

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ANGLICAN COUNCIL CANON 2014

Canon 1, 2014 as amended by Canon 20, 2017 Canon 3, 2022

The General Synod prescribes as follows:

Part 1 - Preliminary

Title

1. This Canon is the "National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council Canon 2014".

Commencement

2. This Canon comes into operation on 1 January 2015.¹

Interpretation

3. (1) In this Canon –

"**Council**" means the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council established by this Canon;

"**Current Member**"² means a member of the Council under section 10(1) other than a person appointed under paragraph (c);

"**National Aboriginal Bishop**" means the Aboriginal bishop most recently appointed by the Primate under section 17(8)(b) of the Constitution to be a member of the House of Bishops at a session of the Synod;

"**National Torres Strait Islander Bishop**" means the Torres Strait Islander bishop most recently appointed by the Primate under section 17(8)(b) of the Constitution to be a member of the House of Bishops at a session of the Synod; and

"**NATSIAC Executive**" means the NATSIAC Executive established by this Canon.

- (2) For the purposes of this Canon, the diocesan bishop is the bishop who is the diocesan bishop at the relevant time.

¹ Canon 17, 1998 had effect until 31 December 2014.

² Added by Canon 3, 2022.

Part 2 - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council

Establishment of the Council and NATSIAC Executive

4. There is established a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council.
5. There is established a NATSIAC Executive which has the power to conduct business as determined by the Council consistent with this Canon.

Objects of the Council

6. The objects of the Council are—
 - (a) to promote the proclamation of the gospel especially to Aboriginal persons and to Torres Strait Islanders;
 - (b) to encourage the provision of pastoral care especially to Aboriginal Anglicans and to Torres Strait Islander Anglicans;
 - (c) to provide resources to those engaged in ministry with Aboriginal Anglicans and Torres Strait Islander Anglicans;
 - (d) to encourage and facilitate the celebration of Aboriginal culture and Torres Strait Islander culture within the Church and the community;
 - (e) to represent the views of Aboriginal Anglicans and Torres Strait Islander Anglicans both within Australia and internationally;
 - (f) to develop and recommend to relevant bodies, policies and strategies for the purpose of facilitating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mission and ministry;
 - (g) to engage with other Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders in the wider church nationally and internationally;
 - (h) to advocate with Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders nationally and internationally on issues relating to social justice; and
 - (i) to exercise the powers and perform the functions conferred on it by the Constitution, this Canon, and the Canons and rules of the General Synod.

Additional objects

7. (1) Subject to this section, the Standing Committee of General Synod may by resolution at the request of the Council confer on the Council additional objects.
 - (2) A resolution under sub-section (1) must be submitted to the next succeeding ordinary session of the General Synod for confirmation. Such additional objects, confirmed by resolution of General Synod, shall be noted in any subsequent reprinting of the Canon.

- (3) If a resolution under sub-section (1) is not submitted under sub-section (2) or, having been submitted is not confirmed by the General Synod, it ceases to have effect from the commencement of that session of the General Synod, but not so as to affect the validity of anything done before the commencement of that session.
- (4) Any object confirmed by resolution of General Synod under sub-section (2) may be rescinded by a resolution of the General Synod Standing Committee, at the request of the Council. A resolution under this sub-section must be submitted to the next succeeding ordinary session of General Synod for confirmation, otherwise it ceases to have effect.

Powers of the Council

8. The Council may do all things necessary and incidental to fulfilling its objects, powers and duties.

Specific powers of the Council

9. In order to fulfil its objects, the Council may –
 - (a) conduct such business as it may determine;
 - (b) raise, administer and expend funds; and
 - (c) appoint such staff as it considers necessary.

Membership of the Council

10. (1) The members of the Council are:
 - (a) the National Aboriginal Bishop;
 - (b) the National Torres Strait Islander Bishop;
 - (c) any person appointed by the Council as a life member of the Council;
 - (d) four Aboriginal persons and four Torres Strait Islanders appointed by the Bishop of North Queensland, in consultation with the Aboriginal Bishop and the Torres Strait Islander Bishop, to represent the Diocese of North Queensland;
 - (d1)³ one Aboriginal person and one Torres Strait Islander appointed by the Archbishop of Brisbane to represent the Diocese of Brisbane;
 - (e) six Aboriginal persons or Torres Strait Islanders appointed by the Bishop of The Northern Territory to represent the Diocese of The Northern Territory;
 - (f) four Aboriginal persons or Torres Strait Islanders appointed by the Bishop of North West Australia to represent the Diocese of North West Australia;

³ Inserted by Canon 20, 2017.

- (g) one Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander appointed by the Bishop of each Diocese, other than the Dioceses of North Queensland, Brisbane, The Northern Territory and North West Australia, to represent their respective Diocese; and
 - (h) 10 Aboriginal persons or Torres Strait Islanders appointed by the Council.
- (2) The General Secretary of the General Synod shall be responsible for informing diocesan bishops of their responsibilities under this Canon

Qualification for membership of the Council or NATSIAC Executive

11. A person is qualified to be a member of the Council or the NATSIAC Executive if the person –
- (a) is a communicant member of the Church;
 - (b) is aged 18 or more years;
 - (c) in the case of a person in holy orders (other than a bishop), holds a licence from a bishop of a diocese of the Church; and
 - (d) in the case of a bishop who is not a life member of the Council, holds an office in the Church.

Term of Council or NATSIAC Executive member's office

12. A member of the Council or the NATSIAC Executive holds office for three years from the date of their appointment, and is eligible for reappointment.

Ceasing to be a member of the Council or NATSIAC Executive

13. A person ceases to be a member of the Council or the NATSIAC Executive if the person –
- (a) dies;
 - (b) resigns to the diocesan bishop who appointed them;
 - (c) ceases to be qualified under section 11;
 - (d) has their estate administered in insolvency; or
 - (e) is declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be incapable of managing their affairs.

Revocation of appointment as member

14. The diocesan bishop who appointed a member of the Council may revoke the appointment.

Quorum of Council

- 15.⁴ The quorum of a meeting of the Council is one third of the current members of the Council.
16. A decision of the Council is valid notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership.

Membership of NATSIAC Executive

17. The members of the NATSIAC Executive are:
- (a) the National Aboriginal Bishop;
 - (b) the National Torres Strait Islander Bishop;
 - (c) one Aboriginal person in holy orders who is not a bishop, elected by the members of the Council;
 - (d) if there is no National Aboriginal Bishop, an Aboriginal person in holy orders, who may be a bishop, elected by the members of the Council, to hold office only for so long as there is no National Aboriginal Bishop;
 - (e) one Torres Strait Islander in holy orders who is not a bishop, elected by the members of the Council;
 - (f) if there is no National Torres Strait Islander Bishop, a Torres Strait Islander in holy orders, who may be a bishop, elected by the members of the Council, to hold office only for so long as there is no National Torres Strait Islander Bishop;
 - (g) two Aboriginal lay persons elected by the members of the Council;
 - (h) two Torres Strait Islander lay persons elected by the members of the Council;
 - (i) up to one additional Aboriginal person elected by the members of the NATSIAC Executive; and
 - (j) up to one additional Torres Strait Islander elected by the members of the NATSIAC Executive.

Part 3 – Other functions and responsibilities

Appointment of non-diocesan representatives to General Synod

18. (1) The Council is the body appointed by Canon referred to in section 17(8)(b) of the Constitution.

⁴ Amended by Canon 3, 2022.

- (2) The Council must provide the names of the persons recommended when requested by the Primate to do so.

Qualification for appointment as a non-diocesan representative

19. A person is qualified to be a non-diocesan representative under section 17(8) of the Constitution if the person is qualified to be a member of the Council (otherwise than as a life member) and is not a diocesan bishop or a member of the General Synod as a clerical or lay representative of a diocese.

Actions at time of Primatial mandate

20. At the time when the Primate by mandate summons the diocesan bishops to convene clerical and lay representatives to an ordinary or special session of the General Synod the Primate must—
 - (a) appoint non-diocesan representatives of the General Synod and call them to that session; and
 - (b) cause Bills for Canons and other documents circulated to dioceses or accompanying the mandate to diocesan bishops to be sent to those non-diocesan representatives.

Term of persons nominated to General Synod Standing Committee

21. A person nominated by the Council to the Standing Committee of General Synod under rule 2 of Rule II continues in office until the commencement of the next ordinary session of General Synod.

Management policies and procedures

22. The Council must establish and maintain policies and procedures for the management of its finances and business which conform with the requirements of prudence and best practice.

Compliance with General Synod legislation

23. The Council is an Organisation for the purposes of the Financial Protection Canon 1995 and must comply with that canon and all other relevant canons and rules of the General Synod.

Reporting

24. (1) The Council must provide to the Standing Committee of General Synod on or before 30 June each year a report on its activities and operations in the previous year to 31 December, including a report on its financial affairs.
 - (2) The Council must report in writing to each ordinary session of General Synod as to its activities, needs and any other matter it considers appropriate.

Joint Commitment and Affirmation of Faith and Justice

25. This canon operates in the spirit of the Joint Commitment and Affirmation of Faith and Justice passed by resolution 48/07 of the fourteenth session of General Synod in 2007, which is reproduced in the Schedule to this Canon.

Part 4 – Repeal

26. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council Canon 1998 and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council Canon 2010 are repealed.

Schedule

Joint Commitment and Affirmation of Faith and Justice passed as resolution 48/07 of the fourteenth session of General Synod

AS members of the Anglican Church of Australia we are called to become a people of the new covenant of Jesus the Christ and to bear witness to justice and righteousness upon this land. We come together, Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, to strive for what our ancestors were not able to do.

TOGETHER we acknowledge with gratitude the apology given by our then Primate, Archbishop John Grindrod in 1988 for the hurt done to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the apology of the General Synod in 1998 for the Stolen Generations. We acknowledge also the ceremonies, Church services and reconciliation projects done at parish level throughout the Country. Today we are able, by the grace of God to look back on these actions as steps on the road of a reconciling life together in the Church of God. We look to a future of walking together towards the image of Christ which points to shared faith and justice among us.

TOGETHER we commit ourselves to living out the new covenant written upon our hearts in our common faith and sharing in Word and Sacrament. In hope and prayer we look to fulfil our responsibilities to each other to share our cultures in the study and living of The Word and Sacrament, to share in our Church tradition, and to be a community of justice and righteousness.

WE, the people of the land and seas, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as guardians and custodians of the land and islands of Australia, seek a new day when our peoples can practise and share our culture and wisdom as partners with all who call Australia their home.

WE, the non-Indigenous peoples of Australia recognise the people of the land and the seas, the Aboriginal and the Torres Strait Islander peoples to be the original inhabitants, the indigenous peoples of this land.

WE, together through this shared commitment continue to seek to heal the wounds, hurts and sufferings of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia.

WE shall share with each other visions, hopes, needs and wants in constructive ways that will bring us closer together as peoples of this Church so we may better support each other.

AS peoples of Christ we are bound into a relationship that seeks to be the foundation of mutual trust, respect, and the sharing of power and resources to create a just and righteous Church and nation of Australia. Through this commitment our own homes, communities, parishes, dioceses and national organisations are to be sanctuaries where we will strive to live out to the fullest the tenets of this our shared faith.

WE are committed to celebrating together important Church festivals and cultural celebrations and commemorations in the life of our land and seas. This gives us the opportunity to share deeply our different ways of celebrating our faith through cultures as peoples and communities of prayer.

WE are committed to assisting, encouraging and resourcing ministry to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

WE pledge to consult and work with each other as equal partners in the development of our Church and land, in our communities, parishes, dioceses and nationally and internationally.

WE shall establish means through which we can give witness and testimony accounting for the learnings, struggles, challenges and successes of our journey.

AND we invite all who call Australia their home to join with us as we continue the process of healing our peoples and this land and seas.
