



MINISTER FOR TERRITORY FAMILIES

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Ms Anne Haywood
General Secretary
Anglican Church of Australia
General Synod Office
Suite 4, Level 5, 189 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Haywood

**RE: RESOLUTION OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD
WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK SYSTEMS**

Thank you for your letter dated 21 September 2017, addressed to Hon Michael Gunner MLA, Chief Minister of the Northern Territory. As the *Care and Protection of Children Act* (Northern Territory) falls under my ministerial portfolio, I am responding to you on behalf of the Chief Minister.

I commend the resolution passed by the Synod on 6 September 2017 seeking Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments to develop an age appropriate Working With Children Check system or suitable alternative for persons that are under the age of 18 who work with children.

In the Northern Territory context, the screening for child-related employment provisions are contained in Part 3.1 of the *Care and Protection of Children Act* (Northern Territory). Currently the Northern Territory provisions require anyone engaged in child-related employment (and volunteering), who is 15 years and over, to hold a Working With Children Clearance notice.

These provisions may differ from requirements in other jurisdictions. It is noted that the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse addressed this matter in its 2015 Working With Children Checks Report and recommended that children under the age of 18 be exempted from the requirement to hold a clearance. There is a cross-jurisdiction working group, auspiced by the Children and Families Secretaries Group currently actioning [this recommendation](#).

I wish the Church the very best and success in everything you do for children and help us protect the youth in need of support.

Yours sincerely

DALE WAKEFIELD

14 DEC 2017

