

The Anglican Church of Australia

Special Session of the General Synod

Saturday 26 July 2025



Message from the General Secretary

Special Session of General Synod – Saturday 26 July 2025 (11.00am AEST)

24 July 2025 – Circular 04

To all General Synod Members

We look forward to seeing you online at the Special Session of General Synod this Saturday.

Session Information

Full details of the program and resources will be available and updated on the General Synod website.

Information can be accessed at the General Synod website page for General Synod Sessions:
<https://anglican.org.au/the-general-synod/general-synod-sessions/>

Legislation

The *Bill for the General Synod Presence (Amendment) Canon 2025* and *Explanatory Memorandum* can be accessed on the General Synod Session page.

Please note – the Explanatory Memorandum has been updated since first published in April. It provides additional information including the resolution passed by the General Synod in 2022 calling for amendments to the Canon.

[LINK](#) - Bill for the General Synod Presence (Amendment) Canon 2025 and Explanatory Memorandum (EM updated)

Also published is a copy of the Canon showing the proposed amendments in tracked changes.

[LINK](#) – General Synod Presence Canon 2022 with proposed amendments tracked

Updated Order of Business

An updated Order of Business for the Special Session has been published on the General Synod website.

[LINK](#) – Order of Business Special Session of General Synod 26 July 2025

It is recommended that you print out a copy or have it available on screen for your reference during the session.

Circulation of Amendment Sheet

The Bills Amendment Sheet for the Special Session of Synod contains one proposed amendment to the *Bill for the General Synod Presence (Amendment) Canon 2025*. It can be accessed on the General Synod Session page. One proposed amendment was received by the deadline of 9.00am on Monday 21 July 2025.

[LINK](#) - Bills Amendment Sheet GSSS 2025

How to connect and participate in the online Session

The session will be conducted using Zoom Webinar.

Zoom Link

You will receive an email from **Cliftons Event Solutions** (no-reply@zoom.us) on Friday 25 July. Cliftons are assisting the GSO with technical arrangements. This email will include the link to access the Zoom Webinar. If you have not received the zoom link by 1:00pm please contact Matthew Robson on (tel) 02 8267 2700 or (email) gsoffice@anglican.org.au and a link will be forwarded to you – please check for the email in your spam folder before making contact.

Your name and Diocese will be pre-populated and will appear below your image when you connect online.

If you are watching the proceedings in a group – please change the name of the connection to reflect this.

For example - 'John Smith, Grafton Diocese', should be amended to say 'Group, Grafton Diocese'

For the best experience, we recommend using a separate device to view the proceedings from the one you use to vote or access business papers.

Please also ensure your device is fully charged prior to the session.

User Guide

Detailed advice on how to connect and participate in the Session using the Zoom webinar can be accessed on the General Synod Session page on the General Synod website. The user guide is also attached to this email. Please familiarise yourself with its content prior to Saturday, particularly if you intend to participate in the debate. Detailed instructions on how to request and be granted access to speak, are included in the User Guide.

During the session Members of Synod have access to a help desk staffed by a member of the Cliftons' team. If you encounter difficulty connecting to the Zoom Webinar or have any issues during the session, please contact Jordan Sayers – 0434 558 965.

[LINK](#) - Zoom Webinar guide

Electronic Voting on motions – Vero Voting

As this Special Session of Synod will be conducted by video conference it has been necessary to put in place arrangements for electronic voting on motions.

We will be using the **Vero Voting** system which provides an independent, secure voting system on a web browser.

The Vero Voting system was used at the Eighteenth Session of General Synod in 2022 when the session was conducted as a hybrid meeting with some members attending in person and a small group participating online as a result of Covid-19 restrictions.

Each voter is provided with a unique identifier and is allocated to one of the Houses of Bishops, Clergy or Laity. Only one vote can be registered from each unique link.

The voting system requires you to have access to a smartphone, tablet or laptop at all times during the business sessions. If you intend to join the session on your laptop or iPad it is recommended that you have an additional device, such as your mobile phone, with you to enable you to vote.

On Thursday 24 July 2025, each Synod member will receive an email with a link and SMS link providing direct access to the voting portal. The email and SMS will be sent by **Vero Voting**.

Look out for this sender in your inbox after 4.00pm AEST.

If you do not receive an email and/or SMS from **Vero Voting** by 9.00am on Friday 25 July can you please contact Jofrey Valendez, our Vero Voting Coordinator, on Jofrey.valendez@anglican.org.au so that any access issues can be resolved – please check for the email in your spam folder before making contact.

Attached to the email from **Vero Voting** will be a user guide. A copy of the Vero Voting User Guide is also attached to this email and published on the General Synod Session page on the General Synod website. Please review the guide and open the link to trial the system.

When you open the link and follow the instructions to the VOTE page you will find a test question - *Are you looking forward to the Special Session of Synod?* Voting on this question will be open until 5.00pm AEST on Friday 25 July 2025. I look forward to reviewing your response and will announce the results on Saturday morning.

Shortly after the commencement of the Special Session I will make a presentation to all members on Synod arrangements. This will include a live test run of the voting system. Should any member have an issue you will be asked to contact the support team at Vero Voting by email. The support email address will be available on the screen. A member of the Vero Voting support team will be standing by to assist.

During the business session, you will need to access the Voting portal through the links provided by Vero. At 10.00am AEST on Saturday 26 July Vero Voting will resend the link by email and SMS so it is at the top of your inbox on the day of the Special Session and easy for you to locate.

During the session Members of Synod have access to a help desk staffed by a member of the Vero team. If you encounter difficulty connecting or have any issues during the session, please contact support@verovoting.com.au or call 1300 702 898.

[LINK](#) - Vero Voting Guide

General Synod Enquiries – General Synod Office

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact:

Contact: Matthew Robson

Email: gsoffice@anglican.org.au

Phone: 02 8267 2700

I look forward to seeing you online and working together to ensure a successful Special Session of Synod.

Anne Hywood, General Secretary

Anglican Church of Australia - General Synod Office

