

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ISSUES

R23/17

Domestic Violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities

The Rev'd Canon Bruce Boase, 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.

4 September 2017

R24/17

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Issues

The Rev'd Canon Bruce Boase, 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.
- 2. 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;
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.

4 September 2017

R28/17	<p>First Nation's Voice</p> <p>Dr Carolyn Tan sought the leave of Synod to move the motion in an amended form. Leave was granted.</p> <p>Dr Carolyn Tan moving, The Very Rev'd Peter Catt seconding</p> <p>The General Synod:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports the recommendation of the Referendum Council for a constitutionally-entrenched First Nations' Voice to the Commonwealth Parliament; 2. Encourages the governments in Australia to seek to negotiate in good faith with First Nations' Peoples towards treaties or other similar forms of agreement; 3. Requests the General Secretary to convey this resolution to the Prime Minister, State Premiers, and Leaders of the Opposition; 4. 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 on any subsequent referendum questions and on the progress of treaty or similar negotiations. <p style="text-align: right;">5 September 2017</p>
R29/17	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Issues</p> <p>Ms Rose Elu moving, The Rev'd Canon Bruce Boase seconding</p> <p>The General Synod,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) joins with NATSIAC in recognising the implications of Climate Change upon the entire nation, its 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. • 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. <p style="text-align: right;">5 September 2017</p>