



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

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

18 DEC 2017

Dear Ms Hywood

Thank you for your letter regarding the resolution of the Seventeenth Session of the General Synod.

I note with interest the General Synod's resolution recommending the promotion by the Commonwealth Government of a national system for child protection supported by State and Territory legislation that provides for:

1. mandatory reporting of child abuse by persons including ministers of religion to police and government child protection authorities;
2. screening of all persons seeking to work with children in a paid or voluntary capacity; and
3. the mutual recognition of these clearances across all States and Territories.

Tasmania has been an active participant in the work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, including ongoing discussions with the Commonwealth Government about the development of elements such as redress. The Tasmanian Parliament has passed several important legislative amendments to support current findings of the Commission; and is continuing to work with other States and Territories to improve the consistency of processes and practices relating to Working with Children background checks for individuals (including volunteers).

The work of the Royal Commission has included consideration of significant areas of policy related to improved prevention of, and responses to child sexual abuse, including the reporting of such abuse. The final reports of the Commission will contain many recommendations across a number of policy areas for Government to consider. I assure you that the General Synod's proposals will be considered as part of that process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Will Hodgman'.

Will Hodgman MP  
Premier