirements of Section 21 of the Constitution for determining a quorum have been satisfied. [SO 2]

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## **5 PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

The President will deliver his address to the Synod. [SO 7(b)]

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## **6 A MOTION TO ELECT OFFICERS OF THE SYNOD**

Bishop Robert Forsyth moving, Ms Anne Hywood seconding,

### **6.1 A Clerical Secretary and a Lay Secretary Of Synod** [SO 4 and SO 7(c)(1)]

6.1.1 That the Rev'd Canon Katherine Bowyer be elected as Clerical Secretary of Synod.

6.1.2 That Mr Timothy Reid be elected as Lay Secretary of Synod.

### **6.2 A Chair and Deputy Chairs of Committees** [SO 7(c)(2)]

6.2.1 That Dr Ian Gibson be elected as Chair of Committees.

6.2.2 That Ms Audrey Mills be elected as a Deputy Chair of Committees.

6.2.3 That Ms Rachel Ellyard be elected as a Deputy Chair of Committees.

### **6.3 A Committee of Elections and Qualifications** [SO 7(c)(3) and 11]

That the following members be appointed to the Committee of Elections and Qualifications:

6.3.1. Bishop Trevor Edwards

6.3.2. Mr Michael Meek SC

6.3.3. Justice Debra Mullins

6.3.4. Bishop John Parkes AM

6.3.5 Ms Emma Riggs

6.3.6 Ms Carolyn Tan

### **6.4 3 Members of a Committee to Arrange the Order of Business** [SO 7(c)(4) and 11A(2)]

That the following additional persons be elected to the Committee to arrange the Order of Business:

6.4.1. Bishop Andrew Curnow AM

6.4.2. Archdeacon Arthur Copeman

6.4.3. Mr Allan Perryman

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## **7 GENERAL SECRETARY'S INTRODUCTION TO ARRANGEMENTS**

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## **8 A MOTION TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS - Arrangement of Synod's business**

Ms Anne Hywood moving, Archdeacon Arthur Copeman seconding,

- (a) That so much of Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the following Motion relating to the orderly arrangement of the Synod's business being considered and if, approved, being implemented forthwith; and
- (b) That Synod order the following arrangements set out in paragraphs 8.1 to 8.15.

### **8.1 Minutes Reading Committee**

That a Minutes Reading Committee of six members be appointed to read and certify as a correct record the Minutes of this Session of Synod for confirmation by Synod and that the following be members of the Committee, any two of whom are to certify the minutes for a particular day:

- 8.1.1 Mr Clive Ellis (Convenor)
- 8.1.2 Bishop Bradly Billings
- 8.1.3 Ms Beverly Birch
- 8.1.4 The Rev'd Dane Courtney
- 8.1.5 Dr Timothy Nicholson
- 8.1.6 Bishop Sarah Macneil

### **8.2 Nominations for Elections Under Rule III (Rule III, Cl 5(b))**

- 8.2.1. That nominations for election to the Appellate Tribunal and Standing Committee close at 9.00 pm on Monday 4 September 2017.
- 8.2.2 That nominations for all other elections under Rule III close at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 5 September 2017.

### **8.3 Hours of Sitting and Synod Program** [SO 1]

- 8.3.1 That the hours of sitting for this session of General Synod be those set out in the Synod Program in Book 2 of the General Synod papers titled *Standing Committee Report to the Seventeenth Session of General Synod*.
- 8.3.2 That so much of Standing Orders as may be necessary be suspended to permit the program as set out in Book 2 of the General Synod papers titled *Standing Committee Report to the Seventeenth Session of General Synod* to be implemented.

### **8.4 General Synod Conference Sessions**

That General Synod be adjourned and that conference sessions be conducted at the following times:

- 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm on Monday 4 September 2017
- 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm on Tuesday 5 September 2017
- 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm on Wednesday 6 September 2017

## **8.5 Guests of General Synod**

- 8.5.1 That the representative of the member churches of the ecumenical body 'Queensland Churches Together', be welcomed as guests and be granted permission to speak if called upon by the President.
- 8.5.2 That the following persons, not being members of this General Synod, be granted permission to speak if called upon by the President:
- 8.5.2.1 Bishop Ian Lambert, Bishop to the Defence Force
  - 8.5.2.2 Bishop Jeffrey Driver, Chair of the Doctrine Commission
  - 8.5.2.3 The Rev'd John Deane, Director of Anglican Board of Missions-Australia Ltd
  - 8.5.2.4 Dr Martin Sutherland, Dean and CEO, The Australian College of Theology Pty Ltd
  - 8.5.2.5 The Rev'd Peter Laurence OAM, Chief Executive Officer of Anglican Schools Australia
  - 8.5.2.6 The Rev'd Michael Hughes, General Secretary, The Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

## **8.6 Media Arrangements**

That in order to provide appropriate controls and to prevent interference with the Business of the Synod the following media arrangements will pertain:

- 8.6.1 Television filming on the floor of Synod may only take place during the first fifteen minutes of each day of sitting, following Prayers, or at other specific times declared by the President.
- 8.6.2 At other times during the Synod accredited media representatives shall be permitted in the Synod Hall only in a designated area.
- 8.6.3 Television cameras may film from a designated space during the sessions of Synod, but not during any period declared by the President at his discretion.

## **8.7 Report on Financial Matters**

That leave be granted for Mr Allan Perryman, General Synod Treasurer as mover of Motions 16.3.1 to 16.3.5, and Ms Marianne Yacoel, General Synod Finance and Operations Manager to make a presentation for 20 minutes to introduce the motions on finance matters.

## **8.8 Report of the Viability and Structures Steering Group**

That leave be granted for Bishop Andrew Curnow, as mover of motion 16.4, to make a presentation on the recommendations contained in the Report of the Viability and Structures Steering Group for 15 minutes in connection with the motion.

## **8.9 Bible Study and Small Groups Discussion Program**

- 8.9.1 That bible study and small group discussions be held following morning worship each day
- 8.9.2 That the study groups be comprised with facilitators as published on the GS17 members portal and posted in the Wandiny Room (Synod Hall).
- 8.9.3 That leave be granted to Archdeacon Arthur Copeman to provide an introduction to the bible study and small group discussion program at 12.20pm, before the lunch break, on Monday 4 September 2017.

## **8.10 Ordering of Business on the Advice of the Provisional Business Committee [SO 7(dd)]**

### **Finance Motions**

- 8.10.1 That consideration of Motions 16.3.1 to 16.3.3 and the consideration in principle of motions 16.3.4 and 16.3.5 be an Order of the Day for 11.00 am on Tuesday 5 September 2017.
- 8.10.2 That final consideration of motions 16.3.4 and 16.3.5 be an Order of the Day for 9.30 am on Thursday 7 September 2017.

### **Appellate Tribunal Qualification of Membership (Bill 1)**

- 8.10.3 That consideration of Motion 17.1 be an order of the day for 12 noon on Monday 4 September 2017.

### **Safe Ministry to Children (Bills 15 to 19)**

- 8.10.4 That consideration of Motions 17.15 to 17.19 be an Order of the Day for 3.30 pm on Monday 4 September 2017.

### **Episcopal Standards (Bills 20 to 22)**

- 8.10.5 That consideration of Motions 17.20 to 17.22 be an Order of the Day for 3.30 pm on Tuesday 5 September 2017.

### **Redress for Survivors of Abuse**

- 8.10.6 That consideration of Motion 16.22 be an order of the day for 9.30 am on Wednesday 6 September 2017 and, if leave is granted for the introduction of a Bill for the Redress for Survivors of Abuse Canon 2017, that the bill be considered forthwith.

### **Mission and Ministry**

- 8.10.7 That consideration of the Motions 16.11 to 16.13 be an Order of the Day for 7.30pm on Wednesday 6 September 2017.

## **8.11 Authentication of Canons**

That pursuant to Sections 24 and 25(1) of the Constitution, the Canons passed at this Session of the General Synod shall be authenticated by use of the official seal of the General Synod.

## **8.12 Reading and Confirmation of Minutes**

That:

- (a) the minutes of the first, second and third days of meeting of this Session of the Synod be read and confirmed on the resumption of business after the afternoon tea adjournment on the day following the relevant day of meeting;
- (b) the minutes of the second-last day of meeting of this Session of the Synod be read and confirmed on the resumption of business after the morning tea adjournment on the final day of meeting;
- (c) the minutes of the final day of meeting be read and confirmed at the first full meeting of the Standing Committee following this Session of the General Synod.

## **8.13 Nominations and Elections under Rule III**

That:

- (a) Nominations for the Appellate Tribunal and Standing Committee will close at 9.00 pm on Monday, 4 September 2017.
- (b) Nominations for all other elections under Rule III will close at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 5 September 2017.
- (c) Voting will take place in the voting room in Mudjimba 1, adjacent to the entry foyer of the Novotel Twin Waters Resort, between 10.30 am and 6:00 pm on Wednesday, 6 September 2017.

## **8.14 Amendment of Rule I – Standing Orders (Formal Motions) Amendment of Rule I – Standing Orders (Electronic Voting)**

That motions 18.1 and 18.4 relating to the amendment of Rule I be dealt with forthwith.

## **8.15 Amendment of Rule III - Elections**

That motion 18.2 relating to amendment of Rule III be dealt with forthwith.

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## **9 DOCUMENTS TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE BY THE PRESIDENT**

### **9.1 A list of Special Bills which the President has declared to be Canons under Section 28(3)(iii) of the Constitution since the last session of General Synod [SO 7(d)(1)]**

There is no Special Bill in this category.

### **9.2 A list of Special Bills which have not been assented to by every diocesan synod together with the reports and recommendations received from such synods [SO 7(d)(2)]**

There is no Special Bill in this category.

**9.3 A list of Canons the President has declared to be in force following upon a reference of any question to the Appellate Tribunal under Section 29 of the Constitution [SO 7(d)(3)]**

There is no Canon in this category

**9.4 A list of Canons in which the Appellate Tribunal has found inconsistency or breach of Section 28 [SO 7(d)(4)]**

There is no Canon in this category

**9.5 A list of Canons duly passed by the Synod together with the date appointed by the President upon which the said Canons came into force under Section 30 of the Constitution [SO 7(d)(5)]**

No 01, 2014 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council Canon 2014  
1 January 2015

No 02, 2014 A Canon to amend the Financial Protection Canon 1995  
4 July 2014

No 03, 2014 A Canon to amend the Special Tribunal Canon 2007  
30 June 2014

No 08, 2014 A Canon to amend S52 of the Special Tribunal Canon 2007  
4 July 2014

No 09, 2014 A Canon to amend the National Register Canon 2007  
1 July 2014

No 10, 2014 A Canon to amend the Primate Canon 1985  
1 July 2014

**9.6 A list of Canons amending the Constitution which have come into effect in the period since the Sixteenth Session of the General Synod**

No 12, 2010 A Canon to amend the Constitution (S28A)  
1 July 2014

No 1, 2010 A Canon to amend the Constitution (S75)  
1 March 2016

**9.7 Notifications and advice from dioceses under Section 30(c) of the Constitution [SO 7(d)(6)]**

No notifications under Section 30(c) have been received since the conclusion of the Fifteenth Session of the Synod.

**9.8 Amendment sheet prepared by the Secretaries of Synod under Standing Order 42A(a) [SO 7(d)(7)]**

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**10 PETITIONS [SO 7(e)]**

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**11 NOTICES OF QUESTIONS [SO 7(f)]**

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**12 NOTICES OF MOTIONS [SO 7(g)]**

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**13 ELECTION OF A CHAIR AND OTHER OFFICERS OF**  
**1. THE HOUSE OF CLERGY AND**  
**2. THE HOUSE OF LAITY**  
[SO 7(h)]

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**14 CALL OVER OF THE MOTIONS**

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**15 REPORTS, ACCOUNTS AND MOTIONS CONNECTED THEREWITH [SO7(i)]**

Ms Anne Hywood moving, Archdeacon Arthur Copeman seconding,

That the following reports and documents be laid on the Table and be received without preventing further discussion of specific matters arising from them:

**15.1 Standing Committee of General Synod Reports**

(Book 2 of the Synod Papers)

- Membership of the Standing Committee of General Synod and its Committees
- Implementation of Substantive Resolutions of the Sixteenth Session of General Synod 2014
- Summary of Business of the Standing Committee from November 2014 to May 2017
- Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation
- Appellate Tribunal
- Special Tribunal
- National Register
- Financial Protection Canon 1995
- General Synod Legislation
- Changes in the Episcopate since the Sixteenth General Synod

(Book 3 of the Synod Papers)

- General Synod Financial Performance 2014-2016
- General Synod Budget for 2017
- General Synod Budget 2018 and Forecasts 2019-2020



## **15.2 Bills for Canons circulated in accordance with Section 27(1)(i) of the Constitution**

(Book 1 and 5 of the Synod papers)

- Bill 01** – A Bill for the Appellate Tribunal Amendment (Qualification) Canon 2017
- Bill 02** – A Bill for the Appellate Tribunal Amendment (Reserve List) Canon 2017
- Bill 03** – A Bill for the Constitution (Appellate Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017
- Bill 04** – A Bill for the Special Tribunal Amendment Canon 2017
- Bill 05** – A Bill for the Special Tribunal (Limitation Period) Canon 2017
- Bill 06** – A Bill for the Long Service Leave (Revision of Entitlement) Canon 2017
- Bill 07** – A Bill for the Long Service Leave (Notification Of Participating Organisation) Canon 2017
- Bill 08** – A Bill for a Canon to Ratify the Amended New South Wales Provincial Synod Constitution
- Bill 09** – A Bill for the Holy Orders (Removal from Exercise of Ministry) Canon 2017
- Bill 10A** – A Bill for the Canon Concerning Confessions (Revision) Canon 2017
- Bill 10B** – A bill for the Canon Concerning Confessions (Vulnerable Persons) Canon 2017
- Bill 11** – A Bill for the Canon Concerning Services Amendment Canon 2017
- Bill 12** – A Bill for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council Amendment Canon 2017
- Bill 13** – A Bill for Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Amendment Canon 2017
- Bill 14** – A Bill for the Missionary Dioceses (Amendment) Canon 2017
- Bill 15** – A Bill for a Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017
- Bill 16** – A Bill for a Disclosure of Information Canon 2017
- Bill 17** – A Bill for the National Register Amendment Canon 2017
- Bill 18** – A Bill for the National Register (Access to and Disclosure of Information) Amendment Protocol 2017
- Bill 19** – A Bill for the National Register (Inclusion of Information) Amendment Protocol 2017
- Bill 20** – A Bill for the Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017
- Bill 21** – A Bill for the Constitution (Jurisdiction of Special Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017
- Bill 22** – A Bill for the Offences Amendment Canon 2017

### **15.3 Bills for Rules**

(Book 1 of the Synod papers)

**Bill R01** – A Rule to Amend Rule I – Standing Orders (Formal Motions)

**Bill R02** – A Rule to Amend Rule III – Rules for the Conduct of Elections to be made by Standing Committee

**Bill R03** - A Rule to Amend Rule II – Standing Committee

**Bill R04** – A Rule to Amend Rule 1 Standing Orders (Electronic Voting)

### **15.4 Commissions**

(Book 4 of the Synod Papers)

- Church Law Commission
- Doctrine Commission
- Ecumenical Relations Commission,
- Liturgy Commission
- Ministry Commission
- Professional Standards Commission
- Public Affairs Commission

### **15.5 Task Forces and Working Groups**

(Book 4 of the Synod Papers)

- Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force
- Royal Commission Working Group
- Refugee and Migrants Working Group

### **15.6 General Synod Bodies**

(Book 4 of the Synod Papers)

- Anglican Board of Mission – Australia
- Australian College of Theology
- Broughton Publishing
- Defence Force Board
- Long Service Leave Board
- NATSIAC
- The National Home Mission Fund

### **15.7 Networks**

(Book 4 of the Synod Papers)

- Anglicare Australia
- Australian Anglican Diaconal Association
- Anglican Schools Australia
- National Network of Professional Standards Directors

## 15.8 Other Groups

(Book 4 of the Synod Papers)

- Anglican Cursillo Movement of Australia
- Anglican Mothers' Union Australia
- Bush Church Aid Society
- Mission to Seafarers
- SparkLit

## 15.9 Anglican Communion

(Book 4 of the Synod Papers)

- Anglican Consultative Council

## 15.10 Reports required of the Protection to the Environment Canon 2007

Reports from the Dioceses of:

- Brisbane
- Canberra and Goulburn
- Newcastle
- Northern Territory
- Perth
- Tasmania
- Wangaratta

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## 16 MOTIONS BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE [SO 7(j)(i)]

**Note:** *By resolution 2010/1/09, the Standing Committee adopted the following guidelines for deciding which motions should be brought before General Synod by the request of the Standing Committee:*

*A bill or a resolution which –*

- Is recommended by the Standing Committee to be passed by General Synod;*
- Is recommended by a Commission, by a Task Force appointed by the Standing Committee or by a body constituted under a Canon of General Synod;*
- In the opinion of the Standing Committee is a matter of substantial importance to the Anglican Church of Australia or its relationships with other Churches;*
- In the opinion of the Standing Committee is necessary to be considered at the next session for the order and good government of the Anglican Church of Australia and to administer the affairs thereof;*

*and that matters be listed on the Business Paper under the relevant criteria above and identifying the signatory(ies) of the proposals.*

*The criterion or criteria by which the Standing Committee determined that a motion should be brought before General Synod by request of the Standing Committee are set out after the heading for that motion.*

*The signatory or signatories of the relevant proposal are set out at the head of the motion as mover and seconder.*

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**16.1 Bills to be declared by the Synod to be Group Discussion Bills**  
[SO 37B(a) and 63(5A)].

There is no bill in this category.

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**16.2 Motions to be declared by the Synod to be handled by Group Discussion** [SO 37B]

There is no motion in this category.

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**16.3 Motions relating to Financial Matters** (*Book Ref 3*)  
Criterion (a)

Mr Allan Perryman moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding,

16.3.1 That the Treasurer's report on the financial position of the General Synod at 31 December 2016 be received.

16.3.2 That the audited financial statements of the General Synod for the year ended 31 December 2016, as adopted by Standing Committee, be received.

16.3.3 That the General Synod budget for the year ended 31 December 2017, as approved by Standing Committee, be received.

16.3.4 That the General Synod budget for the year ended 31 December 2018, be approved.

16.3.5 That Synod receives the General Synod forecast budget for years ended 31 December 2019 and 2020.

[See Motion 8.10 (Suspension of Standing Orders) and 8.10.1 to 8.10.2 (Orders of the Day)]

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**16.4 Viability and Structures Steering Group Report to General Synod**  
(*Book Ref 2-078*)  
Criterion (b)

Bishop Andrew Curnow AM moving, Bishop John Stead seconding,

The General Synod

- 1) Receives the report of the Viability and Structures Steering Group and endorses the recommendations contained in the report as follows:
  - to help ensure we develop the visionary church leaders required by the future, Bishops (and, ideally, next generation Bishops) should be intentionally equipped and enabled through the establishment of a holistic continuing leadership development program.
  - to improve the quality and consistency of knowledge and best practices across the Church, the apparatus should be established to facilitate collaboration, including the sharing and communication of ideas, resources and information.

- to enhance the missional effectiveness of the Church, each Diocese is requested to develop a Mission Action Plan, including timelines and resource requirements for implementation, and report back to the Standing Committee.
  - because it is essential that necessary future change is constructively considered on a timely basis, the Bishops are asked to implement a process – to be endorsed at the first national Bishops’ meeting following General Synod – through which, on a regular basis, they would collectively assess any need for significant change and seek to agree how to effect the necessary change.
  - to help ensure the implementation of the recommendations above, the Standing Committee should seek, receive, review and approve sensible resource and funding applications for each of these recommendations.
- 2) Asks the Standing Committee and the House of Bishops to review and facilitate the progress of implementation of these recommendations and present proposals, with actionable plans, to a meeting of Standing Committee in 2018.

## **16.5 Liturgy Resources** (*Book Ref 4-048*)

### Criterion (b)

Bishop Garry Weatherill moving, the Rev’d Elizabeth Smith seconding,

The General Synod, noting the changing contexts of mission for the Anglican Church of Australia, requests the Liturgy Commission to continue to develop texts in areas including

- a) Supplementary seasonal, thematic and other material for use with APBA Holy Communion orders;
- b) Supplementary services of the Word;
- c) Supplementary orders for baptism, confirmation, marriage, funerals, commissionings and other pastoral occasions
- d) Supplementary prayers for various occasions;
- e) A new liturgical psalter.

**16.6 Professional Standards Commission Report** (*Book Ref 4-091*)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Greg Anderson moving, Ms Dianne Shay seconding,

The General Synod:

- a) receives the report of the Professional Standards Commission;
- b) recommends that each diocese:
  - (i) publish a list of appropriately qualified people as professional supervisors for those in pastoral ministry and promote the use of their services;
  - (ii) include a component for professional supervision in recommended financial packages for those in pastoral ministry.
- c) requests the Standing Committee to explore with the dioceses the development of a nationally consistent approach to professional standards legislation with particular reference to its application to child abuse;
- d) requests the Safe Ministry Commission:
  - (i) to measure and review the Church's progress towards being a child safe institution in the light of the elements identified in the report of the Royal Commission Creating Child Safe Institutions issued in July 2016;
  - (ii) to analyse the final report of the Royal Commission and make recommendations as to actions to be taken;
  - (iii) to develop an audio visual resource for use in dioceses that provides information to ministers, churchwardens and parish councils about the implementation of the Policy for Safe Ministry in a parish where there is a risk of sexual abuse by a Person of Concern and the issues raised by the participation of a Person of Concern in the life of a parish;
  - (iv) to develop a resource for use in dioceses for providing care for families who have experienced premature death of a family member due to child sexual abuse;
  - (v) to identify and recommend resources for use in dioceses for responding to family and domestic violence;
  - (vi) to report to the 18th General Synod as to the progress of the Church in the development and implementation of safe ministry policies and structures.

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**16.7 Safer Ministry** (*Book Ref 4-091*)

Criterion (b)

Ms Dianne Shay moving, Bishop Greg Anderson seconding,

The General Synod:

- a) welcomes resolutions 16.25, 16.26, 16.27 and 16.28 passed by the Anglican Consultative Council in April 2016 (ACC-16) and requests the General Secretary to convey this resolution to the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion and the Archbishop of Canterbury;
- b) commends the National Council of Churches in Australia for organising the *Safe as Churches? 7* and the *Safe as Churches? 8* conferences on sexual misconduct and abuse in the Australian churches, and supports

ongoing joint action by member churches and other participating Australian churches to promote the welfare and safety of all people within their communities. The General Synod requests the General Secretary to convey this resolution to the General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia;

- c) recommends that the Commonwealth Government promote national system *for child protection and State and Territory governments as a matter of urgency enact legislation for a national system for child protection* that provides for:
    - (i) the mandatory reporting of child abuse by persons including ministers of religion to the police and the government child protection authorities;
    - (ii) the screening of all persons seeking to work with children in a paid or voluntary capacity;
    - (iii) the mutual recognition of clearances for persons to work with children in all States and Territories; and
  - d) requests that the General Secretary conveys this resolution to the Prime Minister, the Premier or Chief Minister of each State and Territory and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.
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**16.8 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation (Book Ref 4-046)**  
Criterion (b)

Bishop Tim Harris moving, The Rev'd Canon Dr Matthew Anstey seconding,

Noting the five-hundredth anniversary in 2017 of Martin Luther's nailing 95 Theses of protest to the University of Wittenberg's chapel door on October 31, 1517, regarded by many as a significant catalyst in inaugurating protestant reformations in Europe, and recognising Lutherans as partners with Anglicans in ongoing reforming traditions that encompass a variety of denominations and expressions of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ;

and further noting the resolution of ACC 16:16 that:

"The Anglican Consultative Council

1. recognizes the significance of the five-hundredth anniversary of the Reformation, which will be marked in 2017; and
2. encourages Anglicans across the Communion to be a part of the commemorations by joining in shared services, undertaking study with Lutherans and other ecumenical partners, and engaging with them in mission activities; and
3. recommends that Anglicans engage with the Lutheran World Federation's focus: Liberated by God's Grace,";

The General Synod:

- a) gives thanks to Almighty God that in the grace and mercy of God, the Church continues to be reformed, and seeks ever to be so,
- b) encourages members of the Anglican Church of Australia to join with our ecumenical partners; and especially the Lutheran Church of

Australia, in commemorating this occasion, through shared worship, bible study and partnership in mission and ministry projects;

- c) affirms the importance of hearing God's Word in the common tongue, and the practice of regular public reading of the Holy Scriptures through authorised lectionaries; and
  - d) recommends for study and discussion the biblical and spiritual reflections contained in *Liberated by God's Grace: Anglican-Lutheran Reflections* (LWF 2017), produced by the Anglican-Lutheran International Coordinating Committee (ALICC4).
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### **16.9 Church Agencies Network Disaster Operation (CAN DO)**

*(Book Ref 4-037)*

Criterion (b)

Bishop Tim Harris moving, Bishop John Parkes AM seconding,

The General Synod commends the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operation (CAN DO) consortium as a significant and welcome demonstration of ecumenical collaboration, in an important area of global ministry and mission, and urges the Anglican Church of Australia to support the work of Anglican Board of Mission and Anglican Overseas Aid through CAN DO.

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### **16.10 The Global Goals for Sustainable Development** *(Book Ref 4-152)*

Criterion (b)

Bishop Sarah Macneil moving, Bishop Chris Jones seconding,

That, celebrating the success of the Millennium Development Goals and noting that the number of people living in extreme poverty has more than halved since 1990, the General Synod:

- a) welcomes the new Global Goals for Sustainable Development which aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and pursue the common good;
  - b) encourages theological engagement with the goals, and missional commitment to their achievement;
  - c) commends the work of Anglicare Australia, the Anglican Board of Mission, Anglican Overseas Aid, Anglican Aid and other Anglican organisations in striving to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; and
  - d) renews our call for a fair share of Australia's national budget (0.7% of Gross National Income) to be dedicated to Overseas Development Assistance that aims to reduce poverty.
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### **16.11 Pioneer Ministry** (*Book Ref 4-054*)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Stephen Pickard moving, Bishop Tim Harris seconding,

The General Synod:

- a) acknowledges that patterns of faith and belief in Australia are changing and that the Anglican Church of Australia's capacity to participate in God's mission is diminishing when too many congregations struggle with vitality and outreach;
- b) notes the ten-year anniversary of "Building the Mission-shaped Church" report in October 2006 and its call to build capacity for church planting and developing fresh expressions of church as strategies for mission and evangelism;
- c) commends dioceses for undertaking a diverse range of initiatives at revitalising parishes, planting new churches and pioneering different forms of church for people who live in a changing culture;
- d) recognises that the development of pioneer leaders capable of planting new churches or developing different forms of church remains problematic when little consensus about expectations for ordination and lay ministry exists nationally;
- e) requests that the Mission and Ministry Commission:
  - i. convene a national network of pioneer leaders engaged in revitalisation, planting and fresh expressions to meet annually;
  - ii. convene a national research network to foster the theology and practice of evangelism;
  - iii. examine how community-based chaplaincy and pioneer ministry intersect to create fresh opportunities for mission in a changing society;
  - iv. explore ways to provide for coaching and training support for lay and women pioneer leaders; and
  - v. seek to engage the annual Bishops' Conference in discussion about mission and evangelism in a changing Australia.

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### **16.12 Models of Ordained Local Ministry** (*Book Ref 4-054*)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Stephen Pickard moving, Ms Sue Williams seconding,

The General Synod:

- a) receives the report of the Ministry Commission on Ordained Local Ministry (2 May 2017) and refer it to all Dioceses;
  - b) encourages all Dioceses to consider the recommendations of the Ordained Local Ministry report as it relates to their local context, and
  - c) requests the Ministry Commission to explore ways to facilitate further initiatives in Ordained Local Ministry.
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**16.13 Clergy Professional Supervision** (*Book Ref 4-054*)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Stephen Pickard moving, The Rev'd Dr Richard Trist seconding,

That in the light of the increasing challenges facing clergy and lay ministers, and the heightened demand for the accountability of church workers, the General Synod:

- a) recommends that every Australian diocese takes seriously the benefits of professional supervision for its clergy and paid lay workers;
  - b) supports the development of pilot projects in supervision of clergy and lay ministers particularly in rural and regional areas; and
  - c) requests the Ministry Commission to undertake an audit of the extent and types of supervision already occurring across the Australian church, and develop national supervision guidelines.
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**16.14 First Nation's Voice** (*Book Ref 4-115*)

Criterion (b)

Dr Carolyn Tan moving, The Very Rev'd Peter Catt seconding,

The General Synod:

1. Supports the recommendation of the Referendum Council for a constitutionally-entrenched First Nations' Voice to the Commonwealth Parliament.
  2. Requests the General Secretary to convey this resolution to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition.
  3. Requests the Public Affairs Commission in consultation with NATSIAC to prepare resources, including summaries and theological reflections for use by Anglican parishes, schools and organisations, on the Referendum Council Report and on any subsequent referendum questions.
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**16.15 Domestic Violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities** (*Book Ref 4-250*)

Criterion (b)

The Rev'd Canon Bruce Boase moving, Ms Rose Elu seconding

The General Synod recognises and shares the deep concern of NATSIAC members regarding the rate of domestic and family violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; and

- a) Calls upon the government both federal and state to continue to invest in educational and family support programs;
  - b) Calls upon the Anglican Church of Australia to facilitate a national response through greater education among clergy and church workers with regard to domestic and family violence; and,
  - c) Calls upon dioceses to develop domestic violence policies, with advice for good pastoral practice, consistent with Faithfulness in Service, and in consultation with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
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## **16.16 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Issues**

*(Book Ref 4-250)*

Criterion (b)

The Rev'd Canon Bruce Boase moving, Ms Rose Elu seconding

The General Synod recognises and shares the deep concern of NATSIAC members in regard to:

1. The appalling number of youth suicides in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; ten times higher than the wider Australian community and notes that suicides touch 95% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This Synod calls upon the government, both state and federal, to investigate the causes of these horrific statistics, and requests appropriate continuing funding to finance functional programs in consultation and negotiation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities;

2. The sad and undeniable facts concerning the disproportionate rate of incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in gaols and detention centres all over Australia.

This Synod strongly urges all governments, federal and state to end mandatory sentencing and to actively investigate and examine 'best practice' from other jurisdictions, utilise resources such as diversionary programs and changes to policies that would seek to have gaol as the last resort.

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## **16.17 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Issues**

*(Book Ref 4-250)*

Criterion (b)

Ms Rose Elu moving, The Rev'd Canon Bruce Boase seconding

The General Synod,

1. Acknowledges that NATSIAC, as the voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglicans in Australia, is committed to the preservation of God's creation; and
  - a) joins with NATSIAC in recognising the implications of Climate Change upon the entire nation, it's land, sea and waters but especially in the Torres Strait; and
  - b) forwards the findings and recommendations of the Symposium on Indigenous Perspectives on Climate Change held in Darwin 2016 to the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, State Premiers, and relevant ministers.
2. Acknowledges that NATSIAC has been expressing concern over the use of fracking on traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands for many years, and joins with NATSIAC in condemning practices which seek to pressure elders to submit their traditional homelands and waterways to fracking and other practices that risk

destroying hunting and fishing grounds and areas of major cultural significance.

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**16.18 Refugees on Manus Island and Nauru** (*Book Ref 4-146*)  
Criterion (b)

Bishop Philip Huggins moving, The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt seconding,

The General Synod, in the divine compassion and as a matter of human decency, urges the Federal Government to resettle in Australia, by Christmas 2017, any refugees still imprisoned on Manus Island and Nauru as at 1 November 2017.

That this General Synod urges the Federal Government to partner with the Churches as regards the healing and resettling of these refugees.

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**16.19 Refugees from Syria and Iraq** (*Book Ref 4-146*)  
Criterion (b)

Bishop Philip Huggins moving, The Very Rev'd Peter Catt seconding,

The General Synod, recognising the exceptional circumstances, urges our Federal Government, as soon as possible, to make another allocation of 12,000 additional refugee places for people displaced by the ongoing conflict in Syria and Iraq.

That this General Synod, from the experience of its members, affirms the life-saving consequences of the earlier extra 12000 places, particular for Christians and other minorities who had been targeted by ISIS.

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**16.20 Action to contribute to the Paris Climate Accord** (*Book Ref 4-115*)  
Criterion (b)

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt moving, Dr Beth Heyde seconding,

Noting:

- the global groundswell of community and industry support for effective and rapid action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the very challenging goal expressed in the 2015 Paris Climate Accord (to limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels);
- the critical importance of community action, both in achieving that goal and in leading governments to act;
- the Anglican Communion's fifth mark of mission: 'to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth', and
- General Synod's Protection of the Environment Canon 2007 which required meaningful action and reporting by participating Dioceses on steps taken to reduce their environmental impact;

The General Synod:

1. Encourages Federal and State governments in Australia to act quickly to resolve perceived conflicts of interest between the wider community and commercial beneficiaries of fossil fuels, and show leadership in

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions through effective market mechanisms based on consistent expert recommendations.
2. Requests each Diocese that has adopted the Protection of the Environment Canon 2007 to report to the Standing Committee of General Synod in 2018, and to the next meeting of General Synod, on progress in reducing their environmental impact (as required by s.3(1)), with particular emphasis on energy efficiency in order to minimise contributions to global warming.
  3. Encourages Dioceses to make use of standardised instruments such as the Parish Quick Carbon Self-Report instrument (available through the Public Affairs Commission) in order to develop an internal reporting mechanism.
  4. Requests all Dioceses to report to the Standing Committee of General Synod in 2018, and to the next meeting of General Synod, on progress made towards divestment from fossil fuels, as encouraged by motion 61/14 of General Synod.
  5. Encourages Dioceses to incorporate studies in ecotheology within priestly formation and lay education programs.
  6. Encourages Dioceses to give publicity to the work of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) towards spiritually-inspired stewardship in reducing greenhouse gas emissions: and to encourage participation in the work of this multi-faith network and consideration also of secular networks with similar aims to reduce global greenhouse emissions, such as 350.org.
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**16.21 Marriage, same-sex marriage and the blessing of same-sex relationships** (*Book Ref 4-007*)

Criterion (a)

Bishop Michael Stead moving, The Rev'd Canon Professor Dorothy Lee seconding,

The General Synod:

- (i) recognises that the doctrine of our church, in line with traditional Christian teaching, is that marriage is an exclusive and lifelong union of a man and a woman, and further,
- (ii) recognises that this has been the subject of several General Synod resolutions over the past fifteen years, and also
- (iii) recognises that the nature of marriage is the subject of ongoing conversation within the church and wider community and that we need to listen to each other with care and respect, and therefore
- (iv) asks the Doctrine Commission to facilitate a respectful conversation in our church by means of a collection of essays on marriage and same-sex relationships that explores Scriptural and theological issues relating to:
  - a. The doctrine of marriage expressed in the formularies of the Anglican Church of Australia
  - b. Our current Australian context, exploring the relationship between the State's definition of marriage and the church's doctrine of marriage
  - c. Key Old Testament and New Testament texts on sex, marriage and friendship
  - d. Scripture and hermeneutics
  - e. A theology of blessing
  - f. A theology of desire

- g. Godly disagreement on this issue
- h. The case for and against same-sex marriage and/or the blessing of same-sex unions.

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**16.22 Bill for the Redress for Survivors of Abuse Canon 2017**

*(Book Ref 5-087)*

Criterion (b)

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Archbishop Geoff Smith seconding,

This Synod declares that a Bill for the Redress for Survivors of Abuse Canon 2017 is a matter of urgency and permits it to be included in the agenda without previous notice.

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**17 MOTIONS FOR BILLS FOR CANONS BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE [SO 7(j)(i)]**

**17.1 Bill 01 – A Bill for the Appellate Tribunal Amendment (Qualification) Canon 2017** *(Book Ref 1-005)*

Dr Ian Gibson moving, Mr Michael Meek SC seconding,

That the Bill for the Appellate Tribunal Amendment (Qualification) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.2 Bill 02 – A Bill for the Appellate Tribunal Amendment (Reserve List) Canon 2017** *(Book Ref 1-009)*

Dr Ian Gibson moving, Mr Michael Meek SC seconding,

That the Bill for the Appellate Tribunal Amendment (Reserve List) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.3 Bill 03 – A Bill for the Constitution (Appellate Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017** *(Book Ref 1-015)*

Dr Ian Gibson moving, Mr Michael Meek SC seconding,

That the Bill for the Constitution (Appellate Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.4 Bill 04 – A Bill for the Special Tribunal Amendment Canon 2017** *(Book Ref 1-019)*

Justice Debra Mullins moving, Dr Robert Tong AM seconding,

That the Bill for the Special Tribunal Amendment Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.5 Bill 05 – A Bill for the Special Tribunal (Limitation Period) Canon 2017**  
*(Book Ref 1-022)*

Justice Debra Mullins moving, Dr Robert Tong AM seconding,

That the Bill for the Special Tribunal (Limitation Period) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.6 Bill 06 – A Bill for the Long Service Leave (Revision of Entitlement) Canon 2017**  
*(Book Ref 1-025)*

Bishop Allan Ewing moving, Mr Doug Marr seconding,

That the Bill for the Long Service Leave (Revision of Entitlement) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.7 Bill 07 – A Bill for the Long Service Leave (Notification Of Participating Organisation) Canon 2017**  
*(Book Ref 1-030)*

Archbishop Geoffrey Smith moving, Archbishop Phillip Aspinall seconding,

That the Bill for the Long Service Leave (Notification Of Participating Organisation) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.8 Bill 08 – A Bill for a Canon to Ratify the Amended New South Wales Provincial Synod Constitution**  
*(Book Ref 1-033)*

Dr Robert Tong AM moving, Ms Sue West seconding,

That the Bill for a Canon to Ratify the Amended New South Wales Provincial Synod Constitution be approved in principle.

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**17.9 Bill 09 – A Bill for the Holy Orders (Removal from Exercise of Ministry) Canon 2017**  
*(Book Ref 1-038)*

Ms Audrey Mills moving, The Hon Peter Young AO QC seconding,

That the Bill for the Holy Orders (Removal from Exercise of Ministry) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.10 Bill 10A – A Bill for the Canon Concerning Confessions (Revision) Canon 2017**  
*(Book Ref 5-003)*

Bishop Michael Stead moving, Mr Garth Blake SC seconding,

That the Bill for the Canon Concerning Confessions (Revision) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

**Bill 10B – A Bill for the Canon Concerning Confessions (Vulnerable Persons) Canon 2017** *(Book Ref 5-003)*

Bishop Michael Stead moving, Mr Garth Blake SC seconding,

That the Bill for the Canon Concerning Confessions (Vulnerable Persons) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.11 Bill 11 – A Bill for the Canon Concerning Services Amendment Canon 2017** *(Book Ref 1-078)*

Bishop Garry Weatherill moving, The Rev'd Canon Dr Colleen O'Reilly seconding,

That the Bill for the Canon Concerning Services Amendment Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.12 Bill 12 – A Bill for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council Amendment Canon 2017** *(Book Ref 1-081)*

Bishop Chris McLeod moving, the Rev'd Canon Bruce Boase seconding,

That the Bill for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council Amendment Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.13 Bill 13 – A Bill for Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Amendment Canon 2017** *(Book Ref 1-083)*

Ms Audrey Mills moving, Justice Debra Mullins seconding,

That the Bill for Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Amendment Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.14 Bill 14 – A Bill for the Missionary Dioceses (Amendment) Canon 2017** *(Book Ref 1-088)*

Bishop Sarah Macneil moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding,

That the Bill for the Missionary Dioceses (Amendment) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.15 Bill 15 – A Bill for a Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017** *(Book Ref 5-021)*

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding,

That the Bill for a Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.16 Bill 16 – A Bill for a Disclosure of Information Canon 2017**  
(Book Ref 5-054)

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding,

That the Bill for a Disclosure of Information Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.17 Bill 17 – A Bill for the National Register Amendment Canon 2017**  
(Book Ref 5-061)

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding,

That the Bill for the National Register Amendment Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.18 Bill 18 – A Bill for the National Register (Access to and Disclosure of Information) Amendment Protocol 2017** (Book Ref 5-068)

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding,

That the Bill for the National Register (Access to and Disclosure of Information) Amendment Protocol 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.19 Bill 19 – A Bill for the National Register (Inclusion of Information) Amendment Protocol 2017** (Book Ref: 5-069)

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding,

That the Bill for the National Register (Inclusion of Information) Amendment Protocol 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.20 Bill 20 – A Bill for the Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017** (Book Ref 5-070)

Justice Debra Mullins moving, Archbishop Glenn Davies seconding,

That the Bill for the Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.21 Bill 21 – A Bill for the Constitution (Jurisdiction of Special Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017** (Book Ref 5-080)

Justice Debra Mullins moving, Archbishop Glenn Davies seconding,

That the Bill for the Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.22 Bill 22 – A Bill for the Offences Amendment Canon 2017**  
(Book Ref 5-082)

Justice Debra Mullins moving, Archbishop Glenn Davies seconding,

That the Bill for the Offences Amendment Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**18 MOTIONS FOR RULES BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE [SO 7(j)(i)]**

**18.1 Bill R01 – A Rule to Amend Rule I – Standing Orders (Formal Motions)**  
(Book Ref 1–097)

Bishop Richard Condie moving, Dr Ian Gibson seconding,

That the Bill for a Rule To Amend Rule I – Standing Orders (Formal Motions) be approved in principle.

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**18.2 Bill R02 – A Rule to Amend Rule III – Rules for the Conduct of Elections Ordered to be Made by the General Synod** (Book Ref 1–101)

The Ven Arthur Copeman moving, Dr Carolyn Tan seconding,

That the Bill for a Rule to Amend Rule III – Rules for the Conduct of Elections Ordered to be Made by the General Synod be approved in principle.

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**18.3 Bill R03 - A Rule to Amend Rule II – Rules for the Appointment of a Standing Committee of General Synod and Defining its Powers and Duties** (Book Ref 1–103)

The Ven David Bassett moving, The Rev'd Canon Professor Dorothy Lee seconding,

That the Bill for a Rule to Amend Rule II – Rules for the Appointment of a Standing Committee of General Synod and Defining its Powers and Duties be approved in principle.

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**18.4 Bill R04 – A Rule to Amend Rule I – Standing Orders (Electronic Voting)**  
(Book Ref 1–105)

Bishop Tim Harris moving, The Ven David Bassett seconding,

That the Bill for a Rule to Amend Rule I – Standing Orders (Electronic Voting) be approved in principle.

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**19 MOTIONS BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS [SO 7(j)(ii)]**

There are no motions in this category.

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**20 MOTIONS FOR BILLS BY REQUEST OF A DIOCESAN SYNOD OR A DIOCESAN COUNCIL [SO 7(j)(iii)]**

**Bill for an Alternative Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017**

Mr Michael Shand QC moving, and the Dr Muriel Porter OAM seconding,

The General Synod declare the Bill for an alternative *Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017* and its accompanying Bills as set out below to be a matter of urgency and permit them to be included in the agenda without previous notice:

*Episcopal Standards (Transitional Provisions, Consequential Amendments and Repeal) Canon 2017*

*Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Amendment No 1 Canon 2017*

*Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Amendment No 2 Canon 2017*

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**21 NOTICES OF MOTION RECEIVED BY STANDING COMMITTEE FROM MEMBERS OF SYNOD AT LEAST ONE MONTH BEFORE THE SESSION OF SYNOD [SO 7(l)]**

**21.1 Equal Representation of Women**

The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding,

The General Synod,

1. Notes with disappointment that the resolution of the 2007 fourteenth Session of General Synod in regard to the equal representation of Women on General Synod Bodies (GS85/07) has not been effectively implemented, with equal representation of women on only three of the General Synod's current 27 Bodies.
2. Requests the next General Synod Standing Committee to
  - a) Re-commit to the principle of equal representation of women in membership of its bodies and to ensure that this goal is met the Standing Committee agree to a target that all General Synod bodies (General Synod commissions, task forces and working groups) have 50% equal representation of women in their membership by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019 wherever legislatively and practically possible.
  - b) Apply the principle of equal representation of women in membership of organisations where Standing Committee make appointments to other bodies wherever this is legislatively and practically possible.
  - c) Review annually the progress of this target.
3. Encourages each diocese to adopt the target of 50% equal representation of women in elections and appointments wherever legislatively and practically possible and to report back to the next General Synod.

4. Requests Standing Committee to report progress on this matter to the 18th Session of General Synod.
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## 21.2 Condemnation and Apology for Domestic Violence

Bishop Stephen Hale moving, The Ven Kara Hartley seconding,

The General Synod affirms that:

1. All human beings, male and female, are created in the image of God, and are precious to him. So their value and dignity should be upheld by all, and rightly commands respect and protection.
2. Healthy Christian relationships are characterised by servanthood and sacrifice, supremely modeled by Jesus Christ. So we encourage healthy marriages and families based on mutual love and respect. No one should feel unsafe in their own home.
3. The Bible always condemns the misuse of power to control or exploit others, and rejects all abuse, whether physical, verbal, or otherwise expressed from one person towards others. Therefore domestic violence is sin, and Scripture should never be twisted to justify or excuse any abuse.
4. No victim of domestic abuse should ever be pressured to forgive, submit to, or restore a relationship with an offender.

Our churches are committed to being safe places for all people, especially children and vulnerable adults, and we will therefore work to protect those experiencing domestic abuse as a first priority.

We grieve with victims and survivors of domestic abuse, and pray for their healing and recovery. We give thanks for those women and men, clergy and lay people, who have faithfully supported, cared for and protected such victims in our churches and communities.

However, we also confess with deep shame that domestic abuse has occurred among those who attend our churches, and even among some in leadership. We apologise for those times our teaching and pastoral care has failed adequately to support victims and call perpetrators to account.

We urge Anglican dioceses around Australia to ensure they have policies and good practice guidelines in place, along with education and training, for responding well to situations involving domestic violence within our parishes and organisations.

We also acknowledge our responsibility to work with the police, statutory child protection authorities and specialist agencies in responding to domestic abuse, including our legal obligations in reporting abuse.

Finally, this Synod again upholds *Faithfulness in Service* as our national code of conduct for clergy and church workers, specifically its affirmations that:

- Abuse of power is at the heart of many relationship problems in the Church and the community. In essence, abuse is one person's misuse of power over another. Sometimes abuse will be a one off event and at other times it will be a pattern of behaviour. (§6.2)
- It is important for clergy and church workers to be good citizens and

obey the laws of the community, except where those laws conflict with Christian convictions. (§6.4)

- You are not to abuse your spouse, children or other members of your family. (§6.6)
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### **21.3 Domestic Violence Longitudinal Study**

The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen moving, Bishop Genieve Blackwell seconding,

The General Synod requests the General Synod Standing Committee to investigate and if appropriate commission (using contingencies or other available sources of funding) a professionally designed and independent, longitudinal research study into domestic violence prevalence within the Australian Anglican Church population.

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### **21.4 Euthanasia**

Dr Denise Cooper-Clarke moving, Dr Karin Sowada seconding,

The General Synod, noting the push for 'assisted dying' in a number of Australian States

- a) Opposes the legalisation of doctor-assisted suicide and/or euthanasia;
  - b) Urges all Australian State and Territory governments to better resource palliative care services, to improve palliative care in the community. Including regional and remote communities, Aboriginal communities and nursing homes, and to provide better training in palliative care for all health professionals; and
  - c) Urges Australian Anglicans to contact their MP's to express their views.
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### **21.5 Apology to the LGBTQI Community**

Bishop John Parkes AM moving, Bishop Ian Palmer seconding,

The General Synod:

1. Offers a heartfelt apology to people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer and commits to treating with compassion and care those who struggle in the area of their sexual identity and orientation.
2. Affirms that all people are made in the image of God regardless of sexual identity, and no one is without sin, for all fall short of the glory of God. Yet because God's love knows no bounds and extends to all without distinction and without prejudice, if those who bear the image of God are mocked, excluded or abused on account of their sexuality, God grieves.
3. Seeks forgiveness from God and from our sisters and brothers.
4. Apologises to lesbian, gay and transgender people for the hurt and pain inflicted upon you by words and deeds, including thoughtless words, and actions from people in the church.
5. Repents of and is sorry for words of derision, mockery and exclusion when directed against persons who are different.
6. Is ashamed that Anglican churches sometimes fail to be safe

environments where people can speak openly and honestly about their struggles.

7. Asks forgiveness for the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual violence inflicted upon God's children who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer, by what the church has done and failed to do.
  8. Commits the Anglican Church of Australia to listening to you and to learning more about our human sexuality and gender and the way this influences our Christian discipleship.
  9. Commits the Anglican Church to teaching church members to respect difference and understand the struggles that others endure as we follow Jesus together.
  10. Commits to creating churches and fellowships where compassion and grace abound; where LGBTIQ+ people will feel safe.
  11. Asks and encourages churches to make this apology and live as Jesus's disciples with changed attitudes and conduct.
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#### **21.6 Mission to Seafarers** (*Book Ref 4-296*)

Bishop John Stead moving, Bishop Gary Nelson seconding,

The General Synod:

- a) receives the report of the Mission to Seafarers.
- b) recognises and seeks to include the celebration of Sea Sunday annually as a way to support the ministry of the Mission to Seafarers and highlight the plight of Seafarers.
- c) calls on the Federal Government to take seriously its responsibility under the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 and fully fund land based welfare for seafarers in this country.
- d) respectfully request the Primate to convey the above terms of this resolution to the Prime Minister and Federal Transport Minister.