



# Anglican Church of Australia

General Synod

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

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### BUSINESS PAPER FOR THE FIFTH BUSINESS DAY FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2017

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The business of the Synod will commence at 9.00am on Friday 8 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

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#### 2 PRAYERS

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#### 3 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous business day will be read and confirmed on the resumption of business after the morning tea adjournment. [see motion 8.12]

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#### 4 QUESTIONS

##### Question 4

##### Mr Tim McGhie

In relation to the exemption orders promulgated by APRA and ASIC for religious development funds:

- a) What contact was made with APRA?
- b) What feedback was received from APRA?
- c) What contact was made with ASIC?
- d) What feedback was received from ASIC?
- e) Is the task force aware of the complexity and costs imposed on various development funds as a consequence of the exemption order promulgated by ASIC?
- f) Why did the task force not consult with all development funds in the context of contact with ASIC?

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**5 PETITIONS**

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**6 NOTICES OF QUESTIONS**

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**7 NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

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**8 CALL OVER OF THE MOTIONS**

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**9 ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**10.00am**

**Finance Motions**

8.10.1 Final consideration of Motions 16.3.4 and 16.3.5.

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**10 REPORTS**

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**11 MOTIONS BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

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*Consideration of motions 16.3.4 and 16.3.5 is an Order of the Day at 10.00am on Friday 8 September 2017*

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

Mr Allan Perryman moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding

16.3.4 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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**16.18 Refugees on Manus Island and Nauru (Book Ref 4-146)**

Criterion (b)

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

That this General Synod, in the divine compassion and as a matter of human decency, recognizing the exceptional circumstances, urges the Federal Government to resettle in Australia, by Christmas 2017, any refugees still detained 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)

*Note: Mover to seek leave to move the motion in this amended form.*

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

~~The~~ That this 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, especially Christians and other minorities, displaced by the ongoing conflict in Syria and Iraq.

That, relatedly, this General Synod urges the Federal Government to increase funding to assist their integration into Australian society, and especially as regards their employment assistance including the provision of assistance and training to obtain employment opportunities.

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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## 12 NOTICES OF MOTION RECEIVED BY STANDING COMMITTEE FROM MEMBERS OF SYNOD AT LEAST ONE MONTH BEFORE THE SESSION OF SYNOD

### 21.4 Euthanasia/Assisted Dying

*Note: Mover to seek leave to move the motion in this amended form.*

Dr Denise Cooper-Clarke moving, Dr Karin Sowada seconding

The General Synod, ~~noting~~ recognising the continued push for laws concerning 'assisted dying' in a number of Australian States –

- a) Notes Synod Resolution 81/10, affirming the sanctity of life; that life is God's gift and that our task is to protect, nurture and sustain life to the best of our ability;
- b) Notes that in 1995, Synod expressed its opposition to euthanasia in response to legislation passed by the Northern Territory Parliament;
- a)c) Opposes the legalisation of ~~assisted dying~~ ~~doctor-assisted suicide~~ and/or euthanasia;
- b)d) Urges all Australian State and Territory governments to better resource palliative care services, ~~to improve palliative care in the community,~~ including in regional and remote communities, Aboriginal communities and nursing homes, and to provide better training in palliative care for all health professionals; and
- e)e) Urges ~~Recognising the vital contribution made by people of faith to~~

[public debate, urges](#) Australian Anglicans to contact their MP's to express their views, [particularly in NSW and Victoria where legislation will be debated this year](#).

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## 21.5 Apology to the LGBTQI Community

*Note: The mover intends to seek leave to move the motion in the revised form below (the original text is reproduced after the revised text).*

### **Revised Motion**

Bishop John Parkes AM moving, Bishop Ian Palmer seconding

This General Synod:

1. Affirms that all people are made in the image of God regardless of their race, sex, economic background, political affiliation and the particular temptations that they face as human beings on this side of the Fall.
2. Offers a heartfelt apology to those who have been hurt by our failure to treat all people as precious in the sight of God.
3. In particular we apologise to, and seek forgiveness from, people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer whom we have hurt by words and behaviour that have not displayed the love of God. We are deeply sorry for any harm we have done and repent of such ungodly behaviour.
4. We affirm that as image bearers all people have a deep and natural hunger for mutual love, a search for identity and a longing for completeness. Scripture teaches the proper expression of human sexuality is between a man and a woman within the covenant of marriage. We pledge ourselves to treat with compassion and care those who struggle in the area of their sexual orientation. We commit to walking with them and to encouraging them and each other in a life of discipleship characterised by humility, repentance, faith and the confidence that comes from knowing God's grace and forgiveness.
5. Commits the Anglican Church of Australia to teaching its members to respect difference and to understand the struggles that others endure as we walk together in humble, faithful discipleship in obedience to the word of God.
6. Commits to fostering churches and fellowships where compassion and grace abound and where the love of God is expressed to all, no matter their background or struggles. In particular we desire to be places where LGBTIQ+ people will feel safe.
7. Asks and encourages local churches to speak the truth in love and to demonstrate our repentance in changed attitudes and conduct.

### **Original Motion Text**

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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## **13 NOTICES OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM THE FLOOR OF SYNOD**

### **22.10 Faithfulness in Service and National Consistency regarding professional standards**

*Note: Mover to seek leave to move the motion in this amended form.*

Canon Sandy Grant moving, The Very Rev'd Kanishka Raffel seconding

Synod notes repeated concern expressed for children and vulnerable persons other than children in our churches and organisations, and the need to protect both children and adults from abuse. Synod also notes the desirability of a nationally consistent approach to professional standards wherever possible.

Therefore Synod requests the General Synod Standing Committee (GSSC) ~~to consult with the Professional Standards Commission (PSC) and~~ to report to the next session of General Synod on the status of *Faithfulness in Service* (in the current form approved by GSSC) as our national code of conduct in the various dioceses, specifically:

1. Which dioceses have adopted the *Faithfulness in Service* without amendment as their code of conduct?
2. Which dioceses have adopted *Faithfulness in Service* with amendment as their code of conduct?
3. Which dioceses have used *Faithfulness in Service*, with or without amendment, in some manner other than as a code of conduct?
4. Which dioceses have a code of conduct other than *Faithfulness in Service* (with or without amendments)?

Synod also requests GSSC, in consultation with the [PSC Professional Standards Commission](#), to report to the next session of General Synod on preferred options for effectively ensuring that professional standards regarding the care and protection of adults, especially the vulnerable in our midst, are nationally consistent to the greatest extent possible.

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#### **22.13 Acknowledgement of Work on Child Safety Framework**

The Hon Richard Refshauge moving, Bishop John Parkes seconding

Noting that the suite of bills to give effect to a national Anglican framework for child protection has passed with overwhelming support and endorsement. Gives thanks for the work of the Professional Standards Commission, the Royal Commission Working Group and the Episcopal Standards Working Group, notes the extraordinary commitment of all of the members of the commission and those groups, and gives thanks to God especially for the 20 years of commitment of Garth Blake to ensure as far as possible that we are a child-safe church.

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#### **22.14 Request for Doctrine Commission Report**

The Rev'd James Harricks moving, the Venerable Kara Hartley seconding

The General Synod requests the Doctrine Commission to prepare a report on the distinction between the gospel of Christ crucified and the consequences of that gospel.

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#### **22.15 Rohingya Muslim People**

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

That this General Synod noting with sadness today's reports about the suffering of the Rohingya Muslim people, prayerfully urges our government's further diplomatic initiative and provision of humanitarian assistance.

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## **22.16 Recognition and thanks for Child Protection Work**

Mr Daniel Aspinall moving, Bishop Garry Weatherill seconding

That this General Synod recognises:

- a. The unprecedented level of support in this session for consistent national standards and approaches with respect to child protection, episcopal standards and redress for abuse survivors measures;
- b. that this reflects the huge investment of time, energy and expertise by key leaders over many years especially in the extensive consultation and collaboration that took place preceding this session; and

that this General Synod, therefore, records and expresses its sincere thanks and deep appreciation to:

- Mr Garth Blake SC and the members of the Professional Standards Commission;
- The Honourable Justice Debra Mullins and the members of the Church Law Commission and Episcopal Standards Task Force; and
- Mr Michael Shand QC;

for their unstinting and tireless efforts to prepare legislation and garner support to ensure the protection of children and the accountability of clergy and church workers in this Church

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## **22.17 Royal Commission**

Mr Garth Blake moving, Archbishop Philip Freier seconding

- (a) gives thanks to God for the work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse;
  - (b) acknowledges the significant contribution of the Royal Commission in revealing the extent of child sexual abuse in institutional contexts, identifying appropriate redress to survivors, and recommending strategies to create child safe institutions;
  - (c) expresses its sincere gratitude for the engagement of the Royal Commission with this Church, particularly through the attendance of the Chair, the Hon Peter McClellan AM at National Bishops Meetings, and the address of Robert Fitzgerald AM at this General Synod;
  - (d) prays for the Royal Commission as it completes its work, and that its lasting legacy will be an Australia in which children are safe, including in this Church.
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## 22.18 General Synod Arrangements

Archbishop Geoff Smith moving, Dr Muriel Porter seconding

The General Synod gratefully thanks –

The President, Archbishop Philip Freier, the Chair of Committees, Dr Ian Gibson, the Deputy Chairs of Committees, Ms Audrey Mills and Ms Rachel Ellyard for their careful carriage of the business of the General Synod;

The Clerical Secretary, the Rev'd Canon Katherine Bowyer, and the Lay Secretary, Mr Tim Reid, who have excelled in undertaking these roles for the first time at this session of General Synod;

The President's Chaplain, the Rev'd Julie Worrall, for her prayerful contributions;

The Diocese of Brisbane, in particular, Archbishop Phillip Aspinall and Bishop Jeremy Greaves, Bishop for the Northern Region, for their generous assistance with local arrangements;

The members of the Minutes Reading Committee:

Mr Clive Ellis (Convenor)

Bishop Bradly Billings

Ms Beverly Birch

The Rev'd Dane Courtney

Dr Timothy Nicholson

Bishop Sarah Macneil

For their attention to detail and patience under demanding time constraints;

The members of the Election and Qualifications Committee:

Bishop Trevor Edwards

Mr Michael Meek SC

Justice Debra Mullins

Bishop John Parkes AM

Ms Emma Riggs

Ms Carolyn Tan

whose thoughtful deliberations facilitated our electoral processes;

The Liturgy Committee:

Bishop Garry Weatherill (chair)

The Rev'd Dr Rhys Bezzant

The Very Rev'd Chris Chataway

The Rev'd Dane Courtney

The Rev'd Jasmine Dow

The Very Rev'd Richard Humphrey

The Rev'd Dr Colleen O'Reilly

The Rev'd Dr Elizabeth Smith

The Rev'd Dr Richard Treloar

For the preparation and leadership of the General Synod worship program;

Archbishop Glenn Davies for preaching at the General Synod Opening Eucharist;

The members of the Torres Strait Islander Choir for their joyful participation in the General Synod Eucharist, and Ms Rose Elu, General Synod member, for arranging their participation;

Mr Stuart Meade, Principal, and the students of Matthew Flinders Anglican College for their generosity in hosting the General Synod Opening Eucharist;

The Very Rev'd Chris Chataway, Bishop Cameron Venables, Bishop Greg Anderson and others who have provided the music during our daily worship;

Archdeacon Arthur Copeman, Chair of the General Synod Bible Study Committee, and its members, Archdeacon Lionel Snell, Bishop Ross Nicholson, the Rev'd Canon Professor Dorothy Lee, for the careful design and preparation of the Bible study resources and the arrangements for small groups;

Bishop Michael Stead, the Rev'd Canon Dr Matthew Anstey, the Rev'd Canon Professor Dorothy Lee and the Rev'd Dr John Dunnill for their enriching leadership of the Bible study sessions.

The 33 General Synod members who have ably acted as the facilitators of the Bible study small groups.

The Diocese of Adelaide for making available the electronic voting devices for General Synod, and for releasing Mr Dan Harris, Manager of Ministry and Parish Support, to guide us in the implementation of the system.

The Media Team, particularly Mr Barney Zwartz, and other contributors from Anglican media organisations for their attention to the publicity of issues arising from this Synod;

The generous sponsorship of:  
The Anglican Board of Mission  
Anglican National Super  
Anglican Overseas Aid  
Anglican Relief and Development Fund  
Bible Study Live Light  
Church Resources  
Defence Force Anglican Chaplaincy  
Fair Go  
Keepad Interactive  
The Mission to Seafarers  
Olive Tree Travel

Ms Sheridan Veenstra, team leader at Corporate Travel Group for so efficiently facilitating the travel arrangements for General Synod members;

Mr Warwick Kahl, General Manager of the Novotel Twin Waters Resort and his team who have supported our meeting so professionally, and especially Ms Ros Christie, Event Manager, for her efficient coordination of arrangements with the Novotel Resort;

The Resort's team members particularly the following who have cheerfully responded to all requests:

Event Coordinator - Jacinta Blums

Accommodation - Hannah Cockerill

Front Desk Manager - Gopi Jayakumar

Catering – Tina, Julia & Sharon

Executive Chef – Murray & Staff

Housekeeping - Gail & Lauren

Audio Visual – Ritchie Harland & team from AV Partners;

Finally, the General Secretary, Ms Anne Hywood, and the General Synod Office team for their work which has provided for such a smooth and successful meeting:

Ms Marianne Yacoel, Finance and Operation Manager,

Ms Dianne Ellis, Assistant to the General Secretary,

Mrs Minna Magoulas, Administrative Assistant,

Mrs Renee Tudehope, Accountant,

Mr Aaron Imperial, Accountant,

and Ms Shirall Mayers, Administrator Long Service Leave Fund, all of whom, despite late nights, worked so long, so hard and so effectively at this Synod and with such good humour.